Stockholm University

PM
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Course description for JU630E, Swedish Law in Context (15 hp/ECTS) SPRING 2026

General information about the course

Content and objectives

The overall objective of the course Swedish Law in Context is to give foreign law students who are accepted as exchange students at the Department of Law at Stockholm University an overview of Swedish law in an EU legal, international and comparative legal context. The course covers the Swedish areas of law constitutional law, procedural law, criminal law, family law, property law, labor law and commercial law.

The course includes the following course elements:

- introduction and lectures;
- seminar teaching;
- study visits; and
- written exam.

The course is given in English.

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

Knowledge and understanding

- show basic understanding of the structure and systematics of the Swedish legal system;
- show basic knowledge of and understanding of certain central legal subjects; and
- demonstrate basic knowledge of and understanding of legal method with an emphasis on legal source management.

Skills and Abilities

- independently apply basic Swedish legal principles;
- identify relevant legal issues and facts in different contexts;
- compare different solutions to certain legal issues that exist in the legal systems of the students' home countries as well as in Sweden, the EU and the international systems and to independently investigate the reasons for the differences; and

- independently, both in writing and orally, present different solutions to different types of legal issues in English.

Evaluation ability and approach

- show basic ability to assess legal issues against the background of society in general in a methodologically correct manner.

Pedagogical approach

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures and seminars. Active attendance is required at all seminars. Active attendance means that the student must read through relevant course literature before the seminars and participate in the discussion about the seminar's theme. The student may be absent from 20% of the lectures, seminars and study visits in total. Exemptions are only granted in extraordinary circumstances. During the course, there are several study visits.

The teaching is given in English.

More about the course structure

The different course elements

The course covers constitutional law, procedural law, criminal law, family law, property law, labor law and commercial law. The teaching focuses particularly on areas of law where Swedish law is distinctive from a comparative legal point of view, such as the right to freedom of the press, the "Swedish model" in tort and insurance law and family law.

Mandatory course elements

- attendance at 80% of teaching sessions (which include lectures, seminars and study visits);
- active attendance and participation at the seminars; and
- written exam.

International and comparative elements of the course

Comparative law and EU law, as well as international law, permeates all teaching at the course.

Interaction with the surrounding society

During the course, participants are given the opportunity to participate in various study visits. The study visits aim to give the students insights into the practical application of law but also the relationship between the law and the surrounding society. The study visits differ between years but may include: the Swedish Competition Authority (Konkurrensverket); the SCC Arbitration Institute (SCC Skiljedomsinstitut); and the Media Ombudsman (MO) (Medieombudsmannen or Allmänhetens Medieombudsman).

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

Swedish law in context is an overview course for students who have not previously studied Swedish law and provides a basis for further in-depth studies in the subject.

Requirements regarding participation in the course

Registration

Exchange students register on 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.

Study instructions

Textbooks

Carlson, Laura: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SWEDISH LAW 3 ed, 2019

Source materials

SWEDISH LAW IN CONTEXT: COURSE MATERIALS 2024 (or 2023 - there is no difference in contents). Course materials 2024 will also be published on the course's digital platform Athena.

Other materials

Additional literature in the form of articles or shorter texts may be added. These are published in Athena. There might also be some smaller changes to the Course materials. If there are changes to the Course materials, there will be a notification about the changes in Athena.

Preparations for teaching

Before the lectures and seminars, the students must have read relevant parts of the course literature.

Examination

Examined moments

Examination takes place by means of a written exam.

Exam registration

Students must register for the exam no later than 10 calendar days before the date of the exam (exceptions may need to be made, for example, when there are public holidays). Registration for the exam requires registration on the course. **Students who have not registered for the exam are not allowed to write the exam.**

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

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 as soon as possible (see below, "Studying with a disability")

Documents allowed at the exam

All students are required to show a valid ID on the day of exam. Foreign driving licences, residence permit cards, digital ID cards, e-identifications, post, bank or tax cards are **not** accepted as proof of identity. Only the following physical documents in original and unexpired are accepted as proof of identity:

- valid passport; temporary passports are not accepted
- valid Swedish national identity card
- valid Swedish driving licence
- valid Swedish sis-marked identity card or identity card issued by a Swedish governmental agency, for example the Swedish Tax Agency
- valid national identity card issued to citizens of EU/EEA countries
- a police report no older than three months stating that an ID document is stolen or lost.

Permitted aids and other exam regulations

Students must be in the examination room at least 15 minutes before the exam is set to start.

At the exam, different examination options can be applied. Information about the different examination options and the rules that apply can be found here: https://www.su.se/english/divisions/department-of-law/education/during-your-studies.

The presence of unauthorized exam aids, notes and the like, as well as violations of exam regulations may lead to a notification to the university Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee, led by the university president, can decide on a warning or a suspension.

In the course Swedish Law in Context the examination option 4 is applied.

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

A (Excellent)

B (Very Good)

C (Good)

D (Satisfactory)

E (Adequate)

Fx (Inadequate)

F (Totally Inadequate)

Request for grade review

Requests for grade reviews are submitted on a special form to the course administrator. 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, the student must submit an application. The student does this by logging into the Nais system via a link on the Student Services website and filling out the web form. To complete the application, the student must attach medical documentation confirming the disability. The website can be found via Stockholm University > Education > Studying with a disability > Apply for support. When the application has been received, the student will be contacted by the Student Services to book a personal meeting.

Once the student has been granted support, the student will need to contact the department's contact person and submit the certificate issued by the Student Services. The contact person at the Department of law exchange students is the Office of International Affairs (exchange@juridicum.su.se).

Examination

Please note that students must notify the course in question well in advance of each examination so that any additional measures can be taken. For information on when and how to notify the course for support, see the course's learning platform (Athena). If the report is received later than stated in Athena, the department cannot guarantee that the examination can be carried out as desired. Please also note that examination registration must be made in the usual way, as a general rule **no later than 10 calendar days before the exam** (exceptions may need to be made, for example, when there are public holidays). Please also note that for support measures that run throughout the entire course (e.g. note-taking assistance) or more intrusive measures (e.g. splitting the exam), the student must contact the course the student is taking well in advance, but no later than **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.