



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Law

Syllabus

Jurisprudence Perspectives in Theory and Practice

Course Code:

RVAD78

Course Title:

Jurisprudence Perspectives in Theory and Practice
Rättsvetenskapliga perspektiv i teori och metod

Credits:

30

Degree Level:

Master's level

Progressive Specialisation:

Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits) (A1E)

Major Field of Study:

RVA (Jurisprudence)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2015-12-15, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2016 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Admission to the Jurisprudence Master Programme.

One of the following courses: RVAD79 Commercial Law 30 ECTS cr, RVAD76 Public Law Specialisation 15 ECTS cr, or RVAD70 Tax Law II 15 ECTS cr.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

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

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of substantive law within their chosen field of specialisation, and
- demonstrate knowledge of the legal method and various legal schools of thought in a historical perspective.

Competence and skills

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

- with a high degree of independence, identify, formulate, and develop an argument on general jurisprudential issues with relevance to social development,
- with good insight and independence collect and process a complex material,
- design and complete a research task with relevance to theories in the area, to the chosen problem, and to society at large,
- apply advanced research methods and independently write and defend an academic essay which contributes to knowledge and research in the chosen area, and
- actively follow developments and research in jurisprudence.

Judgement and approach

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

- independently review a fellow-student's work and place the works of others in a wider theoretical frame, and
- independently present knowledge surveys, research issues and their own work.

Content

The course is divided into three modules:

Module 1 Judicial theory, method and the history of jurisprudence 10.5 ECTS cr

Students deepen their legal knowledge by placing law in a historical perspective. Ethical considerations relating to the work of a legal expert are discussed. In addition to the traditional positivist legal method, modern tools are provided. Guest lecturers are invited to contribute current research findings.

Module 2 offers two alternatives:

Module 2, alt. 1: Project Work, 4.5 ECTS cr

Students acquire some work experience and establish professional contacts through practical placement with a company or a public agency, conducting investigative tasks. If possible, the placement should be in the area of their chosen specialisation. Admission to the module requires that students have arranged their own practical placement with a company or public agency

Module 2, alt 2 Elective Judicial Specialisation 4.5 ECTS credits

Students acquire further knowledge in the area of their Bachelor degree project or, in consultation with the course convener, choose to branch out in another area. Course literature is chosen on the basis of the student's pre-knowledge in consultation with the respective teachers.

Module 3: Degree project 15 ECTS cr

Students independently write an academic thesis. Special attention is paid to the ability to structure and analyse research problems and to present results in a clear and considered manner. The independently planned and completed project should comprise:

- formulation of topic, aim and research question related to background, perspective and pre-understanding of literature in the area,
- analytical specification of aim and research question in relation to choice of theory, model, analytical frame, or conceptual schemata,
- delimitation of material and choice of methodological approach,
- collecting, processing and compiling material,
- analysis of material in the light of aim and research questions,
- logical and pedagogical presentation of the investigation and its results in the written form applying standard techniques of reporting (summary, quotation, table, figure) and source and literature referencing (foot notes and list of references).

Students present their degree projects at an open seminar. Each student is responsible for defending their own essays as well as for reviewing another student's essay. Students are also required to participate actively in three additional seminars of this kind. Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars, exercises and individual study of course literature and project. Supervision is only provided for the duration of the course. Re-registered students are offered additional supervision to the extent permitted by circumstances and available resources.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on:

Module 1: Written exam.

Module 2, alt 1: Completed and approved practical placement certified by the employer.

Module 2, alt 2: Academic paper also presented orally in the form of a twenty-minute lecture.

Module 3: Independent degree project, presented and defended at a mandatory seminar. Students are also required to review a fellow-student's project.

The number of examination opportunities for module 3 is limited to five.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course and the modules 1 and 3. One of the grades Pass (G) or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of module 2. A grade of Distinction is awarded to students who have earned this grade for the modules 1 and 3.

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.