Syllabus
Master Thesis
Spring 2026

Stockholm University

Department of Law

In this Syllabus you'll find information about the structure of the course, learning activities, and assessment and grading. Please check the schedule and further information at the course website, which will be updated during the course. If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Important dates!

20 March 2026 – Teachers' meeting
23 March 2026 – Start of the course
25 May 2026 – Submission of Thesis

Content

1. **Literature**
2. **Reading instructions**
3. **Basic learning activities**
4. **Assessment and grading**
5. **The written exam**
6. **The Assignment**

Appendixes 1-3

1. Literature

For literature regarding methodology, please be advised consult the Syllabus for your previous course, Legal Methods in Research and Practice, https://www.su.se/english/search-courses-and-programmes/ju675m-1.503632

2. Reading instructions

As always when studying law, reading is essential and the written word a main source of information. Finding the appropriate reading material is part of your studying and it is your responsibility.

3. Teaching

The course potentially consists of two basic learning activities: (1) Research seminars, where the researcher provides the discussion and insights for an area of law and (2) seminars and opposition seminar / conference, where you are expected to take active part in the discussions.

At the end of the Course there will be a LLM Conference where the students hall present their theses.

Research seminars
Preferably, you will have read the text and material indicated in the reading instructions prior to the lectures so that you may take part in the discussions. You are welcome to ask for clarifications and to raise additional questions at the lectures.

Seminars
Seminars may be offered to the LL.M students, regarding methodology and essay writing. There will also be seminars where students have to discuss in groups important questions for their thesis such as defining relevant questions, delimiting the research questions, methodological considerations, critical management and use of source material, and proper citation of sources, the student will thus discuss another student's thesis, by raising questions about the material presented or adding relevant information. These seminars will take place on the behalf of the supervisors.

Opposition seminar/ Student conference
The **opposition seminar** will take place on the **18 May 2026**, where the students have to discuss and comment on important questions for their theses such as defining relevant questions, delimiting the research questions, methodological considerations, critical management and use of source material, and proper citation of sources, the student will thus orally "oppose" another student's thesis, by raising questions about the material presented or adding relevant information.

The draft theses should be handed in by **8 May 2026 at 12:00.**

The process is called the "opposition" process in Swedish legal education but it corresponds to the role of discussant in professional legal education and professional life throughout Europe. This "opposition" is to take approx. 20 minutes. The thesis discussed will cover a different topic than the one that has been written by the discussant.

All intended learning outcomes are assessed and measured on the basis of the individual thesis

(including the opposition, i.e. review of a thesis written by a peer) and the student presenting her or his thesis. The thesis is a formative form of examination as it also constitutes a learning outcome.

Student conference where the students will present and defend their theses will take place around or at the date of graduation. Examination occurs in conjunction with the student presenting and defending his/her thesis at the conference, while grading the theses may take up to 3 weeks from when they were handed in.

In the event that only one student submits a thesis for examination, the examiner or the teacher who grades the thesis will act as the opponent. The student in question may oppose an older thesis and will present his or her thesis for the teacher who grades the thesis.

4. Assessment and grading

Deadline for handing in the thesis is **25 May 2026, at 09:00.** Please submit it on Athena. For grading criteria etc., please see below.

Grading Criteria Master Thesis in European Economic Law

The criteria are weighted but not absolute. Even if it is e.g. more important to show knowledge than to master the language, the text must be comprehensible for an initiated reader.

