



Course Descriptions (English Courses)

1. Introduction to American Law

(Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060520, Tuesday, noon-2 p.m., GD 03/150)

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. Though the course is a lecture, some participation is expected. This course is a core course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.

Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.

2. Introduction to American Law

(Mr. von Estorff; Course ID 060522, Monday, 10 a.m.-noon, GD 04/153)

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. Though the course is a lecture, some participation is expected.

Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.



3. U.S. Constitutional Law I: State & Governance

(Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060521, Tuesday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., GD 03/150)

This is an entry-level course on U.S. Constitutional Law. The course focuses on the text of the U.S. Constitution and its Amendments. Through grammatical and contextual analysis, students examine the structure and working of the American state and governance. Horizontal and vertical separation of powers and the basics of the common law legal system are also addressed and examined through documents and cases. Although the course is primarily a lecture, some participation is expected. This course is a core course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.

Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.

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

(Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060537, Tuesday, 4 p.m.-6 p.m., GD 03/150)

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 analyze cases through selected excerpts of landmark decisions. Issues include judicial review, freedom of speech, the death penalty, equal protection, affirmative action, marriage equality and the right to privacy.

Although the course is primarily a lecture, some participation is expected.

This course is a core course for the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.

Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.



5. Interpreting the Founding Documents of the US:

(Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060540, Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon., GD 1/478)

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. Participants will be required to read and interpret texts for themselves and be ready to answer questions or discuss different legal institutions included therein. The course includes lecture elements, free discussions, team work and individual reading. Since the documents all date back to the 18th Century, proficiency in English is preferred.

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

Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.



6. Introduction to Legal Debating:

(Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060535, Wednesday, 8 a.m.-10 a.m., GD 1/468)

This course is a practice course, where participants have to prepare for every session and actively participate. From classical rhetoric through argumentative speech, legal debating and spontaneous impulse talks, students will have an opportunity to try themselves out, experience public speaking in different settings, give and receive feedback and work with their peers on their personal and individual challenges. In addition to the delivery of a talk, the course also addresses language and writing, as well as the use of technology or the adequate attire.

This course is an elective course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty. Required as well as recommended reading will be made available through Moodle.

7. Introduction to Legal History:

(Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060542, Tuesday, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., GD 1/478)

Legal history is a seminal area of law, which reaches across time and space; one that is interdisciplinary in and of itself and one that has developed over centuries, reaching a very broad spectrum and understanding today. This course explores the basis of legal history, its manifestation, its teaching, its use, its methodology and its value. Students will be required to read, interpret and discuss texts relating to legal topics across time and space. The sources include archival, primary, secondary, as well as online materials. The histories of constitutional law, traditional roman-law-based private law, criminal law, and international law will be addressed along with the common law tradition, particular regional norms and their development. This course is an elective course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty. This course does not give a Grundlagenschein. Required reading will be made available through Moodle. Recommended reading: Dubber, Markus D. – Tomlins, Christopher: The Oxford Handbook of Legal History, Oxford University Press, 1st Paperback Edition, 2025.



8. Introduction to International Arbitration

(Mr. Wuschka; Course ID 060536, May 26-29, 2026, 2 p.m.-7 p.m., GD 1/148)

This course introduces arbitration as a means to settle international disputes. It will address recourse to arbitration in different fields of law, including for inter-state disputes (e.g. under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration), commercial disputes, sports disputes as well as the constantly hotly debated topic of investor-state arbitration (e.g. under the auspices of ICSID). The course will feature guest presentations by speakers from various institutions.

9. U.S. Intellectual Property Law

(Mr. Hanrahan, Course ID 060526, Tuesday, 4-6 p.m., 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.



10. UK Constitutional Law

(Mr. Provan, Course ID 060534, Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon, GD 1/450)

As one of the only countries in the world without a codified constitution, the UK has a long and rich history of constitutional development dating back hundreds of years. This first part of this course will cover a historical overview of UK constitutional law leading to contemporary lawmaking procedures, voting systems, and the constitutional restraints on legislation and governance. The second part will look at different layers of UK legal authority, first looking inward to devolution and then outward to the UK's relationship with international law.

11. Law & Global Challenges

(Prof. Dr. Kaltenborn, Course ID 060532, Tuesday, noon-2 p.m., April 8, 2026, GD 04/153, the following course units will take place in GD 2/148)

This course focuses on global challenges in the light of public international law. Maintaining peace, fighting terrorism, climate change, human rights, refugee crises, rule of law, world trade, international organizations are just a few of the topics up for discussion.

