

Course description for Cyber Law (15 hp/ECTS) SPRING 2026

General information about the course

Content and objectives

Cyber Law is an upper level elective course provided in English at the Department of Law, Stockholm University. This cross-disciplinary course studies the relationship between the law and technology, examining the extent to which the continued digitalization of society and the increased reliance on emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), challenges the traditional application of the law. A characteristic of the law and technology relationship is that technological development is far ahead of the law. This places extra demands on the legal professional, requiring creativity in finding legal solutions to the complex problems that arise, especially where the traditional law in many instances is silent or inadequate. These developments also necessitate a more proactive approach to the application of the law as opposed to the reactive mechanism that the law up until now has been. In order to address the above themes, the course highlights the need for applying both traditional sources of law as well as soft law initiatives. European Union Law is generally used as a starting point but other international trends are also examined. Finally, there is a substantial emphasis on both current and emerging technologies, of which artificial intelligence is an example. The legal analysis of any technology requires a solid understanding of that technology. Consequently, specific technological developments and the resulting legal challenges are highlighted in order to acquire a better understanding of the regulatory challenges arising in the legal informatics domain.

The overall objective of the course is

- to provide the student with a basic understanding of modern digital technological developments, to provide the student with a specialized understanding of the regulatory challenges that arise in applying established law to contexts characterised by these new technologies and finally, to highlight regulatory trends.

The course includes the following course elements:

- lectures, seminars, the authorship of a course essay and the opposition and defence of the said course essay.

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

- Knowledge and understanding
 - demonstrate depth of knowledge and understanding of the relationship between law and information technology, gain knowledge of the composition of technological development and gain insight into the regulatory challenges in the context of technological development.

- Skills and abilities
 - demonstrate the ability, orally and in writing, critically and from different perspectives, solve complex problems associated with law and information technology, demonstrate the ability to work across professional disciplines and finally, within prescribed time limits, author a course essay, defend the said course essay and oppose another students course essay.
- Ability to evaluate and the undertaken approach
 - elaborate on legal solutions in relation to digitalization, both by means of traditional reactive law and proactively and critically, relate to digitalization, advanced systems of automated decision-making and artificial intelligence and assessing the ethical implications.

Pedagogical approach

The course promotes a problem-orientated pedagogical approach. It begins by introducing the student to basic technological development in the form of emerging technologies, artificial intelligence just one example. Thereafter, having identified the societal risks and challenges that such technologies result in, students are encouraged to identify and apply both traditional law and soft law regulatory solutions in a proactive manner.

In addition, the language of instruction is English. This reflects the international nature of the law and information technology legal domain.

Finally, all teaching will take place physically, either on campus or at the premises of the external lecturers that will be visited. Under very special circumstances or for pedagogical reasons, teaching may occur via zoom, however, this will be as an exception to physical teaching.

More about the course structure

The different course elements

The course is comprised of lectures, seminars, a course essay, course essay opposition and defence.

Lectures are **80%** mandatory.

Seminars are **100%** mandatory.

Course essay, course essay opposition and course essay defence are mandatory.

A seminar requires active attendance and can be comprised of multiple parts as well as oral or written assignments of which all are 100% mandatory. Active attendance requires that the student shall have prepared the seminar assignments, be prepared to participate in discussions and participate in the formal presentations in connection with the seminar, be they oral or in writing, individual or group-based.

The student shall author and defend a course essay and act as opponent vis-à-vis another student's essay. Exemption shall not be granted from the attendance requirement with regard to the course essay opposition. A list of potential course essay topics will be provided and the student will be required to choose an essay topic from this list. It is intended that the topic provided will provide the main title of the course essay. The student will however be able to provide a sub-title for the course essay, which will specify the provided main topic. The course essay topics will be within the area of law and information technology/legal informatics and will be based on the themes and material covered in the course lectures and in the seminars.

