



Course Descriptions (English Courses)

1. Introduction to American Law

(Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060300, Wednesday, 4-6 pm, Online Course)

This course is a basic introduction to the law and legal system of the United States in English. It covers the basic characteristics of the common law system, the doctrine of stare decisis, sources of law in the United States, the U.S. court system (both state and federal), the jury system, parties to a lawsuit, basics of the adversary system of trial, pleadings and motions, pretrial discovery, the trial process, case briefs and citations. This course is a core course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.

The course is though a lecture, some participation is expected.

Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.

2. U.S. Constitutional Law II: Fundamental Rights:

(Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060301, Wednesday, 2-4 pm, Online Course)

This course is an introduction to certain fundamental rights of the American legal system through the Bill of Rights and the adjudication of the United States Supreme Court. Students will be taught how to read and brief cases through selected excerpts of landmark decisions. Issues include judicial review, the right to privacy, the right to freedom of expression, the death penalty, the right to choose, as well as same-sex marriage. This course is a core course for the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty. The course is though a lecture, some participation is expected.



Required reading: Will be made available through Moodle. If you have a copy of Professor Byrd's book, then Unit III of Einführung in die Anglo-Amerikanische Rechtssprache (Band I, 3. Auflage) Introduction to Anglo-American Law & Language (Volume I, 3rd Edition) by B. Sharon Byrd, C.H.Beck, 2011. pp. 195-305.

3. Interpreting the Founding Documents of the United States

(Dr. Beke-Martos, Course ID 060311, August 02-06, 2021, 9 am 4 pm, Online Course)

The Constitution of the United States of America is the product of the 1787 Constitutional Convention and the subsequent ratification processes in the various states. Yet the process that culminated in Philadelphia commenced long before. This course focuses on the founding of the United States through the documents that paved the way. Starting from the Declaration of Independence, participants read through and discuss the Northwest Ordinance, the Articles of Confederation as well as the various drafts introduced but not adopted at the Constitutional Convention. The grammatical interpretation of these texts along with private correspondence and public commentaries of that time provide an insight into the understanding of a federal America, exactly as the Founding Fathers had envisaged it.

The course will take place online, with audio materials made available for streaming and the reading material provided through Moodle.

Participants will be required to read and interpret texts for themselves and be ready to answer questions or discuss different legal institutions included therein. Proficiency in English is preferred.

This course is an elective course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.



4. Introduction to International Dispute Settlement

(Mr. Wuschka; Course ID 060303, Tuesday, 4-6 pm, Online Course)

This course focuses on the procedural side of international law. In addition to general principles of international dispute settlement, students will be familiarized with various fora for the resolution of inter-state, investor-state and commercial disputes, including their rules of procedure. The institutions to be discussed are, inter alia, the International Court of Justice, the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement system, arbitral tribunals, as well as the currently hot-debated system for the settlement of investment disputes (e.g. ICSID).

The course is limited to 20 participants (SPB 4 students and interested others).

This course is an elective course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.

5. Analytical Legal Philosophy

(Prof. Dr. Magen, Course ID 060006, Monday, 8.15-9.45 am, Online Course)

Analytical legal philosophy aims to elucidate the nature of law. It asks whether the normativity of law is based on social facts like widespread obedience, or rather on moral truths like justice. And it tries to grasp the general structure and basic elements of legal systems. The lecture introduces major approaches (natural law, legal positivism, legal realism, interpretivism) and discusses their implications for legal practice.

For further information please contact the chair of Prof. Magen: ls-magen@rub.de



6. Evil: Perspectives from Moral and Legal Philosophy and Moral Psychology

(Dr. Karolina Prochownik, Course ID 060125, Tuesday, 2-4 pm, Online Course)

Evil has long puzzled philosophers, from theological discussions about how to reconcile the presence of evil in the world with the existence of benevolent divine creator in antiquity and middle ages to modern attempts to comprehend genocides and massive murderers of the twentieth century. Today, the questions about the nature and origin of evil did not lose their importance, and seem to attract scholars from different fields such as philosophy, psychology, and law.

