

JLEN19, English Professional Legal Skills, 15 credits

Professionell juridisk engelska, 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 2021-03-25 to be valid from 2021-06-06, spring semester 2021.

General Information

The course in English Professional Legal Skills is a freestanding course at advanced level.

The duration of the course is 10 weeks full-time studies.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of studies

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to provide students with in-depth knowledge of the English Professional Legal Skills required in everyday legal practice, ranging from a basic understanding of the differences between common law and civil law systems to various specialized oral and written skills, related to both oral communication (e.g. giving an oral presentation and master the art of court mooting) and written communication (e.g. the drafting of contract clauses, the production and use of skeleton arguments and memoranda for mooting). The students will gain insights into how they can acquire, practice and perfect professional legal skills in the English language, as well as an understanding of the practical everyday usage of such skills in various areas of legal practice.

A complementary objective of the course is to strengthen the students' confidence in using these English legal skills in different contexts, and their ability to reflect critically on the importance of logical reasoning, time management and team work. Through exercises that improve the students' writing, presentation and analytical skills, the

objective is to provide the students with tools that are useful in both academic and professional settings.

Knowledge and understanding

To pass the examination the student shall:

- understand the core differences between common law and civil law systems and the implications of these differences when working in an international context, across legal systems
- understand the main elements of a good oral presentation and be able to present convincing oral legal arguments in English
- understand and practice the core skills required to draft and conclude a contract and draft legal texts relevant to contract negotiations
- understand and practice the core skills of legal advocacy, required in a court mooting, including how to write a skeleton argument and a memorandum and how to present a convincing and succinct legal argument

Competence and skills

To pass the examination the student shall:

- demonstrate an ability to master a wide range of diverse oral and written legal skills in English
- draft various types of legal documents in English, including skeleton arguments and contract clauses
- formulate coherent legal arguments orally, in oral presentations and court mooting exercises
- present orally and give productive feed-back to peers while partaking in peer-grading assignments
- complete assignments within given time frames

Judgement and approach

To pass the examination the student shall be able to:

- practice peer-grading working methods with colleagues from different backgrounds
- perform independent work and take responsibility for the development of their own knowledge
- explain, discuss and apply the content of the course during seminars

Course content

The course is divided into three blocks.

This first block builds a solid foundation by providing an introduction to the common law systems and the civil law systems, as well as to the basic concepts of contract law and the skills required to identify the ratio decidendi in an English language legal case (with examples mainly from the law of England and Wales). Students will also be introduced to the fundamental core elements of an effective oral presentation and of effective legal oral and written communication in English. They will also practice case reading and oral presentation skills.

The second block includes a focus on current legal practice, with the participation of practitioners and experts in their respective areas of law from leading law firms, with a focus on business and commercial practice. The second block also covers practical

written exercises relevant to commercial contracting.

The third block focuses on legal advocacy, and on how to draft a persuasive legal memorandum, presenting a persuasive oral argument and on the skills related to mootings (from the drafting of a skeleton argument to advocacy skills and team work). Throughout the course, there will be a focus on practicing oral and writing legal skills and argumentation. The examples for this module will be mainly from international commercial arbitration.

Course design

The course objectives are met through active participation in the education, independent studies of the course material and carrying out obligatory elements of the course.

The course is designed using the "flipped classroom" model, which means that the lectures are web based. The web based lectures are paired with obligatory quizzes. Besides this, teaching is provided through seminars. The students shall participate in obligatory exercises carried out throughout the course. The student shall participate in peer-grading, and submit relevant assignments in time.

Assessment

Students' performance will be assessed by participation at the seminars, achieved results at the quizzes, written and oral assignments.

The final grade is based on a weighted assessment of:

The student's ability to write a law suit in English

The student's performance and participation at the moot court

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

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.

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.

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. This is the English version of the course syllabus approved in Swedish.

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 values and attitudes as laid down in the syllabus as "learning outcomes".

B – Pass

To obtain a B grade, the student must show good knowledge and practical application in English of the professional legal skills taught throughout this course.

The student must demonstrate a good written and oral ability to carry out legal tasks in English, in both oral and written forms and an ability to work both individually and in groups.

The student must demonstrate good legal argumentation skills as well as good ability to interpret legal provisions and prepare convincing arguments.

BA – Pass with credit

To obtain a BA grade, the student must show very good knowledge and practical application in English of the professional legal skills taught throughout this course.

The student must demonstrate a very good written and oral ability to carry out legal tasks in English, in both oral and written forms and an ability to work both individually and in groups.

The student must demonstrate very good legal argumentation skills as well as good ability to interpret legal provisions and prepare convincing arguments.

AB – Pass with distinction

To obtain an AB grade, the student must show excellent knowledge and practical application in English of the professional legal skills taught throughout this course.

The student must demonstrate an excellent written and oral ability to carry out legal tasks in English, in both oral and written forms and an ability to work both individually and in groups.

The student must demonstrate excellent legal argumentation skills as well as good ability to interpret legal provisions and prepare convincing arguments.

Entry requirements

The entry requirements is 150 credits awarded within the Professional Law Degree Programme.

Further information

The course is scheduled to require 10 weeks of full studies. While the lectures are available online, active participation in the seminars is mandatory and required in order to pass the course.

There is no prescribed textbook for this advanced course, rather the readings assigned will be sourced from academic journals, professional websites, chapters in books, etc. The reading list is not exhaustive and further readings will be indicated throughout the course. Copies of the books indicated in the list below will be available in the library or electronically.

Subcourses in JLEN19, English Professional Legal Skills

Applies from V21

2101 English Professional Legal Skills, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction