



## Course syllabus

Faculty Board of Business, Economics and Design  
School of Business and Economics

1RV006 The Law of Sustainable Development, 15 högskolepoäng  
The Law of Sustainable Development, 15 credits

**Main field of study**

Legal Science

**Subject Group**

Law and Legal Studies

**Level of classification**

First Level

**Progression**

G2F

**Date of Ratification**

Approved by Organisational Committee 2009-06-18

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2010

**Prerequisites**

International Law and Human Rights or a minimum of 60 higher education credits

### Expected learning outcomes

The concept of sustainable development as a goal for the future has been discussed, developed and approached mainly in the light of three important dimensions, like human rights (social and political aspects) environment and economics. The outcomes are expected:

- Be able to understand these three dimensions which have developed an integrated, overlapping and balanced structure of legal norms and principles at national, regional and international levels and endorsed a new branch of law – the law of sustainable development
- Be able to explore the existing and emerging legal principles and norms concerning sustainable development at international, regional, national and local levels
- Be able to understand the concept of sustainable development is by emphasizing basically four main areas (economics, environment, human rights and gender) and relating them to relevant basic legal rules
- Having the ability to understand the basic legal principles of trade and commercial, environmental and human rights laws and further to apply and to advance these legal norms and principles and practices of sustainable development in the private and public sectors

## Content

The main themes of this course will include basic legal norms of environmental law, trade and commercial law and human rights law (at international, regional and national levels). These themes will deal with the following areas of issues, related to sustainable development.

**Land:** Use and management of natural resources, agriculture, forests, biological diversity of different ecosystems, problem of desertification.

**Use of water resources:** Impact of human activities and demands, protection and management of water resources, biodiversity of natural systems etc.

**Wild life (birds and animals):** Impact of human activities on animal and bird life, protection and management, ecological systems and sustainability.

**Air pollution and Outer space:** Ozone layer, human activities in space, protection and management of Global Commons.

**Mobility of Goods and persons:** Its effects on environment and human health, social-economic dislocations etc.

**Population:** Social structures and resources, sized and demands, gender and age related problems, waste producing trends.

**Migration:** Problems related to change in society: composition and patterns, distribution problems, political changes.

**Industry:** Competition, Hazardous Waste, land, air and water pollution and environmental aspects.

**Trade and finance:** Environmental impacts of trade.

**Security, War and Terrorism:** Its impact on environment, scarcity of natural resources and conflicts, conflict resolution methods, human security.

**Energy resources:** Destruction and scarcity of non-renewable resources, exploitation of resources and pollution and ecological consequences.

**Consumption patterns:** Health, depletion of resources and waste producing practices. Governance and institutions: Peace, democracy, justice, fairness and responsibility for sustainable development and institutions.

**Desires and unfulfilled needs:** Quality of life, food shortage and famines, health hazards and diseases due to environmental pollution.

**Sustainable development knowledge and education:** Lack of knowledge based networks, integration of sustainable development's principles in all decisions, lack of impact assessment of human activities and development decisions.

The themes mentioned above shall be taught in four stages:

### 1. **Basic knowledge of problems:**

Participating students will get the knowledge of the above mentioned issues of sustainable development.

### 2. **International law and sustainable development:**

The basic principles of international law, international human rights law and international trade law. The integration and balancing methodologies and synthesis of these three areas of law (economic, environment and human rights). The role and responsibility of international institutions in implementing and advancing the concept of sustainable development, law of sustainable development and future prospects.

### 3. **The legal norms and sustainable development:**

The legal norms of economics, environment and human rights at regional level. The implementation procedures, failures and successes, regional organisations as EU, NAFTA, OECD, African and Asian, the role of international governmental and non-governmental organisations in forwarding sustainable development.

#### **4. The national and local level:**

The Swedish environmental laws and implementation, practices and strategies for sustainable development, comparison between laws of the different states. Participating students shall independently study the national rules (of their respective countries).

#### **Type of Instruction**

Lectures, seminars, discussions and simulations and role-play (Moot court). Lectures are compulsory.

#### **Examination**

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Writing a seminar paper and oral presentation of it.

The grades are Pass with Distinction (80%-100%), Pass (60%-79%) or Failure (0%-59%).

Students at Linnaeus University are entitled to have the course grade translated into the 7-step ECTS scale. A request to have the grades translated must be made to the teacher at the start of the course.

#### **Course Evaluation**

A written course evaluation is performed and compiled into a report to be kept in the university school archives. The result and any measures taken are communicated to the course co-ordinator and presented to the students participating the next time the course is offered.

#### **Required Reading and Additional Study Material**

##### **Required reading**

Marie-Claire Cordonier, Segger, Ashfaq Khalfan, Sustainable Development Law: Principles, Practises and Prospects, Oxford University Press, 2004, ISBN 0-19-9276714, 419 pages

Articles, International Conventions and Cases, 800 pages