

Syllabus

for course at first level

Att läsa rättvisa: Juridik, litteratur och mänskliga rättigheter

3.5 Higher Education Credits

Reading Justice: Law, Literature and Human Rights

3.5 ECTS credits

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| Course code: | JU279F |
| Valid from: | Spring 2026 |
| Date of approval: | 2025-11-27 |
| Changed: | 2025-12-16 |
| 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 |
| Main field: | Legal Science |

Decision

Finalized by: Juridiska fakultetens utbildningsutskott , 2025-11-27

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

The course is intended for foreign students enrolled in an exchange programme at the Department of Law. Students admitted to the Law Programme at Stockholm University may, in exceptional circumstances, be granted admission to the course.

Course structure

| Examination code | Name | Higher Education Credits |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| MOM1 | Reading Justice: Law, Literature and Human Rights | 3.5 |

Course content

This course explores the relationship between law and literature with a focus on international human rights. Imaginative literary works such as novels, drama, poetry and film will be considered alongside case law and legal instruments in order to engage on themes of justice, punishment, dignity and resistance in order to better understand human rights.

Domestic and international courts are currently grappling with challenges ranging from colonial legacies and post-war justice to crises in migration, minority protection, free speech, gender equality and penal reform. Storytelling and narrative have a critical role to play in adding depth to legal principles and exposing areas of tension or failure within the system.

This course invites students to think beyond doctrinal law by considering how literature reflects, critiques and humanizes legal norms.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

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

- demonstrate critical knowledge of key human rights principles, legal instruments, and international frameworks in order to understand their implementation in the protection of individual rights.
- demonstrate an understanding of how literature and narrative contributes to the on-going development, critique, and reimagining of human rights norms.

Skills and abilities

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

- demonstrate the ability to independently, critically, and systematically analyse complex legal issues and legal arguments based on international human rights law in the field of individual rights and freedoms with a focus on how these rights are interpreted, represented and contested in literary texts.
- reflect on contemporary issues in international human rights, in particular freedom of speech, privacy and surveillance, equality and non-discrimination, the right to movement and and the right to dignity by drawing on both legal and literary materials.
- within given timeframes, plan and write a response in a take-home exam.

Judgement and approach

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

- independently and critically assess and evaluate legal issues in the field of human rights and analyse their representation and implications through literary and cultural perspectives, as well as their broader consequences for society in general.

Education

Teaching is conducted in the form of lectures and seminars over a period of two weeks of full-time study. All teaching activities are compulsory. Exemptions may be granted in cases of valid reasons for absence. In such cases, the student is required to complete a pedagogically equivalent assignment as compensation for the absence.

A more detailed description of the course content is provided in the course syllabus and the course schedule. The language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

Examination is conducted through:

- Active participation at all teaching and
- A take-home exam

Active attendance is mandatory at all teaching. Active attendance refers to students having prepared the assignments, if any, and being ready to participate in discussions about them. The language of examination is English.

The grading scale for the course is as follows: Pass (G) or Fail (U). Failure to hand in the take-home exam within the given timeframe will automatically result in a failing grade.

Assessment criteria applicable to grading of the take-home assignment (only applicable if this is the chosen method of examination):

- structure and presentation;
- insight into the topic, as well as materials and knowledge;
- investigation and analysis;
- argumentation and conclusions;
- independence of thought;
- language, formal requirements,
- Critical thinking and creativity
- Ability to carry out the work within the given time frames and word count

Students who receive a failing grade on a regular examination will have the opportunity to retake the examination. Students who have 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.

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.

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Completed course requirements are valid for two years. This also applies to students who de-register from the course through early withdrawal.

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.

Entry into force

These provisions will apply as of 19 January 2026.

Course literature

The course literature is approved by the head of department. Please refer to the course website and the course description for information about the required reading. The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.