

JAEN58, Competition Policy and Politics, 7.5 credits

Konkurrensrätt och konkurrenspolitik, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty of Law Board of education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels on 2018-01-31 to be valid from 2018-01-31, spring semester 2018.

General Information

The course Competition Policy and Politics is an elective course within the Master's Programme in European Business Law at the Faculty of Law. The course is open to students on the programme leading to a Swedish Professional Law degree with a specialization in European Business Law. The course is also open to international students participating in exchange programmes with the Faculty of Law.

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

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

European Business Law

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

Aim of the course is to enable students to critically reflect upon the interaction between competition policy and political stakes and movements within a framework of competition law that is guided by economics and applied often by independent agencies.

To pass the examination, the student shall demonstrate knowledge and competences as below:

Knowledge and understanding

The student must be able to demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of the topics related to interrelationship between competition policy and politics, the relevance of jurisprudence, economics and its interaction with value judgments in competition policy, and related questions concerning democratic accountability of independent agencies.

Competence and skills

The students must be able to demonstrate oral and written competence to

- assess and critically analyze the relevant legislation, case law, theory and basic economic models
- present the results orally during the seminars and in writing for the final written assignment.

Judgement and approach

Students shall be able to demonstrate comprehension of the development and the impact of legal, political and economic discussions related to competition policy. The student is also expected to show a level of proficiency, both orally and in writing, in restating, explaining and discussing the acquired information from different legal, theoretical, and practical perspectives.

Course content

The course covers the interaction between competition policy and politics in the EU and more generally. It is a research based course and will require active reading and engagement. The course covers four areas. The first area serves as an introduction into the interaction between politics and law with a specific focus on jurisprudence/legal philosophy. The second part looks more specially at objectives of competition law. The third part looks at value judgments and economic models applied in competition proceedings. The final part examines the accountability of agencies with a focus on the interaction between independence, political decision making and democratic accountability.

Course design

Course delivery is provided in the form of some lectures and a larger number of seminars. Basic knowledge, comprehension and competences are attained by attendance of lectures. The participation in seminars and individual study of prescribed course literature is essential and provides in-depth learning and understanding.

Assessment

Student performance is assessed by the following methods:

- oral participation in the seminars (10% of the total grade)

- a research project in form of an individual project within the framework of the subjects discussed in the seminars (90% of the total grade)

The student must pass each component separately to obtain a pass grade for the course.

Attendance of 80% at the seminars and lectures is required.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

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

One of the following grades is given: Pass with Distinction (AB), Pass with Credit (BA), Pass (B), or Fail (U).

All grading criteria rest on the baseline set up for the grade B. Criteria for the grade BA are additional to those for the grade B. Criteria for the grade AB are additional to those for the grade BA. Each grade criterion consists of a qualitative and a quantitative dimension. To be awarded a specific grade, the grade criterion must be satisfied in its qualitative as well as its quantitative dimension.

Grading criteria are applied to all dimensions listed as "Learning outcomes" in this syllabus. By way of example, an AB would presuppose that the student's examination reflect her or his mastery with regard to knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities, and judgment and approach as laid down in the syllabus as "learning outcomes". Grading is done primarily using Qualitative and Quantitative criteria. The Quantitative criterion reflects how well read the student is whereas the Qualitative criterion reflects how well the student can use his/her knowledge to make a well structured critical and analytical argument and put it in a proper context.

B – Basic command

To obtain a B grade the student must be able to show a basic ability to reflect on the theoretical and practical applications of legal and economic issues relating to the interaction between competition policy and politics.

BA – Advanced command

To obtain a BA grade the student must be able to show a high degree of competence in addressing the theoretical and practical applications of legal and economic issues relating to the interaction between competition policy and politics.

AB – Mastery

To obtain an AB grade the student must be able to show an excellent level of competence in the theoretical and practical applications of legal and economic issues relating to the interaction between competition policy and politics.

Entry requirements

Passed examination in courses corresponding to the first year of the Master's programme in European Business Law equivalent to 30 credits. Admission requirements for international exchange students include relevant undergraduate studies corresponding to three years at a university level, and basic knowledge of public international law.

Additionally, previous knowledge of national or EU competition law is required.

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.