



Faculty of Social Sciences

SELP02, Sociology of Law: Theories and Research Issues, 15 credits

Rättssociologi: Teorier och forskningsfrågor, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-12-15 to be valid from 2012-09-02, autumn semester 2012.

General Information

The course is offered as a single subject course in sociology of law and is a compulsory course within the programme Master of Science in Sociology of Law - European Law (SELA). The language of instruction is English.

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Main field of studies

Sociology of Law

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course the student shall

- demonstrate an extensive knowledge of the theoretical foundations and historical development of sociology of law.
- demonstrate knowledge of selected past and current research issues of the sociology of law and the changing nature and functions of law at the European and the global level.

Competence and skills

On completion of the course, the student shall

- demonstrate the capacity to independently, systematically and critically integrate knowledge produced within the academic field of sociology of law.
- demonstrate an ability to independently relate discussed theories to contemporary societal problems in different contexts.
- design, execute and reflect on all stages of the research process within a predetermined time frame.
- communicate the results of learning and research processes and discuss the conclusion and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different kinds of audiences both in writing and orally, using proper academic references and citations

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course, the student shall

- demonstrate the capacity to make assessments in sociology of law informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical aspects of research.
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.
- demonstrate the capacity to identify his or her need of further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Course content

The course surveys theoretical and empirical developments in the sociology of law. It introduces graduate students to some key theories and research traditions in the sociological study of law in order to stimulate them to actively contribute in substantive theoretical and empirical ways, at the highest level of academic rigor, to the research discipline.

The course reviews and analyzes the specific characteristics of the manner in which sociologists study law and seeks to explain some of the patterns and dynamics of law in a variety of social settings. An important focus is to deepen the student's understanding of how sociology of law is related to other social science disciplines as well as the centrality of sociological theories for understanding broader social processes.

Successive parts of the course focus on: classical theoretical contributions to the sociology of law; selected theoretical developments in contemporary sociology of law. The course also discusses a selection of theoretically framed empirical themes of law, including law and economy, law and politics, inequality and law, the globalization of law, law and globalization including discussions on sustainability, law and culture; social structure and law; legality and legitimacy.

Course design

The course is taught as a web-based course. It is based on a combination of web-based filmed and written lectures. Students will mainly work through individual studies and through the consecutive handing in of independent assignments and papers.

Assessment

Assessment is based on weekly written assignments or papers on specific issues and or critical reflections on the course literature.

In connection with the course students are offered three examinations: a regular examination, a re- examination and one additional re-examination. Within one year after the course, students are offered a minimum of two additional re-examinations. Thereafter, more examinations are offered but in accordance with current course content.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have at least a Bachelor's degree including three terms (1-90 credits) of studies in sociology of law or another subject of relevance to the course, e.g. sociology, law, political science, social work, or the equivalent.

Since the course is conducted in English, an advanced language proficiency in the English language is necessary (English B). Language proficiency shall be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

- IELTS score of 6.5 (with no section less than 5.5)
- TOEFL paper-based score of 4.5 (scale 1-6) in written test and a total score of 575; internet based score of 20 (scale 0-30) and a total score of 90
- Cambridge/Oxford – Advanced Certificate of Proficiency
- A Bachelor's degree from a university where English is the only language of instruction, according to the International Handbook of Universities
- A pass on English course B (Swedish upper secondary school).

Subcourses in SELP02, Sociology of Law: Theories and Research Issues

Applies from H14

- 1102 Module 1: The Foundations of the Sociology of Law, 5,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1103 Module 2: Systems Theory/Habermas' Theory of Comm Action, 5,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1104 Module 3: Postmodernism and Globalization, 5,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A

Applies from H13

- 1111 Sociology of Law and Its Theoretical Foundations, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1112 Development and Variations of Sociology of Law, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1113 Law, Politics, Social Control and the Study of Norms, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1114 Globalisation, Law and Legal Pluralism, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1115 Visions of Sociology of Law, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A