Stockholm University

Course description for Legal English (JU727A/B) 15 hp/ECTS) AUTUMN 25

General information about the course

Content and objectives

The overall objective of the course is to provide students with in-depth knowledge of legal English as well as an increased ability to communicate in international legal contexts, both academic and professional, in an effective manner.

The course includes the following course elements:

The course includes training in critically analyzing legal texts in English, writing legal texts, presenting and discussing legal problems in English, and examining the characteristics of English legal rhetoric.

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and an understanding of the use of the English language in legal contexts, especially in the international legal field.
- demonstrate the ability to critically review and analyze English legal texts.
- demonstrate the ability to author legal texts in English.
- demonstrate the ability to express themselves and communicate effectively about law in English, by, among others, adapting their language to the relevant situation.

Pedagogical approach

Instruction consists of 10 weeks of full-time studies consisting of lectures, seminars, exercises, and assignments conducted in English. All scheduled activities require active participation.

More about the course structure

The different course elements

The course is structured around the following topics: (i) written legal argumentation, and (ii) oral advocacy and moot court.

Written and oral exercises

The course includes a number of written and oral exercises including drafting legal documents, analyzing cases, reviewing academic articles, etc.

Mandatory course elements

Active attendance is mandatory for all seminars. Active attendance means that the student has prepared the assignments and is ready to participate in those discussions.

An exemption can also be granted if the student has a lawful excuse, in which case the student is to complete a pedagogically equivalent assignment as defined by the course directory as compensation for the absence.

International and comparative elements of the course

The course offers an international and comparative perspective on Legal English, drawing on legal terminology, concepts, and communication styles from multiple jurisdictions and international settings. Students engage with legal materials from various countries to understand how legal English functions across different legal traditions.

Interaction with the surrounding society

The course promotes interaction with the surrounding society by engaging students in practical legal communication tasks relevant to real-world contexts, such as communication with international clients, legal writing, and analysis of current legal issues affecting local and global communities.

How the course relates to other courses and to the law programme as a whole

The course is an elective that can be included as part of the law programme and is also open to students participating in exchange studies.

Requirements regarding participation in the course

Access to instruction and examination

For access to instruction and examination, students must have passing grades on mandatory courses on the law program amounting to at least 150 credits. Exchange students admitted by the Department of Law at Stockholm University are also given access to the course.

Registration

A **Swedish student** who intends to participate in the course must be registered by the second day of the course at the latest.

International master students must have successfully completed the mandatory elements of the first course of their master programme in order to be registered for this course.

Exchange students register for the course through their university account in Ladok at the beginning of their exchange, the week before the semester starts.

Re-registration

Re-registration on the course is done by the course administrator.

De-registration

If for some reason, a student does not intend to take the course, they must de-register within three weeks after the start of the course (known as "early withdrawal period"). This is done through the student's university account in Ladok. This is of great importance to guarantee a place in a group the next time the student applies for the course. The early withdrawal period is calculated from the Monday of the week the course starts and three weeks ahead. The last day is always a Sunday.

Please note that de-registrations may have consequences for the right to receive student grants, including Erasmus grants. Please, contact CSN for more information if you are a Swedish student, or the Office of International Affairs if you are an international master student or an exchange student.

Study instructions

Textbooks

Bryan A. Garner, Legal Writing in Plain English, University of Chicago Press, 2013 (2023 edition is available, but no major changes are noted).

Source materials

Source materials will be provided for some lectures and seminars.

Other materials

Additional materials will be provided for some lectures and seminars.

Preparations for teaching

Seminars require active participation and preparation is expected for each session.

Examination

Examined moments

Examination in the course is based on a Case Memo (20%), Moot Court (20%), and Final Essay (60%).

1. Case Memo, 1-2 pages (20 points)

2. Moot Court (20 points)

3. Final Essay, 10-12 pages (60 points)

Grading Scale

Swedish students receive a grade on the learning outcome-based four-grade grading scale AB-U. International master students and exchange students receive a grade on the learning outcome-based seven-grade grading scale A-F(x).

All students have the right to receive grades according to the grading scale A-F(x). Swedish students who wish to do so must report this to the course coordinator/teaching assistant at least five working days before the written exam.

Grading criteria on the AB-U scale

Grade	Description	Points
AB	Passed with high distinction	80–100 p
BA	Passed with distinction	60-79 p
B	Satisfactorily passed	50–59 p
U	Failed to pass	0-49 p

Grading criteria on the A-F(x) grading scale

Grade	Description	Points
A	Excellent	90–100 p
B	Very good	80-89 p
C	Good	70-79 p
D	Satisfactory	60-69 p
E	Sufficient	50-59 p
Fx	Insufficient	30-49 p
F	Entirely insufficient	0-29 p

Students with a documented disability who have been issued a certificate of extra pedagogical support from Stockholm University must report this to the course administrator/teaching assistant as soon as possible (see below, "studying with a disability").

Request for grade review:

Requests for grade reviews are submitted on a special form to the course administrator/teaching assistant. The request must be carefully supported and a copy of the exam must be attached.

Studying with a disability

General

Stockholm University offers various forms of extra pedagogical support for people with permanent disabilities. The support offered depends on the individual's situation and is intended to facilitate studies. The goal is for all students to have an opportunity to study on equal terms.

To take advantage of the support offered, students must submit an application to the university's Disability Services (part of the Student Services). To do this, they must log into the system NAIS via a link found on Student Services's web page (Stockholm University > Education > Studying with a disability > how to apply for support) and fill in the online form. To complete the application, a certificate confirming the disability must be attached.

When the application is received, the student will be contacted by the Student Services to book a personal meeting.

Once the student is granted support, they will need to contact their department's contact person and submit the certificate issued by the Student Services. The contact person at the Department of law for Swedish students is Viktoria Pettersson, director of studies, Tel.: 08-16 13 04 or e-mail: viktoria.pettersson@juridicum.su.se. International master students must contact the Office of International Affairs at master@juridicum.su.se. Exchange students must also contact the OIA using the email exchange@juridicum.su.se.

Examination

Note that the course administrator/teaching assistant must be informed of a student's documented disability **no later than 3 weeks** before each examination in order for the extra pedagogical support to be in place in time. If the information is received later, the department cannot guarantee that the examination can be carried out as desired**.** Also note that in order to receive extra pedagogical support during the entire course (e.g. note-taking assistance) or special extra measures, the course administrator/teaching assistant must be contacted at the latest **by at the start of the course**.

Student influence and course development

All students are asked to complete an anonymous electronic course evaluation at the end of the course. The course evaluation is of great importance for the quality assurance of the course content and its pedagogical structure. The course is constantly changing and evolving, and the views and ideas expressed in the course evaluation are always carefully considered.