



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
LEGAL CHALLENGES IN TRANSNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: assoc. prof. dr. Jaunius Gumbis Other(s): assist. prof. dr. Jurgis Bartkus	Vilnius University, Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, LT-10222, Vilnius, 405 room, phone (8 5) 2366175, e-mail: vtkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
Second	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language(s) of instruction
Blended	1 (autumn) semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: none	Co-requisites (if any): none

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
10	268	48	220

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
Students should obtain profound knowledge about the main values and principles of the law both in domestic, European and international levels; furthermore students should develop abilities to apply legal reasoning, interpret and assess various practical situations related to the transnational environment, principles and legal ethics, as well as complex legal situations where there are no established regulation or existing legal precedents. The course unit also aims at developing the competence to carry out an individual research: to identify, analyze and solve complex legal problems of both law making and application of law in transnational environment.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will gain in-depth legal knowledge on complex transnational law issues at domestic, European and international levels and will be able to critically analyze and assess various legal, economical and ethical consequences of the developments in the transnational law sphere and to develop innovative solutions.	Lectures (interactive method of teaching of various legal problems related to transnational environment). Seminars (oral presentations, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies, presentations of individual papers). Self-study (preparation of individual papers, analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Preparation of individual research paper; presentation and defense of individual research paper; participation in class activities.
Students will be able to explicate the nature and ethical foundations of the core legal principles and values of international community.	Lectures (interactive method of teaching of various legal problems related to transnational environment). Seminars (oral presentations, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies, presentations of individual papers). Self-study (preparation of individual papers, analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Preparation of individual research paper; presentation and defense of individual research paper; participation in class activities.
Students will gain theoretical and practical understanding of legal ethics, its application to practical situations, as well as to provide solutions for complex legal problems related to it.	Lectures (interactive method of teaching of various legal problems related to transnational environment). Seminars (oral presentations, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies, presentations of individual papers). Self-study (preparation of individual	Preparation of individual research paper; presentation and defense of individual research paper; participation in class activities.

	papers, analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	
Students will be able to analyze and interpret national and international regulation, policy and case-law of supranational courts on various transnational legal ethics issues.	Lectures (interactive method of teaching of various legal problems related to transnational environment). Seminars (oral presentations, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies, presentations of individual papers). Self-study (preparation of individual papers, analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Preparation of individual research paper; presentation and defense of individual research paper; participation in class activities.
Students will be able to apply their knowledge of transnational legal issues to practical situations related to various human rights, tech law and business law issues.	Lectures (interactive method of teaching of various legal problems related to transnational environment). Seminars (oral presentations, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies, presentations of individual papers). Self-study (preparation of individual papers, analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Preparation of individual research paper; presentation and defense of individual research paper; participation in class activities.
Students will be able to actively and productively participate and collaborate in cross-cultural team activities, taking into account the principles of non-discrimination, respect to cultural differences and moral principles.	Seminars (oral presentations, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies, presentations of individual papers).	Participation in class activities.
Students will be able to independently identify and formulate a complex scientific issue based on development of European and international law theory and practice (inter alia, interaction with national law), define a research object, select appropriate research methods.	Seminars (oral presentations, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies, presentations of individual papers); self-study (preparation of individual papers, analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Preparation of individual research paper; presentation and defense of individual research paper; participation in class activities.
Students will be able to autonomously choose legal sources and scientific literature, systemize collected material on the problem, summarize it, analyze and critically interpret, argue one's position and lay out a reasoned conclusion.	Self-study (preparation of individual papers, analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature).	Preparation of individual research paper.