Grade	Criteria	Additional
A	Excellently clear and well-structured thesis and problem formulation, displaying excellently ability to identify, formulate and critically analyse the thesis and research questions, including taking into consideration the social, scientific and ethical aspects of the selected question(s). Demonstrate excellent (considerable) advanced knowledge and understanding of the subject; Complete understanding of the relevant material and complete ability to use relevant material; excellent discussion regarding the selection of methodology or methodologies; excellent selection and utilization of relevant method or methods and consistent use of the method or methods; excellent analysis and argumentation, including proof of independence while clearly and logically formulating, systematizing and presenting, with a focus on the presentation of the central issues, his or her own analysis with possible legal solutions on the basis of existing legal rules and practice; excellent substantiated conclusions with a deeper discussion of the subject area; excellent written and oral presentations in terms of structure, stringency, systematics, and language, incl. adopting and abiding to a certain style; the ability to receive and respond to criticism and comments in a relevant way; excellent mastery of scholarly accuracy, i.e. extensive, specific and précises references to and correct use of legal sources and references. Ability to adhere to the determined schedule for the project.	
B	A clear and well-structured thesis and problem formulation, displaying great (very good) ability to identify, formulate and critically analyse the thesis and research questions, including taking into consideration the social, scientific and ethical aspects of the selected question(s). Demonstrate very good (considerable) advanced knowledge and understanding of the subject, very good understanding of the relevant material and complete ability to use relevant material; very good discussion regarding the selection of methodology or methodologies; very good selection and utilization of relevant method or methods and consistent use of the method or methods; Very good analysis and argumentation, including proof of independence while clearly and logically formulating, systematizing and presenting, with a focus on the presentation of the central issues, his or her own analysis with possible legal solutions on the basis of existing legal rules and practice; very well substantiated conclusions with a deeper discussion of the subject area; very well written and oral presentations in terms of structure, stringency, systematics, and language, incl. adopting and abiding to a certain style; the ability to receive and respond to criticism and comments in a relevant way; master very well scholarly accuracy, i.e. extensive, specific and précises references to and correct use of legal sources and references. Ability to adhere to the determined schedule for the project.	

C	A clear and well-structured thesis and problem formulation, displaying good ability to identify, formulate and critically analyse the thesis and research questions, including taking into consideration the social, scientific and ethical aspects of the selected question(s). Demonstrate good (considerable) advanced knowledge and understanding of the subject; good understanding of the relevant material and good ability to use relevant material; good discussion regarding the selection of methodology or methodologies; good selection and utilization of relevant method or methods and consistent use of the method or methods Convincing analysis and argumentation, including proof of independence while clearly and logically formulating, systematizing and presenting, with a focus on the presentation of the central issues, his or her own analysis with possible legal solutions on the basis of existing legal rules and practice; Convincing substantiated conclusions with a deeper discussion of the subject area; Good written and oral presentations in terms of structure, stringency, systematics, and language, incl. adopting and abiding to a certain style; the ability to receive and respond to criticism and comments in a relevant way; good mastery of scholarly accuracy, i.e. references to and correct use of legal sources and references. Ability to adhere to the determined schedule for the project.	
D	Satisfactory clear and well-structured thesis and problem formulation, displaying satisfactory ability to identify, formulate and critically analyse the thesis and research questions, including taking into consideration the social, scientific and ethical aspects of the selected question(s). Demonstrate satisfactory (consideral) advanced knowledge and understanding of the subject; convincing understanding of the relevant material and convincing ability to use relevant material; satisfactory discussion regarding the selection of methodology or methodologies; satisfactory selection and utilization of relevant method or methods and consistent use of the method or methods Satisfactory analysis and argumentation, including proof of independence while clearly and logically formulating, systematizing and presenting, with a focus on the presentation of the central issues, his or her own analysis with possible legal solutions on the basis of existing legal rules and practice; Satisfactory substantiated conclusions with a deeper discussion of the subject area; Satisfactory written and oral presentations in terms of structure, stringency, systematics, and language, incl. adopting and abiding to a certain style; the ability to receive and respond to criticism and comments in a relevant way; Satisfactory mastery of scholarly accuracy, i.e. references to and correct use of legal sources and references. Ability to adhere to the determined schedule for the project.	
E	Sufficiently clear and well-structured thesis and problem formulation, displaying sufficient ability to identify, formulate and critically analyse the thesis and research questions, including taking into consideration the social, scientific and ethical aspects of the selected question(s). Demonstrate sufficient (considerable) advanced knowledge and understanding of the subject; convincing understanding of the relevant material and convincing ability to use relevant material; sufficient discussion regarding the selection of methodology or methodologies; sufficient selection and utilization of relevant method or methods and consistent use of the method or methods Sufficient analysis and argumentation, including proof of independence while clearly and logically formulating, systematizing and presenting, with a focus on the presentation of the central issues, his or her own analysis with possible legal solutions on the basis of existing legal rules and practice; Sufficient substantiated conclusions with a deeper discussion of the subject area; Sufficient written and oral presentations in terms of structure, stringency,	