Important! Any course essay submitted late will not be graded. Please note that this requirement is stipulated in the course plan and therefore has to be strictly applied so please be sure to take all measures possible to make sure you submit the course essay on time.

Formal requirements Course Essay:

The maximum length of the course essay should not exceed 30 000 characters (no space), excluding the title page, a contents page if included and a references/bibliography page. Applying the above will result in an essay that consists of approximately 10 pages of text. The title page is to contain the title of the paper, the student's name, course name and finally which semester. Please note that no logo is required on the title page. The document *How to Write Your Essay – Writing Guidelines for Cyber Law Students* can be used as a guide in relation to the formal requirements. This document will be available in Athena. Please note that this document provides a recommendation as to how the question of formal requirements can be addressed, e.g. how footnotes and other references are to be done. There are no strict requirements as to which legal citation style guide should be used (e.g. Oscola is one such style guide). However, a formal requirement is that footnote numbering occur at the bottom of each page of text and not as part of the main text. Should you have any uncertainties regarding which style guide is acceptable, please contact the person in charge of the course essay or course director (if these are different people) for clarification. In addition, complementary material will be made available in Athena that provides guidance and tips for the writing of the course essay, e.g. issues relating to method and style.

The course essay is to be submitted electronically on the date stipulated in Athena. It is to be submitted by means of uploading it into Athena. Shortly thereafter (preferably the same day but possibly the day after), you will be provided with the course essay of the student whose course essay you will be opposing. If you are not provided with a course essay to oppose, please inform the course administrator immediately.

Formal requirements course essay opposition and defence:

As part of the opposition procedure, the opponent will be required to submit a written opposition summary. The opposition summary can be up to a maximum of 3000 characters (no space). There are no strict form requirements although it is recommended that it comprise of a number of bullet points with accompanying text. The main aim of the opposition summary is to outline briefly the main points that the opponent will be addressing at the opposition. Please note that the opposition summary must be made available in Athena on the stipulated date.

The course essay oral opposition and defence will take place on the date indicated on the schedule made available in Athena. Please note that it is the opponent that is responsible for the commencement and impetus of the oral opposition. In other words, the opponent decides what issues he/she wants to illuminate and the general direction of the opposition. The opponent of a course essay is given 30 minutes to put forward the critique of the course essay. During this time, the author of the course essay will be given time to respond to the opponents remarks. In this way, it is expected that the opposition/defence of the course essay will take the form of a constructive dialogue. The routine will be as follows:

Student 1 opposes the course essay of student 2 who is given adequate time to respond to all criticism. (max. 30 minutes)

Student 2 opposes the course essay of student 1 who is given adequate time to respond to all criticism. (max. 30 minutes)

Please note that should a situation arise where a constructive dialogue between the students cannot be reached, the examiner may be required to adjust the time constraints in order to achieve a balanced time allocation between author and opponent.

The course essay will follow a grading protocol. The grading protocol will be made available in conjunction with the notification of the grade and will include feedback of an individual nature.

Written and oral exercises

The mandatory seminars require oral participation and may also include a written element, usually of an individual nature. The course also includes the authoring of a written course essay and the oral opposition and defence associated with the course essay. A seminar is also dedicated to written and oral competencies, where students receive theoretical guidance to academic writing, gain knowledge about the use of tools to elevate academic writing and students are given the opportunity, orally and in writing, to apply these skills in advance of the course essay and its opposition and defence.

Mandatory course elements

The mandatory course elements are the introductory lecture initiating the course, 90% attendance at all lectures, 100% attendance and participation at all seminars, assignments related to seminars, the authorship of the course essay and the opposition and defence of the said course essay.

International and comparative elements of the course

The area of law and information technology is traditionally an international area of law. This is due mainly to the fact that technological development and the application of technology is global in nature. Regulatory developments are usually confined to geographical borders, which is a theme focused on during the course. Considering the student composition of the course as well as the fact that the course is taught in English, European Union law serves as the point of departure in lectures and seminars. Inspiration is also sought from outside the European Union regarding the regulation of emerging technologies. Finally, during the authorship of the course essay students are afforded the opportunity to examine national law developments.

