



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Law

Syllabus

Criminal Law

Course Code:	JPG006
Course Title:	Criminal Law <i>Straffrätt</i>
Credits:	10
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

Major Field of Study:
RVA (Jurisprudence)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2018-03-05, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2018 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Law Programme (JALAW) courses of 30 ECTS credits (earned in semester 1) and 15 ECTS credits (earned in semester 2)

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- apply the legal method and master legal source doctrines in the area of criminal law,
- explain the social purposes of the criminal justice system and its justifications, and central principles of criminal law and their functions,
- apply current criminal law regulations pertaining to criminal liability and sentencing,
- critically analyse the courts' case-law and identify application problems,
- give an independent and adequate account of central criminal law problems, orally and in writing, and
- describe and explain the impact of international law on Swedish criminal law.

Content

The course centres on the central rules and principles of Swedish criminal law and the criminal law method. The overarching purpose is to provide tools to analyse different criminal law problems in connection with establishing criminal liability and sentencing in Swedish courts. The course starts with a discussion of the social purposes of criminal law and how it can be justified and the principles of criminalisation. An important initial element is the significance of the liability restrictions that follow on the basic criminal law principles, primarily the legality principle, the fault principle and the conformity principle.

The three main levels of crime concept are then analysed, that is, the rules on unlawful acts (causality,

risk, etc), unlawfulness (legitimate self-defence, distress, consent etc.) and personal guilt (mentally ill offenders, intent, negligence, excess and error of law). In addition, the rules on dependent crime types (attempted crime, preparation to commit a crime, conspiracy and complicity), statute of limitation, competition in criminal law are discussed and the application of Swedish criminal law in time and space.

In addition to the general doctrines of criminal law, the course also treats the special part of criminal law, that is, the criminal code and the central criminalisations of the special legislation, with a view to discussing the structure and composition of central criminalisations and their relations to the general doctrines.

Instruction further includes explanation of the rules and principles of sentencing to advance students' understanding of the system and their ability to apply the rules of meeting out punishment and choosing sanction in uncomplicated cases.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and groups. The lectures provide both broad and deep insights into depth and criminal law problems, and also in connection with seminars on similar content.

Group teaching, based on PBL groups, provides opportunities for students to apply general doctrines to concrete cases. Preparation assignments analysed in groups are treated and discussed with a tutor. All students in the respective PBL group participate in the assignments, which increase in complexity during the course, gradually requiring the students to apply the rules and principles of liability and sanction as a whole.

A mandatory course component is writing a PM according to instruction.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is individual and based on a written exam and a PM, presented orally.

Grades

One of the grades Pass with Distinction (AB), Pass with Some Distinction (BA), Pass (B), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.