On the one hand, contemporary philosophers aim to describe necessary and sufficient conditions for evil (Calder, 2018). On the other hand, scientists try to explain social and psychological factors involved in it (e.g., situational-factors such as authority, or personality traits like psychopathy, narcissism, or low empathy, e.g., Zimbardo, 2007; Baron-Cohen, 2012). Finally, evil is challenging for the lawyers, as its paradigmatic instances of unjustified and harmful actions against others, are frequently associated with criminal liability.

During the seminar we will discuss and confront different accounts and responses to evil that come from moral philosophy and psychology, and legal philosophy (this will include discussion of classical and contemporary philosophical texts on the nature of evil, recent empirical findings on social and psychological factors involved in it, and legal philosophical questions about whether and what type of punishment it deserves).

The goal of the course is to acquaint the students with one of important problems of philosophy, science and daily life, but also to help them strengthen their critical thinking, writing and argumentative skills.



7. An Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law

(Dr. Oliveira de Sousa, Course ID 060305, Thursday, 10 am - 12 pm, Online Course)

This course provides an introduction to the overarching concepts of constitutional law in a comparative fashion. It draws on the political and legal systems of the United States, China, Brazil, the United Kingdom, France and Germany, in order to highlight differences and similarities across a diversity of constitutional traditions. During this course, you will become acquainted with the fundamental features of the systems of government referred above; acquire insights about recent philosophical discussions on judicial review and the different ways in which it can be designed; reflect on how features of the constitutional systems referred above may help to explain and understand current social phenomena (e.g. political polarization); and reflect on whether and how traditional concepts of constitutional law may be revised in order to cope with recent developments in the global and transnational arena. At the same time in which this course will draw on traditional doctrinal analyses of constitutional law, it will also draw on relevant side-literature, especially of constitutional theory and of political, social and legal philosophy.

During the seminar we will discuss and confront different accounts and responses to evil that come from moral philosophy and psychology, and legal philosophy (this will include discussion of classical and contemporary philosophical texts on the nature of evil, recent empirical findings on social and psychological factors involved in it, and legal philosophical questions about whether and what type of punishment it deserves).

The goal of the course is to acquaint the students with one of important problems of philosophy, science and daily life, but also to help them strengthen their critical thinking, writing and argumentative skills.



8. Law, Democracy and Disagreement

(Dr. Oliveira de Sousa, Course ID 060317, Thursday, 2-4 pm, Online Course)

It is no exaggeration to say that liberal constitutionalism is in crisis. Modern societies have been for a long time permeated by strong political and moral disagreements. With the rise of populism and nationalist politics in Europe, US and beyond, the situation seems to have become radicalized in recent years. Disagreements are now so widespread that the very basic notions of democracy and of political community are at stake. This raises a number of questions about the nature and purpose of politics, its relation to law, as well as the function of legal and political institutions. In order to discuss these questions, this course will introduce you to the works of various legal, political and social philosophers about controversial topics such as freedom of expression and speech, pornography, hate speech, abortion, euthanasia, fake news as well as to seminal texts about the nature of democracy and rights in liberal and non-liberal traditions (e.g. communitarianism).

9. International Dimensions of Law

(Dr. Thiede; Course ID 060307, Friday, 2-4 pm, Podcasts)

Aims & Intended Outcomes: As indicated by its title, this course will focus on an introduction to Comparative Law, Conflict of Laws, European Law and Public International Law (with a focus on all questions of the law applicable (choice of law) in cases with a foreign element). Participants should obtain basic knowledge in Comparative Law, Conflict of Laws, European Law and Public International Law; understanding of problems in mentioned areas of law and (some) competence in questions of the law applicable in cases with a foreign element.

Previous knowledge expected: Instruction and assessment will be exclusively in English, and participants should have an appropriate level of linguistic competence.



