

## Course description for Legal English (JU727A/B) AUTUMN 24

### General information about the course

#### *Content and objectives*

The overall objective of the course is to provide an overview of legal analysis, oral and written advocacy in English.

After successful completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge and the ability to review, understand, and critically analyze legal texts in English,
- knowledge and understanding of the use of English in legal contexts, particularly in international legal usage,
- knowledge and ability to independently and in time author texts in English in legal contexts,
- ability to orally and in writing effectively communicate in English in legal contexts, including adapting the use of English to the specific situation.

#### Course description

- The course consists of lectures, seminars, exercises, and assignments conducted in English. Students are to participate actively in class discussions. The course seeks to develop students' abilities to critically analyze legal texts in English, and to create and edit their own English texts in legal contexts.
- Students will also learn to orally present and discuss legal issues in English. The course also focuses on rhetorical aspects of English, including adjusting the use of English to the type, and purpose of the text, as well as to the reader or audience.

#### *Pedagogical approach*

Instruction consists of 10 weeks of full-time studies consisting of lectures, seminars, exercises, tutorials and assignments conducted in English. All lectures, seminars, and scheduled activities require active participation.

### More about the course structure

#### *The different course elements*

The course is structured around the following topics: (i) written legal argumentation, and (ii) oral advocacy and moot court.

### *Mandatory course elements*

Active attendance is mandatory for all seminars. Active attendance means that the student has prepared the assignments and is ready to participate in those discussions.

An exemption can also be granted if the student has a lawful excuse, in which case the student is to complete a pedagogically equivalent assignment as defined by the course directory as compensation for the absence.

### *International and comparative elements of the course*

Instruction in international dispute resolution, as comprehensively allowing for teaching both written and oral advocacy, as well as comparative methodology is given throughout the course. The course is built around exchanging views and learning about different approaches to legal English.

### *Interaction with the surrounding society*

The course contains elements of interaction with the dispute resolution community globally, encompassing best practices for oral and written advocacy in English

## **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 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.

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 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*

Bryan A. Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English*, University of Chicago Press, 2013 (2023 edition is available, but no major changes are recorded)

### *Source materials*

To be provided for each lecture/seminar

### *Preparations for teaching*

Seminars require active participation and preparation is expected as per handouts provided in advance for each session.

## **Examination**

### *Examined moments*

#### Examination

Examination in the course is based on a Case Memo (20%), Moot Court (20%), and Final Essay (60%).

1. Case Memo, 1-2 pages (20 points)
2. Moot Court (20 points)
3. Final Essay, 5-6 pages (60 points)

Each of these assignments are obligatory.

Assessment criteria applicable to grading of the written assignments:

- problem formulation
- structure and presentation
- insight into the topic, as well as materials and knowledge

- investigation and analysis
- argumentation and conclusions
- independence
- language, formal requirements and
- the ability to perform the required work on time

Assessment criteria applicable to the oral presentations:

- ability to identify, analyze and orally present the relevant legal issues
- ability to work with others and argue in a constructive manner, and
- ability to assess and draw conclusions from the presented documents.

The course grade is based on a weighing of the individual presentations within the framework for the different examination moments. All of the course's learning outcomes must be met and all activities passed in order to pass the course.

Students who initially fail are given the opportunity to be assessed a second time. Students who have received a passing grade are not allowed to be assessed again in order to achieve a higher grade. Students who fail the course twice from the same examiner have the right to request a different examiner for their next examination.

### *Exam registration*

Swedish students receive a grade on the learning outcome-based four-grade grading scale AB-U. 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](#)").

### *Grading criteria on the AB-U scale*

- AB (passed with high distinction)
- BA (passed with distinction)
- B (satisfactorily passed)
- U (failed to pass)

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

- A (Excellent)
- B (Very good)
- C (Good)
- D (Satisfactory)
- E (Sufficient)

Failing grades are Fx (Insufficient) or F (Entirely insufficient).

### *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](mailto:viktoria.pettersson@juridicum.su.se). International master students must contact the Office of International Affairs at [master@juridicum.su.se](mailto:master@juridicum.su.se). Exchange students must also contact the OIA using the email [exchange@juridicum.su.se](mailto: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. 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**.



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## **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.