Requirements for obtaining a certificate: short presentation in English and active participation in the other sessions (no final exam).

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



12. International Legal Dialogue

(Prof. Dr. Windel, Course ID 060360, course dates and times have to be announced, GD E2/354)

The class 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 work 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 framework. Participation requires an individual application and admission. The course involves both preparing a paper and giving a presentation in German or English. Participation is mandatory. The class is also recognized as an elective course for the Certificate Anglo-American Law & Language of the Faculty of Law and it meets the requirements of a „domestic work“ (häusliche Arbeit).

13. Brexit: Constitutional and Political Perspectives

(Dr. Marcou, Course ID 060543, Thursday, 4-6 p.m., Zoom Video Course)

This module looks at the UK's decision to exit the EU with an emphasis on the UK's constitutional and political structures. It begins by examining the social and political context against which the decision to leave was made, including an analysis of the rise of Euroscepticism and populism. The course also explores the campaigns in the lead up to the Brexit referendum analysing the rhetoric of key political actors. Next, the course examines the legal and political developments since the UK's decision to leave the EU, including the agreement struck with the EU. Overall, the course emphasises the constitutional structure in the UK and the way in which it has reacted to the Brexit decision. In particular, it explores how the fundamental principles of the UK uncodified constitution, namely Parliamentary Sovereignty and the Rule of Law were affected by the various



events that led to Brexit. The course includes a detail analysis of key constitutional cases that were delivered by English courts within the context of Brexit.

14. European Human Rights Law

(Ms. Altay, Course ID 060531, Thursday, from noon (sharp) to 1.30 pm, BF EG/04)

The course European Human Rights Law examines both the historical development and the contemporary functioning of the European human rights system. It focuses on the emergence of the European human rights framework, including the establishment of the European Convention on Human Rights, the former European Commission on Human Rights, and the institutional developments that led to the restructuring of the European Court of Human Rights. The course addresses the normative structure of the Court and its interpretative methodologies, including the living instrument doctrine, European consensus, and the margin of appreciation. Through these conceptual tools, students are introduced to how the Court interprets and applies Convention rights. The course engages closely with selected landmark and contemporary judgments, inviting students to critically analyse both the Court's reasoning and its approach to specific human rights.



15. IFHV Summer School "Corruption on Fighting Corruption by using Data on the Sustainable Development Goals"

(Prof. Dijkzeul, Course ID has to be determined, August 10, 2026 – August 15, 2026, 9 am – 5 pm, GABF 04/514)

The Summer 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 of the Agenda 2030.

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.

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

16. Bochum International Humanitarian Law Clinic



(Prof. Thielbörger, Dr. Wright, Course ID 060560, April 23, 2026 – June 30, 2026, BF 6.06-6.08)

The “Bochum International Humanitarian Law Clinic” (Bochum IHL Clinic) is designed to provide students with hands-on experience of the practice of international humanitarian law (IHL). The course empowers students to learn through practical experience by applying theoretical knowledge to real life situations and corresponding legal problems humanitarian actors encounter in their day-to-day work.

They will conduct research on projects for real life cooperation partners, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), national Red Cross Societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, and other actors in the humanitarian field. This may include the preparation of litigation before national or international courts, writing expert opinions to support NGO lobby work as well as drafting treaty language or legal handbooks for partner institutions. Students may also contribute to supporting victims of armed conflict in securing reparations or file communications to judicial and non-judicial institutions on their behalf.

Participating in clinic work also permits students to acquire and develop skills in research, critical thinking, legal analysis, and problem solving. Additionally, students enhance their abilities to draft texts, give oral presentations, communicate, as well as organize and improve their social skills. If you are interested in participating in the Bochum IHL clinic, please submit your application by Tuesday, 21 April 2026, 11:59 pm to the following email address: will.wright@rub.de. Your application should consist of a one-page motivation letter, an updated CV, and an overview of the grades achieved during the course of your studies (ToR). All documents should be in English, and be contained in one pdf document, which carries the last name of the applicant in its title.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Will Jamison Wright at will.wright@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. 060538, 08.05.+19.06.+03.07., BF EG/04+04.07.2026 (online), 13.00-18.00 Uhr)

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.