

Course syllabus for

Power of Law (7.5 ECTS credits)

Makt och rätt (7,5 högskolepoäng)

Established by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Law by virtue of Chapter 2, Section 5a of the Higher Education Act 5 a § of the Higher Education Act and Chapter 6, Sections 14 and 15 of the Higher Education Ordinance on 22 March 2022.

General information

This complementary course of 7.5 University Points (7.5 ECTS credits) for doctoral students in law has a public law focus but is not aimed solely at doctoral students in public law subjects. This syllabus is established by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Law in accordance with the requirements set out in the general study plan. The course is given in Swedish or in English. The course director is Anna-Sara Lind.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course is open to those pursuing doctoral studies at a university or university college.

Objectives

The course aims to give doctoral students the opportunity to reflect on, explore and immerse themselves in public law and the challenges that methodologically arise from the changing law that our contemporary society expresses today. The idea is that each session of the course should relate to the heading Power of Law both substantively and methodologically. In very general terms, public law can be said to consist of the law that deals with how the public sector is organised and what applies between individuals and the public sector. In the current context, this means that public law extends across national constitutional and administrative law, human rights and European law (the latter interacting de facto with national law and being largely part of it).

The boundaries of public law also set limits for how the law is expressed in theory and practice. This in turn may have implications beyond public law. Doctoral students in other subjects are therefore warmly welcome to the course! Based on five themes, the content and expression of public law is studied in terms of material content and methodological challenges. In connection with each theme, each doctoral student will write a memorandum with the aim of analysing a number of issues. The idea is that the doctoral student will then be able to show how his or her own dissertation project is affected by the theme in question.

Teaching

We have chosen five different themes to study public law in terms of substance and methodology. Within the framework of each theme, we will also reflect on the tangible consequences and significance of the theme for the participants' own projects. Here, the course is linked to the introductory course at the Faculty of Law, Uppsala University, which has as a common thread that the doctoral students should translate theoretical knowledge into their own work. These overarching themes encompass questions concerning perspectives, methods and theoretical approaches. Examples of questions include the significance of the theme for our method and how we approach our task. Furthermore, we will study how each theme in different areas relates to the fundamental legal principles, public law theory and international comparisons.

- 1) Responsibility, control and legitimacy - starting points for public law
- 2) Legal pluralism - sources, interpreters and authorities
- 3) Individual and collective - interests, norm-setting and public administration
- 4) Technology, digitalisation and law - form and content
- 5) Research freedom - a question of power and law?

Each theme includes a kick-off meeting, a lecture/seminar with an external guest and a seminar focussing on the doctoral students' memoranda.

The idea is that the group of doctoral students will also participate in a public defence, which in turn is prepared in a joint meeting and also followed up at another meeting.

The course is given at half speed for 10 weeks and includes both digital meetings and seminars on site in Uppsala.

Examination

Doctoral students must prepare for all sessions according to the instructions provided at the start of the course. Furthermore, active attendance and approved submission memoranda are required.

Course literature

In addition to the various lectures and seminars, course participants are required to read the course literature and other materials. It is delegated to the course director to determine the course literature.