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	Assignments
Fundamental principles and values of transnational law	3		2				5	25	Participation in discussion. Analysis of the relevant legal framework, case-law and academic literature, preparation of individual paper.
Greatest current legal challenges in transnational environment (Transnational legal pluralism; Fragmentation of international law; Sovereignty vs. transnational governance; Transnational nature of law)	2		2				4	20	Participation in discussion. Analysis of the relevant legal framework, case-law and academic literature, preparation of individual paper.
Transnational law v. international law	1		1				2	10	Participation in discussion. Analysis of the relevant legal framework, case-law and academic literature,

									preparation of individual paper.
The conception and structure of law in transnational context	1		1				2	20	Participation in discussion. Analysis of the relevant legal framework, case-law and academic literature, preparation of individual paper.
Transnational perspective of the relationship between law, religion and morality	3		3				6	30	Participation in discussion. Analysis of the relevant legal framework, case-law and academic literature, preparation of individual paper.
Transnational legal principles, values and argumentation in judicial process	3		3				6	30	Participation in discussion. Analysis of the relevant legal framework, case-law and academic literature, preparation of individual paper.
Judicial discretion in transnational environment	2		2				4	15	Participation in discussion. Analysis of the relevant legal framework, case-law and academic literature, preparation of individual paper.
Transnational aspects of legal ethics	1		2				3	10	Participation in discussion. Analysis of the relevant legal framework, case-law and academic literature, preparation of individual paper.
Individual research paper	1		15				16	60	Preparation of the research paper. Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature. Preparation for presentation and defense of research paper.
Total	17		31				48	220	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Participation in class activities	20	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. Assessment of participation in class activities consists of participation in discussions during lectures and seminars (capability to provide correct answers to questions, formulate problems and suggest (search for) solutions, offer thoughtful critical remarks, contribute to other participants' ideas). Participation in class activities is mandatory. If more than 1 class is missed, the part of seminars missed exceeding the permitted limit is to be settled during time arranged with the lecturer. The form of settling the missed seminars depends on the on the topic covered during the missed seminars.
Preparation of individual research paper	60	During the semester	Every student will have to prepare an individual research paper. The research projects will have to cover topics discussed during the class activities. The topic of the research project is subject to the approval of the coordinator. The maximum number of points that may be received for the written paper is 6 (i.e. 6 points out of the final grade, which is 10 points). The evaluation of the paper will be based on: - Up to 3 point for work content (comprehensive transnational law problem analysis, proper legal sources application, critical analytical thinking, clear and argumentative conclusion/recommendation formulation); - Up to 2 point for work structure and style (clear structural parts, scientific language style, exact wording, source references, proper and ethical citation use); - Up to 1 point for demonstration of broad and in-depth knowledge of the topics which will be discussed during the class.
Presentation and defense of individual research paper	20	At the end of the course	Every student will have to present their individual research papers. The maximum number of points that may be received for the presentation of the paper is 2 (i.e. 2 points out of the final grade, which is 10 points). The evaluation of the presentation will be based on: - Up to 1 points for work presentation (concentrated work presentation, adhesive scientific language, the use of informative visual aids); - Up to 1 point for efficient and active participation in discussion, answering to questions, contribution to other participants' ideas.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Peer Zumbansen (ed.)	2021	The Oxford Handbook of Transnational Law		Oxford University Press
Cordozo, B. N.	1925	The Nature of Judicial Process		New Haven: Yale University Press
Gumbis, J.	2025	Lecture materials		Available: https://web.vu.lt/tf/j.gumbis/global-law/
Gumbis, J.	2018	Legal Reasoning: A Realistic Approach		Available: http://web.vu.lt/tf/j.gumbis/en/legal-reasoning-en/
Barak, A.	2006	The Judge in a Democracy		Princeton University Press
Schabas, W. A.	2015	The European Convention on Human Rights: A Commentary		Oxford University Press
Recommended reading				
Barak, A.	2015	Human Dignity: The Constitutional Value and the Constitutional Right		Cambridge University Press
Posner, R. A.	1999	The Problems of Jurisprudence		London: Harvard University Press
Fuller, L. L.	1958	Positivism and Fidelity to Law: A Reply to Professor Hart	Vol. 71(4)	Harvard Law Review
Hart, H. L. A	1958	Positivism and the Separation of Law and Morals	Vol. 71(4)	Harvard Law Review