10. U.S. Intellectual Property Law

(Mr. Hanrahan, Course ID 060306, Monday, 2-4 pm, Zoom Video Course)

This course will provide students with a basic and fundamental overview of major areas of intellectual property law in the United States. We will cover topics related to United States patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets, as well as how each of these different areas are interrelated to one another. We will not only discuss how to obtain intellectual property rights, but also how and when to enforce those rights against an infringer. The course will reference current United States laws, cases, as well as rules and procedures enforced by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and U.S. Copyright Office. Some participation is expected during the lectures.

11. Data Protection Law – A comparative perspective emphasizing new technologies

(Dr. Ruschemeier; Course ID 060315, Tuesday, 10 am - 12 pm, Zoom Video Course)

Data Protection Law is a much-discussed legal approach to protect privacy and personal data. Its implications are highly relevant in a society which is shaped by online communication, big data analyses and monopolies of social-media platforms. We will examine the history, principles, and constitutional aspects of Data Protection, emphasizing the impact of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence. Besides the European approach of the GDPR towards privacy, we will explore the international comprehension of Data Protection as well as the different national legal strategies from a comparative point of view. The aim of the course is to combine theoretical legal aspects with the practical impacts of Data Protection.



12. Current Issues in International Human Rights Law

(Prof. Hauser; Course ID 060314, Tuesday, 12.15 am – 1.45 pm, Zoom Video Course)

The course focuses on the current debates within the international community regarding human rights. It will first present the institutional and legal basis of the international protection of human rights (both at universal and regional level) in order to better understand the existing system. Then, the students will focus on specific issues like the global pandemic, the responsibilities of international business corporations, protection of vulnerable groups and many others and try to understand to what extent the current system of international law provides for a full protection in face of these challenges.

13. International Legal Dialogue

(Prof. Dr. Windel, Course ID 060173, every second week on Thursday, 5.15 – 6.45 pm, Online Course or BF 8.17)

The event is intended to provide a platform for an international community of teachers and students to exchange views in an open discourse on legal issues brought about by globalization. Students will act actively and independently throughout the whole process, gaining their own direct access to international dimensions of law. A moderated colloquium, including presentations by foreign guest lecturers serves as an external framework. Participation requires a registration on Moodle and eCampus. The course involves giving a presentation in German or English on a topic of choice. 9 credit points are awarded upon finishing the course. Participation is mandatory.

The event is also recognized as an elective course for the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.



14. Spring School on Corruption, Data and the Sustainable Development Goals

(Prof. Dr. Dijkzeul, Course ID 060316, February 25 – March 05, 2021. Preparatory Meeting on February 05, 2021, 9 am – 6 pm, Zoom Video Course)

The Spring School aims to equip participants with the knowledge and the skills needed to collect, analyze and use governance data to monitor corruption and promote anti-corruption reforms across the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework.

The Summer School is designed to bring together students from various disciplines with anti-corruption practitioners to foster innovative approaches to curbing corruption in sectors such as health, education, justice, water and sanitation and climate action.

The cases of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Afghanistan and Indonesia will serve as examples of how corruption negatively influences development and reconstruction while threatening security and undermining peacebuilding. A key element of the course is that the participants are expected to produce a “roadmap” to fight a specific corruption problem, using governance data with linkages to the SDG framework. At the end of each learning session, the participants are required to answer a few short questions relating to their own corruption problem for which they are developing a road map. In answering these questions, the participants identify key players who can help them, map out relevant indicators and datasets for assessing and measuring corruption, and come up with an advocacy strategy.

The Summer School is offered as a partnership between Transparency International (TI), the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr University Bochum, and Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO).

<http://www.ifhv.de/index.php/teaching/ifhv-summer-school>

For further questions do not hesitate to contact the Winter School Team at summerschool-ifhv@rub.de.



