Stockholm University

2026-09-29

Course report

EU External Trade Law and Policy, 15 ECT, Spring semester 2026, JU348A and JU348B

We are happy to report that the course held in the spring semester 2026 was much appreciated. Partly the positive response can be explained by the subject-matter of the course, namely how to promote a sustainable socio-economic development by trade and investments and the interrelations between multilateralism, bilateralism and regionalism. We are impressed by the commitments and skills shown by the course participants.

For an overall impression of the participants' experience in 2025, please see the attached course evaluation.

Course director: Claes G. Granmar

Naturally the curriculum is constantly updated and for instance digitalization has moved into the limelight in recent times. We cover in particular data transfers and global use of AI. During the Spring 2026 we also focused more on geopolitical aspects of trade and investments.

The course has an overall very high satisfaction rate and the participants appreciate the clearly communicated objectives, the learning activities, as well as the form of modular and formative examination. For further information, please have a quick look at the course evaluation form attached. We are aware of that this report basically mimics the reports from previous years, and we are humbled by the fact that the overwhelmingly positive response gives no room for amendments.

As to online resources we are currently changing platform from Athena to Canvas and, hence, the course information and documentation will be migrating to and organized in the den format. In general, it is an improvement and we hope that the new interface will be easy to navigate. Due to the lack of up-to-date monographs written in the field of EU external trade relations law and policies, we constantly seek to complement the course books with articles etc. However, notes from the lectures and seminars are rather the back-bone of the self-studies.

We who teach at the course are often positively surprised by the engagement and the abilities of the participants to comprehend and master this topic to the extent of writing an advanced essay. Naturally we are happy for all the positive feed-back and initiated discussions at the course.

All in all, we can only conclude that we are on the right track and continue striving for excellence. As we deal with our time's "big issues" from a trade perspective we look for big answers.