



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
MASTER THESIS	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: prof. dr. Tomas Davulis Other(s): Supervisor appointed by the Dean's decree	Private Law Department, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, LT-10222, Vilnius, Room 311, tel. (85)2366170; e-mail: ptkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Second	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language (s) of instruction
Face-to-face	3 (autumn) semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: Master Seminar (passed)	Co-requisites (if any): -

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
25	664	12	652

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed		
The course unit aims at developing the competence to carry out an individual research: to identify, analyze and solve complex legal problem of both law making and application of law in the field of international and European law as well as interdisciplinary problems relating to international and European law, to select and use scientific literature and legal sources, to apply diverse research methods, to independently accomplish raised objectives, to formulate conclusions, solutions and recommendations (if possible), and to put the research in written form in a coherent and orderly way using proper scientific language as well as to clearly convey the results to the audience, to reasonably defend research output and discuss raised problems.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will be able to properly apply the methodological requirements for Master Thesis. - Students will be able to employ acquired interdisciplinary knowledge in an innovative and integral way in order to model strategies for appropriate problem solution taking into consideration possible social, ethical and legal consequences. - Students will be able to independently identify and formulate a complex scientific issue based on development of international and European law theory and practice (inter alia, interaction with national law), define a research object, select appropriate research methods. - Students will be able to autonomously choose legal sources and scientific literature, systemise collected material on the problem, summarise it, analyse and critically interpret, argue one's position and lay out a reasoned conclusion. - Students will be able to convey relevant information, both in written and orally, to audience in accordance with theoretical and practical knowledge and abilities. - Students will be able to plan a schedule and organise their work. - Students will be able to enhance acquired knowledge and abilities independently, inter alia, to use legal information data bases and other sources, to select relevant theoretical and practical material, and to substantiate their own conclusions by the achievements of jurisprudence. 	Personal consultations, individual work	Master thesis and its defence

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Self-study: hours and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical sessions	Laboratory activities	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours
Preparation of Master thesis		12					12	652
Total		12					12	652
Preparation of Master thesis (literary studies, source analysis, presentation of research results, etc.), preparation for the public defence.								

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Defence of Master thesis	100	January	<p>Completed and properly formalized Mater thesis must be submitted to its supervisor for evaluation. With the approval of the supervisor, Master thesis may be prepared for public defence in the Commission for the Defence of Master's thesis. Master thesis is assessed by the Commission for the Defence of Master's thesis on the 1-10 grade scale in closed session on the day of the defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 points (excellent), excellent knowledge and abilities; - 9 points (very good), good knowledge and abilities; - 8 points (good), better than average knowledge and abilities; - 7 points (average), average knowledge and abilities, with minor mistakes; - 6 points (satisfactory), knowledge and abilities are lower than medium, includes some mistakes; - 5 points (weak), knowledge and abilities satisfy minimal requirements; - 4-1 point – unsatisfactory. <p>The Commission takes into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Master thesis (the quality of content, compliance with the requirements, delivery), - its presentation during the defence, - responses of the student to the questions of the reviewer and the members of the Commission, - opinions of the reviewer and the supervisor of the thesis. <p>The actual defence will be initiated by the presentation of Master's thesis, followed by open-type questions (both on the subject of the research as well as other subjects covered in the course of studies) and final discussion. The defence of a Master thesis will not exceed 30 minutes, including 15 minutes for the actual presentation of the work. During the defence, the author of the Master thesis briefly presents the research indicating the main problem, he/she also describes the object of research, the findings, the validity of methods and provides conclusions and their reasoning, recommendations (if possible).</p>

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of periodical or volume of publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
	2024	Methodological Guidelines for the Preparation of Course (Term) Papers and Master's Theses at the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University		https://www.tf.vu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-07-29_TF_Nurodymai_Magistro_ir_kursiniu_darbu_rengimas_EN_svarus-1.pdf
		International, European Union and national legislation		http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en
		The jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice, European Court of Human Rights and other international and national courts.		https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/j_6/en/ ; http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=caselaw&c=
Other concrete scholarly literature is selected in accordance to the issue of a Master thesis				