Interaction with the surrounding society

A large emphasis is placed on providing students access to the legal practitioners that work with law and information technology on a daily basis. Consequently, numerous visits are organized to law firms, technology companies and public authorities where students meet lawyers and technicians that are able to complement the theory taught in the classroom with practical experience gained from working with law and technology.

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

The course Cyber Law is intended to provide a progression from the undergraduate course 'rättsinformatik'. Students are able to build upon the knowledge gained during this undergraduate course and also provides them with the opportunity to examine certain issues related to law and information technology in more depth. The course Cyber Law also allows students to prepare for the writing of their theses as part of the legal education ('examesarbete'). Students are familiarized with the challenges of approaching technical problems from the legal perspective, are given the opportunity to sharpen their oral and writing skills and the course essay also allows them to test a research question during the course essay that they potentially can expand upon as part of the law programme thesis.

Requirements regarding participation in 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.

Exchange students register to 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.

Groups

In order to enroll in a group, students must be registered on the course. Students who have never taken the course previously are given priority when choosing a group. The day/time of registration is indicated on the course website. The possibility for re-registered students to participate in a group is subject to availability and done on a "first come, first served" basis.

Study instructions

Textbooks

Colonna, Liane & Greenstein, Stanley (eds.), *Law in the Era of Artificial Intelligence*, Nordic Yearbook of Law and Informatics, 2020. The book is available open access and a link to the material will be provided in Athena.

Source materials

Other materials

Where necessary, assorted reading material may be referred to in advance of lectures and seminars. This will be provided to you in Athena or information will be provided as to how these readings can be found online.

Also, a number of articles will be uploaded into Athena that are not connected to any particular lecture but rather that are intended as a source of general knowledge acquisition or are intended to be motivational in nature.

Preparations for teaching

Students are expected to have prepared themselves for all mandatory parts of the course, including seminars, course essay and course essay opposition and defence. In addition, some lectures may require reading beforehand, in which case students will be informed of this in advance.

Examination

Examined moments

Examination consists of two (2) main components.

First, are the seminars, all of which are compulsory and which require active attendance. For the seminars, only the following grades apply: Pass (G) and Fail (U).

Second is the submission of a course essay and the accompanying opposition and defence of the said course essay where the student is required to oppose the course essay of a fellow student as well as defend his/her own course essay.

Grading of the course essay shall be based on the following elements:

- authorship of the course essay (**75%** of the total course grade)
- defence of the student's course essay and the opposition of another student's course essay (**25%** of the total course grade).

The course grade is based on the accumulation of the grades for the above examination. A maximum of 20 points can be obtained for the course essay and opposition combined. Five points can be awarded for each of the assessment elements (assessment criteria of **facts**, **focus** and **form**, see below) used to assess the written course essay and 5 points can be attained from the course essay **opposition/defence**. Therefore, 75% of the course grade will come from the written course essay and 25% will come from the oral course essay opposition and defence (including the 1-page written opposition summary). In other words, you can receive a maximum of 5 points for **facts**, a maximum of 5 points for **focus**, a maximum of 5 points for **form** in relation to the course essay and a maximum of 5 points for the course essay **opposition/defence**, making up the total of 20 points.

A pass grade is **10** points out of **20** points.

To pass the course, all of the course's learning outcomes must be met.

Assessment criteria for the Course Essay:

- **FACTS:** displayed factual knowledge within law and information technology/legal informatics and the precise application of this factual knowledge;
- **FOCUS:** the ability to identify the issues that materialize within law and information technology/legal informatics, problem formulation, the answer's relevance, the answer's disposition i.e. the ability to put forward an argument that is complete, without contradictions or repetition, the ability to independently and critically assess the consequences and conclusions that arise from the identified research question, the correct and precise use of concepts and the correct and precise use of sources, etc;
- **FORM:** use of language and adherence to formal requirements, etc.

