



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: assoc. prof. dr. Eglė Zemlytė	Vilnius University, Faculty of Law, Department of Private Law Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, LT-10222, Vilnius, 311 room, phone +3705 236 6170, e-mail: ptkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
Second	Compulsory (Tracks – Tech Law, Business Law)

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language(s) of instruction
Face-to-face	2 (spring) semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: knowledge of contract law, private international law, and civil procedure; a very good command of English	Co-requisites (if any): none

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
The aim of this course unit is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of international commercial arbitration as a principal method of resolving cross-border commercial disputes. Students will gain foundational knowledge of the major arbitral institutions, arbitration rules, and procedural mechanisms used in international commercial arbitration with a particular attention to the impact of technology on arbitral proceedings. The course equips students with the knowledge, abilities, and tools necessary for representing parties in international arbitration, including the drafting and interpretation of arbitration agreements, the conduct of arbitral proceedings, and the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards. Students will develop the ability to analyse arbitral jurisprudence and case law, critically evaluate legal arguments and procedural strategies, and formulate well-reasoned opinions on issues arising in international commercial arbitration.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be able to explain and critically discuss the fundamental principles, characteristics, and legal framework of international commercial arbitration.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Participation in class activities and moot court case; drafting procedural document with individual contribution; final oral and written examination.
Students will be able to critically assess national arbitration laws, judicial decisions, and arbitral awards, including the interaction between courts and arbitral tribunals and the distinction between pro-arbitration and anti-arbitration approaches.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Participation in class activities and moot court case; drafting procedural document with individual contribution; final oral and written examination.
Students will be able to advise clients and formulate legal arguments in matters relating to international commercial arbitration, including issues	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal	Participation in class activities and moot court case; drafting procedural document with individual

concerning arbitration agreements, arbitral jurisdiction, procedural matters, and the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards	framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	contribution; final oral and written examination.
Students will be able to compare and evaluate arbitration, litigation, and other dispute resolution mechanisms, and select the most appropriate dispute resolution method in a given commercial context.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Participation in class activities and moot court case; drafting procedural document with individual contribution; final oral and written examination.
Students will be able to draft and present legal arguments, both orally and in writing, using relevant legal authorities and persuasive reasoning.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Participation in class activities and moot court case; drafting procedural document with individual contribution; final oral and written examination.
Students will be able to analyse and interpret the trends in the doctrine and practice of the international commercial arbitration.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Participation in class activities and moot court case; drafting procedural document with individual contribution; final oral and written examination.
Students will be able to conduct independent legal analysis using legal databases, arbitral materials, case law, and academic sources, and formulate well-supported legal conclusions.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Participation in class activities and moot court case; drafting procedural document with individual contribution; final written examination.
Students will be able to evaluate the impact of technology on international arbitration, including virtual hearings, electronic evidence, cybersecurity issues, digital case management, and emerging applications of artificial intelligence in dispute resolution.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Participation in class activities and moot court case; drafting procedural document with individual contribution; final oral and written examination.

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study: hours and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical sessions	Laboratory activities	Internship/work	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. Introduction to the arbitration as a dispute resolution method (main legal theories of international commercial arbitration, sources, forms, main institutions, applicable substantive law)	4		1				5	10	Analysis of the relevant legal framework, reading of academic literature
2. Arbitration agreement	4		1				5	20	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case law; reading of academic literature; preparation of a memorandum on an assigned procedural matter (group or individual assignment); and preparation for

									oral presentation of the assigned procedural matter.
3. The doctrine of competence-competence	1		1				2	10	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case law; reading of academic literature; preparation of a memorandum on an assigned procedural matter (group or individual assignment); and preparation for oral presentation of the assigned procedural matter.
4. Arbitral tribunal	2		1				3	15	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case law; reading of academic literature; preparation of a memorandum on an assigned procedural matter (group or individual assignment); and preparation for oral presentation of the assigned procedural matter.
5. Arbitration proceedings (lex (loci) arbitri, applicable law and rules, soft law sources, court assistance, evidentiary rules, use of technology)	6		1				7	21	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case law; reading of academic literature; preparation of a memorandum on an assigned procedural matter (group or individual assignment); and preparation for oral presentation of the assigned procedural matter.
6. Arbitral award	1		1				2	5	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case law; reading of academic literature; preparation of a memorandum on an assigned procedural matter (group or individual assignment); and preparation for oral presentation of the assigned procedural matter.
7. Annulment of arbitral awards	4		1				5	10	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case law; reading of academic literature; preparation of a memorandum on an assigned procedural matter (group or individual assignment); and preparation for oral presentation of the assigned procedural matter.
8. Recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards	2		1				3	10	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case law; reading of academic literature; preparation of a memorandum on an assigned procedural matter (group or individual assignment); and preparation for oral presentation of the assigned procedural matter.
Total	24		8				32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Preparation of a procedural document	25%	During the semester	Students will participate in a moot court exercise, in which each student will have the opportunity to draft a memorandum on an assigned procedural matter and present their arguments in class. As a general rule, the procedural document is prepared by a team of students. However, where the number of students enrolled in the course is odd, the procedural document may be assigned as an individual task. In the case of team submissions, the grade awarded for the procedural document is collective and identical for all members of the team. Individual contributions will not be assessed separately. The procedural document will be evaluated for up to 2.5 points based on the following criteria:

