

Course Syllabus

Introduction to Law

Course code: LEG 101/2

Semester and year: FALL 2026

Day and time: Wednesday 15:00-17:45

Instructor: JUDr. Ing. Mgr. Libor Lukášek, Ph.D.

Instructor contact: libor.lukasek@aauni.edu

Consultation hours: After classes in the classroom and via Microsoft Teams upon individual prior agreement

Credits US/ECTS	3/6	Level	Introductory
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisite	None
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	Letter grade

1. Course Description

This course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts and rules of law. The main objective of the course is to equip students with a theoretical and practical understanding of the law and to stimulate and deepen their motivation for studying the law. Students should learn how a lawyer approaches legal problems and become sufficiently familiar with the relevant rules so that they too can advise a hypothetical client of what his rights and liabilities are likely to be in a particular situation, for example, if he is charged with a crime, or considers that his private rights have been violated and wishes to sue the perpetrator.

The course surveys the principal rules governing civil and criminal actions, examines how courts operate, what sources of law are available to them, and looks in detail at typical legal problems. Students will become familiar with the main areas of law, i.e., constitutional law, government, property, contracts and treaties, crimes, torts, forms and procedures, legal interpretation, and justice through a comparative approach in European continental tradition and common law tradition. The course also includes the basics of International and European law and the protection of human rights.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Discuss critically the role of law in contemporary societies;
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the main concepts of law, in particular the nature of legal rights and the remedies available to plaintiffs when their rights are breached;
- Describe the structure, personnel (judges, lawyers, and parties to the action), and function of courts and the rules governing the conduct of legal actions;

- Describe the principal legal rules relating to the law of contract, tort, and criminal law, among others, and be able to apply them effectively to day-to-day problems;
- Describe the principal sources of law and explain how these have come into being;
- Evaluate the application of foundational principles of law in his/her future studies;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of constitutional, property, contract, criminal, and tort law and comparative approach to the civil law and common law systems;
- Distinguish clearly between the concepts of public and private law, and between natural and legal persons;
- Apply the legal rules and principles learned in this subject, to solve day-to-day legal problems;
- Conduct and present the results of independent legal research;
- Use appropriate legal terminology with reasonable confidence and accuracy.

3. Reading Material

Required Materials (Available in the Library or at NEO)

- Honoré, Tony. About Law. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2005
- Simpson, A.W.B. Invitation to Law. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1988
- Apple, James G., A Primer on the Civil-Law System, Washington, D.C., FJC, 1994
- Aust, Anthony. Handbook of International Law. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Chapters 1, 11, 23.

Recommended Materials (Available in the Library or via Interlibrary Loan)

- The Avalon Project. Documents in Law History and Diplomacy at <https://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp>
- Gary L. U. Slapper, How the law works (Taylor & Francis 2016).
- Rupert Haigh, International Legal English, A Practical Introduction for Students and Professionals (Taylor & Francis, 2021, 6th ed.).
- Federalist Papers. New York, 1787-1788.
- Gearey, Adam, et al. The Politics of the Common Law. Perspectives, Rights, Processes, Institutions. London: Routledge, 2013.
- Weinrib, Ernest. The Idea of Private Law. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1995.
- Pipes, Richard. Property and Freedom. Vintage Books, 1999.
- Fried, Charles. Contract as Promise. A Theory of Contractual Obligation. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1981.
- Glenn, Patrick. Legal Traditions of the World. Sustainable Diversity in Law. Oxford University Press, 2007, p. 224-272.

4. Teaching methodology

The format of this course is primarily lecture – research – reading – presentation – discussion – writing. The classroom and the MyLearning website are the main platforms of communication. The course will be taught as a mix of lectures, presenting the main ideas (presentations and essays) and seminars. The seminar part of lessons will feature either a class discussion, where students debate a selected topic and present their opinion or student presentation. Students have a chance to choose their own topic according to their area of interest at the beginning of the semester.

The lectures will be interactive and practically oriented. They will be complemented by case studies and presentations initiated by the students and covered by a class

discussion. Presentation of new material will be interactive, and students will be asked to give their opinions based on revised course material.

Students will be encouraged to interact and ask questions during both parts of the class and express their opinion in and out of discussion. The student's opinion formation and critical thinking are further encouraged through thoughts on the set reading/listening. For each reading, students will be expected to prepare a short response, which they will be ready to present upon asking. On a large scale, students will hone their analytical and research skills to a presentation on their chosen (pre-agreed) topic. There will be a mid-term and final exam at the end of the semester within 45 minutes.

5. Course Schedule

Date	Class Agenda
Session 1 2.9.2026	Topic: <u>Introduction to Law</u> Description: Class information, discussion of class expectations. Brainstorm discussion about the issue. Reading: None Assignments/deadlines: Division of power point presentation topics and short speeches topics
Session 2 9.9.2026	Topic: <u>Constitutional law and the Government</u> Description: This topic focuses on the role of constitutions, the authority of the constitutional and supreme courts, and the role of the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe in interpreting the European Convention on Human Rights. Reading: Honoré, About Law, p. 23-34 Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations
Session 3 16.9.2026	Topic: <u>Property and Ownership</u> Description: This session will address questions such as - What counts as property from the legal point of view? How and why do laws protect property? Reading: Honore, About Law, p. 35-43 Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations
Session 4 23.9.2026	Topic: <u>Contracts and Treaties</u> Description: Contract law, contract language and negotiations, solving contractual problems. What we consider as agreements and which of them are legally binding. The difference between contracts and treaties. How could contracts and treaties be enforced legally. Reading: Honore, About Law, p. 45-52 Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations

