



## DEPARTMENT OF LAW

### **LLD3C01, Theory of science and legal scholarship, 7.5 credits**

Introduktionskurs i vetenskapsteori och rättsvetenskap, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå*

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#### **Confirmation**

This syllabus was confirmed by the Department of Law on 2019-07-11, and was last revised on 2024-11-11. The revised course syllabus is valid from Spring semester 2025.

#### ***Responsible Department***

Department of Law, School of Business, Economics and Law

#### **Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course, the student must be registered in a third cycle programme leading to the Degree of Doctor of Laws/Degree of Licentiate of Laws at the Department of Law or in an equivalent third cycle programme at another Swedish/international higher education institution.

Strong English skills are required since the course is offered in English if non-Swedish-speaking students are enrolled.

#### **Learning outcomes**

After completing the course, the student is expected to:

##### ***Knowledge and understanding***

- be familiar with the type of questions that can be asked in legal research and some of the methods that can be employed to answer those questions
  - grasp the presuppositions and ambitions of different types of legal scholarship as well as the demands placed on them
  - have knowledge about the academic and societal context within which legal research takes place
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- understand the specificities and similarities of different types of legal scholarship in relation to other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities
- have acquired in depth knowledge of select issues in legal theory and in the theory of social sciences/humanities

### ***Competence and skills***

- have improved her/his ability to discuss and critically reflect on foundational legal scholarly problems and concepts
- be able to relate the content of the course to the choices of framing and design made in her/his thesis project
- have improved her/his ability to position her/his research
- have improved her/his capacity to understand, critically assess, and offer feedback the work of other legal scholars

### ***Judgement and approach***

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy, care and honesty
- evaluate the possibilities and limitations of legal research and its role in society

## **Course content**

The course aims to familiarize doctoral students with the academic and societal context within which legal research takes place, the different demands placed on legal scholarship, the diverse questions asked in legal research and some of the methods that can be employed to answer those questions. The course will also deliberate on the presuppositions and ambitions of different kinds of legal scholar and position legal scholarship(s) in the broader field of social sciences and humanities.

Issues discussed include the following: Who is legal research for? What is legal research supposed to achieve? What are the standards of scientificity in relation to legal scholarship? Are all kinds of legal research supposed to be scientific? To what extent can we talk about legal research as one and the same vocation? Is legal research, or some varieties of it, categorically different from research in the social sciences and the humanities because of how it relates to practical concerns and activities?

In addition, the course also aims to offer practical guidance on how to write legal research.

## **Types of instruction**

The course consists of four course days spread out over a semester. Each course day consists of several sessions. Enrolled doctoral students will be given different tasks in preparation for each session such as presenting select parts of the course literature. They are expected to participate actively during the sessions. They are also expected to present short essays (5-10 pages) in which they reflect on their individual projects in relation to the themes discussed in the literature and during the seminars.

### ***Language of instruction***

The course is given in English

Normally, the language of instruction is English but can also be Swedish if only Swedish-speaking students are enrolled.

### **Grades**

The grade Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given in this course.

### **Types of assessment**

A grade of Pass (G) requires attendance and active participation at all seminars, as well as the writing of a memo (5-10 pages) in which the content of the course is related to the third-cycle student's own thesis project.

Absences from compulsory parts of the course must be made up in accordance with instructions provided by the course coordinator.

A student may attend digitally on one of the four course days.

### **Course evaluation**

A course evaluation is conducted in the form of a discussion at the end of the course.

### **Other information**

Written assignments are completed in either Swedish or English. As the various parts of the course are integrated, a student cannot receive credit for having completed certain parts previously.

Additional information in relation to the programme can be found in relevant legislation as well as guidelines and provisions presented by the University of Gothenburg, the School of Business, Economics and Law and the Department of Law.