

Course information

Family Law

Credits ECTS: 3.0

Teaching language: EN

Scientific area: Law

Hours:

Theoretical (T): 0.0 h
Theoretical and practical (TP): 12.0 h
Practical and laboratorial (PL): 0.0 h
Seminar (S): 0.0 h
Field work (TC): 0.0 h
Training (E) : 0.0 h
Tutorial (OT): 1.0 h
Other (O): 0.0 h

Contact hours (total): 13.0 h / semester

Total hours: 75.0 h / semester

Pre-requisites:

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Objectives:

The central aim of this module is to acquaint students the legal frameworks of family law and children rights in Europe and in different national contexts. Based on this knowledge, it intends to develop skills to analyse the main legal principles and social policies in this area.

Learning outcomes:

This module encourages critical reflection about the role of law and legal thinking within the field of family law and the children rights and enable students knowing how to use the logic of the law for analysis and intervention in these domains

By the end of the course, students who successfully complete this module will have the knowledge, confidence, and theoretical background to:

- Knowledge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Understanding of the four general principles underlying all rights in the convention
- Competency in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - three levels of behaviour towards children
- Knowledge of the family law in EU countries
- Knowledge of main EU conventions and regulations with impact on family law and children rights.

Syllabus:

Part 1 - Family Law systems in Europe. New developments and directives.

Part 2 - EU countries legislation in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Part 3 - The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Demonstration of the syllabus coherence with the curricular unit's objectives:

This module aims to provide students with knowledge about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its

general principles. It also seeks to provide students with the knowledge and capacity for critical reflection on the systems of family law existing in different regions of Europe. It also aims at understanding the main directives from the European Union having an impact on family law in the various countries and on the rights of children. The first objective is mainly fulfilled through points 1 and 3 of the syllabus, the second and third through the points 2, 3

Assessment:

The course will be assessed on the following basis:

- In class participation (30%)
- A written exam (70%)

Teaching methodology:

A wide range of teaching and learning methods including lectures, seminar discussions, group work, and practical exercises will be used. Students will prepare for each class with readings.

Demonstration of the coherence between the teaching methodologies and the learning outcomes:

Reading the recommended bibliography and lectures will allow students to get knowledge of the syllabus. Group work and practical exercises will allow students knowing how to use the logic of the law for analysis and intervention in these areas. Seminar discussions contribute to promoting critical reflection on the role of law and legal thinking in the area of family and children's rights.

Observations:

Essential readings:

Preston-Shoot, M. (2014) Making Good Decisions: Law for Social Work Practice. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

1) Judgements from the European Court of Human Rights

- Schneider v. Germany (Appl No 17080/07)
- Söderbäck v. Sweden (113/1997/897/1109)
- Zaunegger v. Germany (Appl No 22028/04)
- Anayo v. Germany (Appl. No 20578/07)
- Eriksson v. Sweden (11/1988/144/209)

2) Articles

- Family law. Information on the rules (in Sweden). File attached
- Anu Pylkkänen: Liberal Family Law in the making: Nordic and European Harmonisation. File attached

3) German Civil Code:

http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_bgb/german_civil_code.pdf

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Additional readings:

Sweden, "Information on the rules on i.a custody and maintenance", Excerpt from a document from the Swedish government, pp. 28-44.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child - II
 - Fact Sheet - a summary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - Optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
 - Optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
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