Assessment Criteria for the written summary, oral opposition and defence of the course essay:

- The ability to adhere to requirements of form;
- The ability to provide objective, relevant and constructive feedback on another student's course essay; and
- The ability independently, to critically and professionally oppose another student's academic work within the given time limits. All examination shall take place in English.

In summary then, in order to pass the entire course, a student will be required to pass all the mandatory seminars (by means of active attendance and assignment completion) as well as

attain a minimum total of 10 points out of the maximum of 20 points from the course essay and opposition combined.

To pass the course, all of the course's learning outcomes must be met.

The course director can grant a general exemption from the attendance requirement within the framework of the provisions governing examination as adopted by the Law Faculty's Education Committee. In addition, thereto, an exemption can be granted in the case of a legitimate excuse (Swedish: "laga förfall"). In such a case, the student shall carry out a pedagogically equivalent assignment to compensate the absence. Please contact the course director or course administrator if you are not able to attend a seminar or comply with any of its requirements.

Access to examination

The topics for the course essay will be made available in Athena for the duration of the course. Students are encouraged to begin the course essay writing process as early as possible.

Exam registration

Students must register for the exam no later than 10 calendar days before the date of the exam. Registration for the exam requires registration on the course. **Students who have not registered for the exam are not allowed to write the exam.**

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.

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](#)").

Documents allowed at the exam

All students are required to show a valid ID on the day of exam. Driving licenses, passports and ID cards that are still in date are approved as identification. In case of stolen or lost ID, students may also prove their identity by providing a police report of no more than three months. Foreign ID documents are also accepted, preferably passports and ID cards.

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 on [the Department of Law's website](#). 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.

On the course Cyber Law, the examination options of seminars and essays is applied.

Grading criteria on the AB-U scale

Grade	Criteria
AB	An excellently structured reasoning with a clear focus on the central aspects and with a high relevance in light of the questions posed; extensive reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; great ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems, including critical reflection.
AB	A very well-structured reasoning with a clear focus on the central aspects and with a high relevance in the light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; great ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems, including critical reflection.
BA	A well-structured reasoning with a focus on the central aspects and with relevance in the light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make independent and balanced assessment of the problems.
BA	A structured and relevant reasoning, which covers some of the central aspects in light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; signs of an ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems.
B	A transparent reasoning which observes some aspects that are central to the questions posed; some reference to legal sources and relevant facts; signs of an ability to make an independent assessment of the problems.
Fx	A reasoning which observes aspects that are central to the questions posed but insufficient reference to legal sources and the relevant facts and/or no signs of an ability to make an independent assessment of the problems.
F	A reproduction of disjointed facts with insufficient reasoning.

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

Grade	Criteria
--------------	-----------------

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| A | An excellently structured reasoning with a clear focus on the central aspects and with a high relevance in light of the questions posed; extensive reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; great ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems, including critical reflection. |
| B | A very well-structured reasoning with a clear focus on the central aspects and with a high relevance in the light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; great ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems, including critical reflection. |
| C | A well-structured reasoning with a focus on the central aspects and with relevance in the light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make independent and balanced assessment of the problems. |
| D | A structured and relevant reasoning, which covers some of the central aspects in light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; signs of an ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems. |
| E | A transparent reasoning which observes some aspects that are central to the questions posed; some reference to legal sources and relevant facts; signs of an ability to make an independent assessment of the problems. |
| Fx | A reasoning which observes aspects that are central to the questions posed but insufficient reference to legal sources and the relevant facts and/or no signs of an ability to make an independent assessment of the problems. |
| F | A reproduction of disjointed facts with insufficient reasoning. |

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. **Please also note that registration for the exam must be done in the usual manner no later than 10 calendar days before the exam.** Also note that in order to receive extra pedagogical support during the entire course (e.g. note-taking assistance) or special extra measures (e.g. dividing up the exam), 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.