			• Identification of Legal Issues (up to 2.5 points) – ability to comprehensively and accurately identify all relevant legal issues; • Legal Analysis and Use of Authorities (up to 2.5 points) – demonstration of extensive, accurate, and well-integrated use of relevant authorities; • Structure and Clarity (up to 2.5 points) – ability to organize the procedural document in a logical and coherent manner, present arguments clearly and concisely, and ensure that the document is easy to follow; • Formatting and Presentation (up to 2.5 points) – ability to present the procedural document in a professional and visually coherent manner. The weight in the final grade for preparation of a procedural document (up to 10 points) is 25 percent (the grade received on the 10-point scale is multiplied by 0.25)
Participation in class activities (moot court case)	25%	During the semester	Students will be expected to demonstrate both the knowledge gained during the course as well as their abilities to apply it in a given situation. Participation in class activities (presentation of oral arguments in support of a position in an assigned case) will be evaluated for up to 2,5 points based on the following criteria: • Knowledge of Facts (up to 2.5 points) – demonstration of clear and comprehensive understanding of all key facts; • Knowledge of Law (up to 2.5 points) – abilities of accurate and insightful application of legal principles; • Application & Interpretation of the Law (up to 2.5 points) – demonstration of clear and logical interpretation of the law that directly addresses the issues; • Ability to Answer Questions (up to 2.5 points) – ability to provide well-reasoned, clear, and concise answers demonstrating a strong grasp of legal issues. The weight in the final grade for oral presentation (up to 10 points) is 25 percent (the grade received on the 10-point scale is multiplied by 0.25) Oral presentations will be delivered during seminars. Attendance at all seminars is mandatory for every student, irrespective of whether the student is scheduled to present during a particular seminar. A student may take the examination only if he/she has attended at least 80% of the seminars. If a student misses more than 20% of the seminars, they must make up the missed seminars in accordance with the requirements established by the lecturer. The form of make-up work will depend on the topic of the seminar missed.
Final examination	50%	At the end of the course	The examination consists of two parts: a written part and an oral part. The written part of the examination requires students to answer one open-ended question (e.g., “What should the court’s decision be?”, “Provide a legal assessment of the situation,” or “Provide written legal advice”) based on the analysis of a problem scenario (case study) covering specific topics of international commercial arbitration. The maximum score for the written part of the examination is 2 points after weighting (the grade obtained on the 10-point scale is multiplied by 0.2). This part of the examination is an open-book examination. Students may use statutory materials, arbitration rules, case-law, class materials, etc. The use of AI tools is strictly forbidden. During the oral part of the examination, the use of materials is prohibited. Students (individually or in groups) will be asked one open-ended question. Additional questions may be posed, including both follow-up questions and questions relating to other topics covered in the course. The maximum score for the oral part of the examination is 3 points (the grade obtained on the 10-point scale is multiplied by 0.3).

			When answering questions, students are expected to provide well-reasoned responses, present all relevant information clearly and coherently, identify and assess the issues involved, and demonstrate comprehensive use of the knowledge and abilities acquired during the course. Answers should be supported by the academic literature studied, relevant legal provisions, case law, and course materials. For both the written and oral parts of the examination, the maximum score before weighting is assessed on a 10-point scale: 10–9 points: Excellent knowledge and abilities. Responses are well reasoned; all relevant information is presented clearly and coherently; the relevant issues are identified and critically assessed; and all pertinent sources relied upon are appropriately cited. 8–7 points: Good knowledge and abilities. Responses contain only minor shortcomings (e.g., relevant sources are identified but not discussed comprehensively, etc.). Information is presented clearly and coherently, and the key issues and relevant sources are identified. 6–5 points: Satisfactory knowledge and abilities. Responses contain a considerable number of factual or interpretative errors. Information is presented inconsistently, and not all relevant issues are identified. 4–1 points: Minimum requirements are not met.
--	--	--	---

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Gary B. Born	2021	International Commercial Arbitration (Second edition)		Kluwer Law International
Recommended reading				
Gary B. Born	2014	International Commercial Arbitration	I, II, III	Kluwer Law International
Nigel Blackaby KC et al.	2022	Redfern and Hunter on International Arbitration	7 th edition	Oxford University Press
Illias Bantekas et al.	2020	UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration. A Commentary		Cambridge University Press
Mathias Lehmann	2025	The New York Convention's Borderline.: Blockchain Arbitration and Artificial Intelligence.	In Transforming Arbitration: Exploring the Impact of AI, Blockchain, Metaverse and Web3, edited by Maud Piers and Sean Mccarthy, p. 71-89	Radboud University Press
A. Godhe	2026	Characterisation of Rules in International Commercial Arbitration: Between Procedure, Substance and Party Autonomy	Int J Semiot Law 39, p. 1573–1594	
Nathan Tamblyn	2024	Arbitration and the right to a fair trial	Arbitration International, Volume 40, Issue 4, December 2024, p. 461–472	
Daniel Brantes Ferreira, Elizaveta A. Gromova	2024	Digital Evidence: The Admissibility of Leaked and Hacked	Int J Semiot Law 37, p. 903–922	

		Evidence in Arbitration Proceedings		
<i>List of legal texts, cases and other materials (or their extracts) are distributed as lecture materials during the course.</i>				