



22 April 2020

Reg no U 2020/398

LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Law

Law Faculty Board
Committee on Doctoral Education

English translation of the Swedish original, which remains the only authentic one.

**Syllabus for the course A Law to Save the World?, 7,5 credits
(7,5 ECTS), Third cycle – Doctoral studies
JURFS03**

Approved by the Committee on Doctoral Education of the Law Faculty Board on
22 April 2020.

Entered into force autumn term 2020

1. General information

The course is offered at the Faculty of Law as part of the interdisciplinary Lund University Agenda 2030 Graduate School. It is part of the third-cycle programme at the Faculty of Law.

Teaching language is English.

2. Learning outcomes

Background

Sustainable development – in its 2015 UN General Assembly “Agenda 2030” instantiation – seeks to halt climate change, create sustainable patterns of production and consumption, stop the decrease of biodiversity, to end poverty, and more. It is seen as an effective method for mobilization around a set of global social priorities but has also been criticized for being a futile attempt to save the world without transforming it.

The course brings all three spheres of sustainable development - the economy, the environment and “the social” into focus.

On completion of the course, the participants are expected to be able to demonstrate the following knowledge and skills.

Knowledge and understanding

1. *Viability or futility of the sustainability agenda’s approach of incremental change:* identify and critically analyze 1) what the sustainable development

agenda for each sphere is and the presuppositions on which it is based 2) what the expectations are from existing international law and institutions and 3) the structural ability or inability of those existing laws and institutions to meet the goals set.

2. *Harmony between or conflicting goals and legal regimes*: Sustainable development is often said to imply a holistic approach to global problems, but the different goals exist in tension, even conflict with one another, a problem arguably linked to deriving the goals and targets from existing inter-state agreement and the fractured nature of the global legal order. Participants will demonstrate detailed understanding of this problem and ability to analyze conflicts between goals and international legal regimes in each sphere (the economy, the environment and “the social”).
3. *Alternative futures*: Knowledge about past and present critiques of the sustainability agenda with a view to alternative ideas for saving our world.

Competence and skills

The ability to critically analyze the sustainable development goals and the discourses and interests they serve. Material from a range of disciplines - history, politics, economics, and law is used for a better understanding of where Agenda 2030 is coming from and where the world it brings into being is heading. While being interdisciplinary in both outlook and reading material, the course focus in particular on the relationship between sustainable development and our existing global legal order.

Judgement and approach

The ability to problematize different research designs by exposing how they are linked to broader political and ethical dimensions of research in sustainable development.

3. Teaching and assessment

After an introduction to the general framework of analysis of the course, the three areas follow in sequence: the economy, the environment and “the social” (focusing in particular on migration).

Teaching is in the form of 2-3 intensive reading workshops for each of the three focus areas. To the substantive questions at offer for each seminar is added a methodological reflection, connected to the readings. It can be, for example a specific approach to policy analysis or more general questions such as the role of history for understanding global relationships of power or something else.

The course is examined through active participation in seminars. A student that fails to attend a seminar will be given the opportunity to make up for it through a written assignment.

4. Grades

One of the grades of Pass or Fail will be awarded for a completed course.

5. Eligibility and selection criteria

The course is an optional course within the Agenda 2030 Graduate School at Lund University. It is open for Agenda 2030 PhD students as well as other PhD students from inside and outside of Lund University (priority in the order mentioned). Should the course director decide there is room for it the course may also include some master students.

6. Required reading

See appendix.