SOLP01, Introduction to Sociology of Law, Advanced Level, 15 credits

Introduktion till rättssociologi, avancerad nivå, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Division of Sociology of Law on 2015-10-14 to be valid from 2016-08-28, autumn semester 2016.

General Information

The course is a compulsory component of semester 1 of the Master of Science (120 credits) programme in Sociology of Law, 120 credits. It can also be taken as an optional course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies	*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*
Sociology of Law	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
To pass this course, students will

- demonstrate specialised knowledge of classical and modern theories of sociology of law
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of research specialisations and perspectives within sociology of law
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of the development of sociology of law
- demonstrate understanding of different forms of regulations and control mechanisms

- demonstrate understanding of the societal repercussions of law at national, international and global levels
- demonstrate understanding of the possibilities and limitations of law as a control mechanism
- demonstrate understanding of the relationship of sociology of law to other social sciences disciplines on the one hand, and to law and jurisprudence on the other

Competence and skills

To pass this course, students will

- demonstrate the ability to analyse the interplay of law with different societal factors
- demonstrate the ability to analyse the impact of law on societal development at the levels of individuals, groups and organisations
- demonstrate the ability to analyse the effects of law at national, international and global levels
- demonstrate insight into the basic assumptions of theories of sociology of law
- demonstrate the ability to independently formulate issues of sociology of law
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to present socio-legal issues and argue how they can be analysed by means of different theories

Judgement and approach

To pass this course, students shall

- demonstrate that they have gained insight into the possibilities and limitations of law to control societal development at national, international and global levels
- demonstrate the ability to reflect on how different theories of sociology of law can be used to study societal issues at different levels

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide students with specialised knowledge of theories and research within sociology of law. During the course, different classical and modern theories of sociology and law and their use to define specific research areas and establish research traditions will be presented and discussed.

The course consists of three modules.

1. Module 1, The Foundations of Sociology of Law (5 credits)

The first module introduces sociology of law as an interdisciplinary subject focusing on different types of formal and informal norms and official and unofficial control mechanisms within society. It describes the development of sociology of law as a branch of general sociology and as an empirical specialisation within jurisprudence and legal studies.

2. Module 2, Systems Theory, Theory of Communicative Action and the Critical Schools (5 credits)

Module 2 discusses four theoretical approaches to the study of law in modern society. These are based on Jürgen Habermas's theory of communicative action, Niklas Luhmann's system theory, Pierre Bourdieu's theory of the field and different forms of capital, and different forms of critical legal studies.

2. Module 3, Law, Postmodernism and Globalisation (5 credits)

Module 3 discusses the impact of theories of postmodernism and globalisation on the description and studies of law, the legal system and the legal profession on the one hand, and on sociology of law research on the other.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises and seminars. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the seminars and exercises. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The assessment of each module is based on written assignments and active participation in seminars including oral presentations. Absence approved by the lecturer is to be compensated for by a written assignment.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Two further re-examinations on the same coursecontent are offered within a year of a major change or discontinuation of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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.

Calculation of grades on modules and the whole course

A grade for the entire course is awarded when all exams included in the course have been passed. The calculation is based on all the exams that have been awarded the grades A to E and U and the numbers assigned to the letters according to the table below.

Grade	Value
A	5
B	4
C	3
D	2
E	1

The exams with different passing grades are weighted according to the following formula:

The number of credits for the exam is multiplied with the value of the grade according to the table above. The resulting value is then divided by the total number of credits for the course. The numerical values of the different exams are added up to a numerical grade that is converted to a letter grade in accordance with the table below.

Numerical grade	Grade
4.5-5.0	A
3.5-4.4	B
2.5-3.4	C
1.5-2.4	D
1.0-1.4	E

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 admitted to the course, students must have at least Bachelor's degree including:

- 90 credits in the sociology of law or other relevant disciplines such as sociology, criminology, law, political science, social work, or the equivalent.
- Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

Subcourses in SOLP01, Introduction to Sociology of Law, Advanced Level

Applies from H16

1501   The Foundations of Sociology of Law, 5,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
1502   Systems Theory, Theory of Communicative Action and the Criti, 5,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
1503   Law, Postmodernism and Globalization, 5,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A