

Department of Law

Syllabus

for course at first level

Straffrätt

Criminal Law

15.0 Higher Education Credits

15.0 ECTS credits

Course code:	JU211L
Valid from:	Autumn 2024
Date of approval:	2023-11-15
Changed:	2023-11-16
Department:	Department of Law
Subject group:	Law and Legal Studies
Specialisation:	G2F - First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

Finalized by: Revised by the head of department, 2023-11-15

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Admission to this course requires a passing grade in all courses included in the first and second semesters, as well as in "Private Law D", in addition to having completed all mandatory elements of the course "Company Law, Partnership Law and the Law of Organisations".

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
0100	Criminal Law	15.0

Course content

"Criminal Law" is a mandatory course in the Law Programme at Stockholm University. The course aims to create an understanding of the limitations that follow from the principle of legality and which are important for the systematic nature of criminal law. Furthermore, students are expected to gain such good knowledge of relevant rules and principles that they can explain them and are also able to identify the interests that affect the design of criminal law.

The course primarily covers the general and special parts of criminal law, as well as sentencing. The general part includes issues relating to the basic conditions that determine the criminality of an act. It deals with issues concerning liability for inchoate offences, grounds for release from liability and the requirement for intent and negligence. The special part of criminal law refers to specific crimes, regardless of whether they are regulated by the penal code or the supplementary penal provisions. Sentencing mainly involves the central rules for the meting out of punishment and the choice of sentence. In addition, the course studies the international dimensions of criminal law, including its relationship to European law.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

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

- demonstrate knowledge and an understanding of the central rules and principles in the field of criminal law;
- demonstrate relevant knowledge that can be used to assess issues in criminal law, as well as to understand and evaluate the structure of criminal law;
- demonstrate knowledge of the role of criminal law, both nationally and internationally, including its relationship to international law.

Skills and abilities

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

- demonstrate an ability to use relevant legal methods to apply and interpret rules of criminal law, as well as assess problems in criminal law;
- demonstrate an ability to use legal methods to systematically, critically and independently identify, formulate and analyse issues in criminal law;
- independently plan and write an essay within specified time limits;
- demonstrate an ability to present the results of criminal law analyses, both orally and in writing.

Judgement and approach

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

- critically assess and evaluate issues in criminal law with reference to relevant social issues, which includes the ability to identify the interests that influence the structure of the criminal justice system from an ethical and social perspective.

Education

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars.

Forms of examination

The course is examined on the basis of:

- mandatory and active attendance at the seminars
- the writing of an essay,
- a written examination (in-class examination).

Active attendance is mandatory at all seminars. Active attendance refers to the student having prepared the assignments and being ready to participate in discussions about them. Only participation in the group in which the student is registered counts as attendance, unless a change of groups has been granted in advance.

The course director may grant a general exemption from the attendance requirement in accordance with the regulations for examinations adopted by the Faculty of Law's education committee. The attendance requirement is specified in the course description.

An exemption can also be granted if the student has a lawful excuse, in which case the student should complete a pedagogically equivalent assignment as compensation for his or her absence.

Assessment criteria for the essay:

- problem definition;
- factual knowledge and insights into the subject;
- presentation;
- material and method;
- analysis and argumentation, including independence;
- language use and other formalities.

Grades are determined on the basis of the essay and the written examination.

The minimum score required on each examined course moment in order to pass the entire course, together with the maximum scores achievable, are stated in the course description. The final grade in the course is based on the total amount of points achieved on each course moment. The points obtained on the essay are thus weighed into the final grade on the written exam.

Grading criteria and permitted aids during the examination are specified in the course description.

Students who receive a failing grade on a regular examination will have the opportunity retake the examination. A student who has received a passing grade on an examination may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade. A student who has failed the same examination twice is entitled to have another examiner appointed, unless there are special reasons to the contrary.

In order to pass the course, students must achieve all intended learning outcomes.

The final course grade is set using the following scale: Pass with Distinction (AB), Pass with Credit (BA), Pass (B) or Fail (U).

Students are, upon request, entitled to receive grades according to a seven-point scale. The request should be made by the student before the examination as determined by the Department of Law. The grade according to the seven-point scale is then valid instead of the regular grade. Passing grades according to the seven-point scale are: A (Excellent), B (Very Good), C (Good), D (Satisfactory) and E (Adequate). Failing grades are Fx (Inadequate) or F (Totally Inadequate).

A student with a certificate of special pedagogical support issued by Stockholm University has the right to alternative/accommodated forms of examination in accordance with the certificate.

Misc

Completed course requirements are valid for two years. This also applies to students who drop the course during the early course withdrawal period.

The course requirements in effect at the time of the student's first registration on the course may be completed within two years. After two years, the course requirements included in the most recently revised syllabus will apply.**

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Entry into force

These provisions will apply as of 2 September 2024.