



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SOLP04, Contemporary Sociology of Law, 15 credits *Aktuell rättsociologi, 15 högskolepoäng* Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Division of Sociology of Law on 2023-02-15 to be valid from 2023-02-15, spring semester 2024.

General Information

Language of instruction: English

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

To pass this course, students will

- demonstrate specialised knowledge and understanding of the development of sociology of law as a research area
- demonstrate specialised theoretical knowledge and understanding of the role of law as an important dimension of social life
- demonstrate the capacity to situate and differentiate the sociology of law in context of related disciplines
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of law in society

Competence and skills

To pass this course, students will

- be able to apply theoretical and empirical knowledge within sociology of law in order to better understand, describe and analyse topical societal issues and legal developments at national, international and global levels
- identify sociology of law issues and formulate relevant questions that can serve as a basis for an empirical study of a problem
- demonstrate a developed ability to reflect critically on different perspectives of sociology of law and their own knowledge
- independently seek information within sociology of law, critically analyse and use the information in a qualified manner, and summarise and compare sociology of law theories in both speech and writing

- demonstrate the ability to independently, systematically and critically apply knowledge within sociology of law to current legal and social problems
- demonstrate the ability to communicate research results in both speech and writing
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning

Judgement and approach

To pass this course, students will

- demonstrate the ability to critically assess theories of the sociology of law with reference to their approach to the relationship between law and society
- demonstrate the ability to critically review and discuss key issues within sociology of law research
- demonstrate the ability to analyse contemporary social issues in a socio-legal framework

Course content

The course consists of two modules. Module 1 enables students to develop their understanding of the sociology of law as a multidisciplinary area of research, whereas Module 2 focuses on the sites of engagement of the sociology of law within these and other socio-legal traditions.

Module 1: The Multidisciplinary of Sociology of Law

The module enables students to develop their knowledge of the multidisciplinary research tradition within the sociology of law. Students will develop an understanding of the rich tradition of sociology of law, its concepts and perspectives, and the ways in which various related disciplines interrelate and reorient such concepts and perspectives in the study of sociology of law. Major emphasis is placed on the ability to critically compare similarities and differences between the various theories and disciplinary orientations associated with the sociology of law.

Module 2: Sites of Engagement in Sociology of Law

The module analyses and interrogates topical societal phenomena and social problems from the perspective of theories of sociology of law. Major emphasis is placed on the ability to interrogate specific topic areas using concepts and theories of sociology of law. Students will develop an understanding of how these are applicable to various fora and fields of inquiry.

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 course content 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.

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, E, D, C, B, A.

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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 F 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

The Multidisciplinarity of Sociology of Law, 7 credits

Sites of Engagement in Sociology of Law, 7 credits

Active seminar participation, 1 credits

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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
- The student must also have passed the course SOLP01 Introduction to the Sociology of Law (15 credits), or equivalent courses