Kursbeschreibung (Türkische Veranstaltung)

1. Türkisches Strafrecht im Vergleich zum Deutschen Strafrecht (Karsilastirmali olarak Türk ve Alman Ceza Hukuku)

(Jun.-Prof. Dr. Özaydin; Veranstaltungs-Nr. 060318, 07.05., 21.05., 04.06. und 18.06.2021, 13-18 Uhr, Skype Video Course)

Karşılaştırmalı Olarak Türk ve Alman Ceza Hukuku" adlı ders, Türkçe dilinde anlatılacaktır. Bu ders bağlamında, Ceza Hukuku hukuk terminolojisinin aktarılmasının yanı sıra başta Türk Ceza Hukuku'nun tanımı ve genel prensipleri, suçun maddi ve manevi unsurları ve hukuka aykırılık gibi konular ele alınacaktır. Bunun yanı sıra dersin amacı; en önemli suçların incelenmesi ve bu bağlamda Yargıtayın vermiş olduğu en güncel kararlar da dikkate alınarak problemlerin tartışılmasıdır. Özellikle hayata ve vücut bütünlüğüne karşı suçlar, cinsel dokunulmazlığa karşı suçlar, uyuşturucu veya uyarıcı madde suçları ve bilişim alanında işlenen suçlar dersin içeriğini oluşturmaktadır. Bu bağlamda Alman Hukuku ile bağlantılar kurulacaktır: Tarihsel açıdan Türk Ceza Hukuku önce Fransız, sonra İtalyan Ceza Hukuku'ndan esinlenmişken; 2005 yılında Türk Ceza Kanunu nihai olarak Alman Ceza Hukuku'nun yoğun etkisi altında kalarak reform edilmiştir.



Kursbeschreibungen (französische Veranstaltungen)

1. Französische Rechtsterminologie

(Dr. Kouassi, Course ID 060602, 13.+20.+27.04.+ 04.+11.05.2021 von 9-11 Uhr, 14.04.2021 von 13-15 Uhr, 15.+22.+29.04.2021 von 14-16 Uhr, 16.+23.+30.04.2021 von 17.30-19.30 Uhr, Zoom Video Course)

Vermittlung der Methodik des französischen Rechts als Vorbereitung für einen bevorstehenden Auslandsaufenthalt in Frankreich. Insbesondere werden die notwendigen Kenntnisse zur Lösung von Abschlussarbeiten in Frankreich, insbesondere fiche d'arrêt, commentaire d'arrêt, dissertation und cas pratique, gelehrt und eingeübt.

2. Introduction au droit privé

(Dr. Juredieu, Course ID 060610, 19.04.2021 8-10 Uhr, 6., 20., 27.05.2021 14-18 Uhr, 7., 21., 28.05.2021 17.30-19.30 Uhr, 12., 19., 26.05.2021 15-17 Uhr, Zoom Video Course)

Les sources du droit civil (lois règlements coutumes) ; les personnes physiques et morales: présentation, régime juridique. classification des droits subjectifs. modalités de preuve. Etudes des liens entre les personnes: les couples, filiations, l'autorité parentale, l'obligation alimentaire.



3. Droit civil francais

(Prof. Ophèle; Course ID 060612, 14.+21.4., 12.+19.+26.5. 15-17 Uhr, 22.4.+6.+20.+27.5. 18-20 Uhr, 3.+10.+17.5. 10-12 Uhr, 28.5.2021 14.30-16.30 Uhr, Zoom Video Course)

Les obligations : sources ; le fait juridique ; la responsabilité extra-contractuelle ; principaux régimes de responsabilité ; l'acte juridique ;
le contrat : formation et exécution.



Kursbeschreibung (italienische Veranstaltung)

1. Einführung in die italienische Rechtssprache (Introduzione alla lingua giuridica italiana)

(Frau Campolucci; Veranstaltungs-Nr. 060016, Freitag, 16.00-17.30 Uhr, Zoom Video Kurs)

Questo corso è rivolto agli studenti di Giurisprudenza con conoscenze della lingua italiana. L'obiettivo principale è quello di impartire conoscenze linguistiche legali di base con l'aiuto di testi giuridici italiani. La presenza è obbligatoria.