

## **JAEN23, Corporate Social Responsibilities, 7.5 credits**

### *Corporate Social Responsibilities, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

#### **Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Educational Committee of the Law Faculty Board on 2009-03-03 and was valid from 2010-02-12, spring semester 2010.

### **General Information**

The course Corporate Social Responsibilities is an optional course within the Master's Programme in European Business Law at the Faculty of Law. The course is also open to international students participating in exchange programmes with the Faculty of Law. The course is open for students within the programme leading to a Swedish professional degree Master of Laws within the specialization in European Business Law.

*Language of instruction:* English

Lectures and course material are in English.

The course is scheduled to require 5 weeks of full time studies.

#### *Main field of studies*

European Business Law

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#### *Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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### **Learning outcomes**

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

To pass the examination the student shall be able to show

- in-depth knowledge concerning the circumstances in which international human rights standards are created and applied in regard to economic exchanges

- knowledge of the scientific foundations of relevant branches of law
- knowledge about current international human rights law; corporate social responsibilities and business in society research and methodology
- knowledge about the role of states; international organizations; business enterprises and associations in enforcing and promoting corporate responsibilities in relation to human rights
- insight in the legal framework in which international; regional and national human rights operate.

### *Skills and abilities*

To pass the examination the student shall be able to show

- ability; on an advanced level; to critically and systematically assess and integrate knowledge in corporate social responsibilities and international human rights law
- ability to independently; critically and creatively identify legal and social problems and to systematize arguments; and to analyze; compare and assess theoretical and practical problems within the context of corporate social responsibilities and international human rights law
- ability to solve cases concerning human rights and corporate social responsibilities within a limited period of time; both in an oral and a written form
- ability to work both individually and in smaller and larger groups.

### *Judgement and approach*

To pass the examination the student shall be able to show

- ability to make an assessment regarding international human rights aspects of corporate social responsibilities
- insight regarding the role which international human rights law plays in the interaction between states and individuals; groups and business enterprises and in the international community as a whole
- insight regarding the role of international and regional organizations in the international human rights law making processes
- ability to realize the advantages and disadvantages of international human rights law and its impact on the legislation; policy and corporate practices.

## **Course content**

I. The legal framework surrounding CSR: corporate actors as subject and actors of international law; company law - special emphasis on British law; and litigation in the area of business and human rights - focus on the US and UK.

II. Closer look at two industrial sectors: extractive industries and supply chains in labour intensive industries.

III. The implementation of CSR and emerging best practices: stages of implementation, available guidelines at each stage and actors involved.

IV. Evolution of CSR - emerging issues and challenges: the limits of CSR; mechanisms for the scaling-up of CSR and the relationship between corporate voluntarism (CSR) and law.

## Course design

The students obtain knowledge and competences as above by individual studies of course literature and other course material, and by taking an active part in lectures and seminars.

Instruction is given in the forms of lectures and seminars aiming at a deeper understanding and application of the legal framework in question.

The problem-based seminars involve examination of cases, both real and fictional, concerning central and current issues in human rights law in relation to business activities. The students are encouraged to work in study groups and to prepare for each seminar in these groups.

## Assessment

Examination is in the form of an oral exam. Attendance of the two seminars is mandatory and active preparation and participation is strongly encouraged. Absence or non-participation will result in a lower grade.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction.

## Entry requirements

Passed examinations in the courses corresponding to the first term of the Master's Programme in European Business Law (30 credits).

## Further information

The University views plagiarism as a very serious academic offence, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

## Subcourses in JAEN23, Corporate Social Responsibilities

Applies from V09

0901 Corporate Social Responsibilities, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction