

JAEN72, Technology, Energy and Climate Justice, 15 credits

Teknik, energi och klimaträttvisa, 15 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 2026-02-04. The syllabus comes into effect 2026-02-04 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

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

Language of instruction: English

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
European Business Law	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
European Economic Law	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to enable students to critically analyse the legal frameworks governing energy transition, emerging technologies, and climate action at EU and international levels, with particular attention to the convergence of green and digital transformations and the imperative of social justice.

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the course the student shall be able to:

- understand EU and international legal frameworks governing energy, climate policy, and emerging technologies
- describe regulatory mechanisms for renewable energy, carbon governance, and emissions trading
- explain how autonomous systems and digitalisation challenge existing legal regimes

relating to liability, insurance, and safety

- outline the legal dimensions of just transition, including the protection of workers and communities and the socio-economic impact of decarbonisation
- identify the justiciability of climate targets and the role of courts in enforcing climate obligations
- reflect on the interplay between EU law, international agreements, and national legal frameworks in addressing climate change.

Competence and skills

After completing the course the student shall be able to:

- analyse relevant legislation, case law, and policy instruments governing energy transition and climate technologies
- apply legal principles to practical challenges in energy regulation, autonomous systems, and cross-jurisdictional climate governance
- propose solutions to complex legal problems arising from technological innovation and sustainability objectives
- present legal arguments effectively in both oral and written form.

Judgement and approach

After completing the course the student shall be able to:

- reflect critically on the role, potential, and limitations of law in addressing climate change and technological disruption
- weigh competing interests — economic, environmental, and social — when assessing regulatory choices
- evaluate the ethical implications of legal and policy decisions in the context of energy transition
- consider how EU law, international agreements, and national frameworks interact and sometimes conflict
- assume responsibility for continued learning in a rapidly evolving regulatory landscape
- engage constructively with diverse perspectives in collaborative problem-solving.

Course content

The course examines the legal frameworks governing the transition to a low-carbon economy at EU and international levels. It addresses how law responds to climate change, technological innovation, and the imperative of a just transition through three interconnected areas:

i) *Energy Law and Policy*, including renewable energy regulation, carbon governance, emissions trading, and sector-specific decarbonisation; ii) *The Digital-Green Nexus*, exploring how digitalisation interacts with decarbonisation, including regulatory frameworks for autonomous systems, data governance, and questions of liability and safety; iii) *Just Transition, Sustainability, and Climate Litigation*, examining the social and environmental dimensions of decarbonisation, including just transition frameworks, the tension between trade law and sustainability objectives, and climate litigation. Additional topics may be included to reflect current developments in the field.

The course draws on EU law (including Treaty provisions, secondary legislation, and case law) and international law (including the UNFCCC framework, the Paris Agreement, trade law, and relevant jurisprudence).

Course design

Teaching takes the form of lectures and seminars. Students acquire knowledge and skills through individual study of course literature and other course materials, including relevant legislation, case law, and academic research, as well as through active participation in lectures and seminars. Students work with current case studies and practical scenarios that link theoretical foundations with real-world applications.

Assessment

The course contains the following examinations:

- group seminars, 5 credits
- a reflection paper, 3 credits
- a take-home examination, 7 credits

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

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with Credit, Pass with Distinction
The grading scale for the group seminars is U and G (Pass). The grading scale for the reflection assignment, the take-home exam, and the course as a whole is U, B (Pass), BA (Pass with credit), and AB (Pass with distinction). The grade for the course is based on the take-home exam (70% of the grade) and the reflection assignment (30% of the grade).

To pass the course, students must receive at least a Pass on all examination components. To receive a B on the course, all criteria for a B must be met. To receive a BA on the course, most of the BA criteria must be met. To receive an AB on the course, most of the AB criteria and all of the BA criteria must be met.

B – Pass

In order to pass, the student must be able to demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of the EU and international legal frameworks governing energy, climate policy, and emerging technologies; the regulatory mechanisms for renewable energy and carbon governance; the legal challenges posed by autonomous systems and digitalisation; and the legal dimensions of just transition.

The student must be able to show ability to analyse legislation, case law, and policy instruments; critically evaluate regulatory approaches; identify legal, ethical, and socio-economic effects of relevant measures and propose practical solutions; and present results in oral and written form, and to work on related topics both individually and in groups.

BA – Pass with credit

In order to achieve this grade, the student must be able to demonstrate good knowledge and comprehension of the EU and international legal frameworks governing energy, climate policy, and emerging technologies; the regulatory mechanisms for renewable energy and carbon governance; the legal challenges posed by autonomous systems and digitalisation; and the legal dimensions of just transition.

The student must be able to show a good ability to analyse legislation, case law, and policy instruments; critically evaluate regulatory approaches; identify legal, ethical, and socio-economic effects of relevant measures and propose practical solutions; and present results in oral and written form, and to work on related topics both individually and in groups.

AB – Pass with distinction

In order to achieve the highest grade, the student must be able to demonstrate very good knowledge and comprehension of the EU and international legal frameworks governing energy, climate policy, and emerging technologies; the regulatory mechanisms for renewable energy and carbon governance; the legal challenges posed by autonomous systems and digitalisation; and the legal dimensions of just transition.

The student must be able to show a very high ability to analyse legislation, case law, and policy instruments; critically evaluate regulatory approaches; identify legal, ethical, and socio-economic effects of relevant measures and propose practical solutions; and present results in oral and written form, and to work on related topics both individually and in groups.

Entry requirements

Passed examination in courses corresponding to the first year of the Master's programme in European Economic Law or European Business Law, amounting to at least 45 credits.

For students on the Professional Law Degree Programme the entry requirements for semesters 7 and 8 are outlined in the Programme syllabus (utbildningsplanen).

Exchange students must have passed at least two and a half years of law studies at university level including basic knowledge of EU law.

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.

According to the Faculty of Law's Policy for Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in Teaching and Assessment as Applicable to Students, all submitted texts in examinations must be based on independent work. As a student, you must be able to account for, justify, develop, and modify all parts of your submitted course assignments.