	systematics, and language, incl. adopting and abiding to a certain style; the ability to receive and respond to criticism and comments in a relevant way; Sufficient mastery of scholarly accuracy, i.e. references to and correct use of legal sources and references. Ability to adhere to the determined schedule for the project.	
F(x)	A reasoning which observes aspects that are relevant to the questions posed but insufficient; some reference to legal sources and relevant facts and/or no signs of analysis and argumentation including proof of independence in formulating, systematizing and presenting his or her own analysis with possible legal solutions on the basis of existing legal rules and practice.	
F	A reasoning which observes aspects that are relevant to the questions posed but is entirely insufficient; few references to legal sources and relevant facts and/or no signs of analysis and argumentation including proof of independence in formulating, systematizing and presenting his or her own analysis with possible legal solutions on the basis of existing legal rules and practice.	

Grading Criteria Master Thesis in European Economic Law

Essential elements of assessment to be graded A (Excellent), B (Very good), C (Good), D (Satisfactory), or E (Sufficient). Failing grades are Fx (Insufficient) or F (Entirely insufficient).

The criteria are weighted but not absolute. Even if it is e.g. more important to show knowledge than to master the language, the text must be comprehensible for an initiated reader.

Student name:

1. Ability to identify, formulate and critically analyse the thesis problem and research questions, including taking into consideration the social, scientific and ethical aspects of the selected question

Grade and comment:

2. Knowledge of details and insight into the subject (i.e. demonstrate considerably advanced knowledge and understanding of the subject)

Grade and comment:

3. Familiarity with relevant material and ability to use relevant material

Grade and comment:

4. Written presentation - systematic, clear and logical presentation of the material, with focus on the central issues

Grade and comment:

5. Discussion and selection of methodology or methodologies; relevance of the method or methods; consistent use of the method or methods

Grade and comment:

6. Analysis and argumentation, including proof of independence, while clearly and logically formulating, systematizing and presenting, with a focus on the the central issues, his or her own analysis with possible legal solutions on the basis of existing legal rules and practice

Grade and comment:

7. Substantiated conclusions with deeper discussion of the subject area

Grade and comment:

8. Mastery of scholarly accuracy, i.e., specificity and precision in reporting references and sources, etc.

Grade and comment:

10. Clear, correct and concise language, using established terminology

Grade and comment:

11. Ability to receive and respond to relevant criticism and comments

Grade and comment:

12. Ability to adhere to the determined schedule for the project

Grade and comment:

Overall grade:

Overall comment:

Signature examiner:

The criteria are weighted but not absolute.

Grade	Criteria
A	Passes all grounds for assessment and grading with excellent praise.
B	Passes all grounds for assessment and grading with praise, or passes some grounds for assessment and grading with excellent praise.
C	Highly acceptable results not without praise at all examinations, or passes some grounds for assessment and grading with praise.
D	Highly acceptable results at all examinations, or willingly accepted results not without praise at some of the examinations.
E	Acceptable results at all examinations, or willingly accepted results at some of the examinations.
Fx	Unacceptable results at any or some of the examinations but meets the requirements for Fx indicated in appendix 1- 2 with respect to the relevant ground(s) for assessment and grading.
F	Unacceptable results at any or some of the examinations and does not meet the requirements for Fx indicated in appendix 1- 2 with respect to the relevant ground(s) for assessment and grading.