Session 5 30.9.2026	Topic: <u>Tort law</u> Description: What the aims of tort law are - when it is fair to make someone who harms another pay them compensation - what interests tort law protects - the problem of intentional, negligence and strict liability. Reading: Honoré, About Law, Torts, p. 65-75. Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations
Session 6 7.10.2026	Topic: <u>Criminal Law, Crimes, Courts and Legal Procedures</u> Description: The need for criminal law in society (a cause). The aims of criminal law (a goal). The type of behavior the state criminalizes Reading: Honoré, About Law, Crimes, p. 53-64; Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations
Session 7 14.10.2026	Topic: <u>Mid-Term Exam</u> Description: Testing. Exam will be in-class paper tests in written form combining multiply choice and false and true questions (closed book - question, 4 possibilities, only 1 correct answer). In case studies, students solve real-life situations in the field of law. Reading: All materials studied during classes 2- 6
Session 8 21.10.2026	Topic: <u>Legal Forms and Procedures</u> Description: This session discusses the reasons for having forms and procedures in general; the reasons for having forms e.g., the birth certificate, driver license, marriage, the will; the function of the right of defense in procedures; the question of fairness in a dispute of the citizen vs. the state, etc. Reading: Honore, About Law, p. 77-86 Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations
28.10.2026	Mid-term break
Session 9 4.11.2026	Topic: <u>European Continental Legal Tradition</u> Description: Key historical moments of Civil Law tradition, the typical characteristics of the legal systems in European Continental law and the influence of Jewish and Christian values on European law. Reading: Apple, James G., A Primer on the Civil-Law System, Part 1. Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations

Session 10 11.11.2026	Topic: <u>Common Law Tradition</u> Description: Key historical moments of Common Law tradition. Typical characteristics of the Anglo-American legal system. Comparison of world legal systems. Reading: Honoré, About Law, History, p. 9-21 or Apple, James G., A Primer on the Civil-Law System, Part 3. Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations
Session 11 18.11.2026	Topic: <u>International Law</u> Description: This topic provides a general overview of the differences and specificities of international law compared to national law. The UN system. Current issues of international law. Reading: Aust_Ch.1. Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations
Session 12 25.11.2026	Topic: <u>International human rights Law and protection</u> Description: Basic principles of international human rights, protection, their historical development and main international documents and institutions. Systems of human rights protection at the level of the United Nations and regional organizations, including mechanisms for the promotion and protection of individual rights. Reading: Aust_Ch.11. Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, home study to prepare the review presentations
Session 13 2.12.2026	Topic: <u>European Law</u> Description: The foundations of the legal system of the European Union, its institutions and sources of law. The principles of the functioning of Union law, in particular the principles of primacy and direct effect, and their importance for the Member States. Reading: Aust_Ch.23. Assignments/Deadlines: PowerPoint presentations, short speeches, review all and get ready for the final exam.
Session 14 9.12.2026	Topic: <u>Final exam</u> Description: Testing. Exam will be in-class paper tests in written form combining multiply choice and false and true questions (closed book - question, 4 possibilities, only 1 correct answer). In case studies, students solve real-life situations in the field of law. Reading: All materials studied during this course. Assignments/Deadlines: None

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workload)

Assignment	Workload (hours)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Class participation, short speech	42	15 %	Participating in class discussion, answering questions, asking questions – to the lecture and during student presentations Students will participate in short speeches and discuss meaningfully the topics of the course that have been already covered in accordance with the learning outcomes (see above).	1,2,3
Essay	28	20 %	Students will be asked to research and on elected topics. Depth of own research and own conclusions and results will be graded.	1
Presentation	20	15 %	Students will be asked to research and prepare for a discussion on elected topic. Presentation during class time. Students will then argue their case against other class students. Depth of own research, ability to present, to defend own opinions and conclusions and debate arguments will be graded. Each student will be graded individually.	1,2,3
Mid-term exam	20	20%	45 min exam - demonstration of the capacity to analyze critical challenges and issues related to the issue	1,2
Final Exam	40	30%	45 min exam testing analytical skills and knowledge of topic covered in essay, presentations, reading and class	1,2
TOTAL	150	100%		

*1 = Critical Thinking; 2 = Effective Communication; 3 = Effective and Responsible Action

7. Detailed description of the assignments

Assignment 1: Class participation and short speeches:

Each student will prepare and present one short (5-10 minutes) speech in class. The topics and the schedule of the presentations will be distributed and discussed at the beginning of the semester. This speech is evaluated 15 %.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Content	40%
Presentation	40%
Discussion	20%

Assignment 2: Essay

Students will write an essay on the topic related to law covered by class agenda. The topic of the essay, which is entirely up to the student (although suggestion will be approved by lecturer) should be analytical and demonstrate the student's ability to apply the studied concepts related to law as well. The length of the essay should be 1500 words (10% +/-) Only the content will be graded, grammatical mistakes will not result in any point deductions. The essays must be submitted via Turnitin on NEO till **30.11.2026**.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Research and knowledge of the relevant topic	50%
Ability to summarize relevant conclusions and results	30%
Quality of sources, bibliography/citations and compliance with the rules in the field of IA using	20%

Assignment 3: PowerPoint presentation (Research presentation)

Students will deliver an in-depth research presentation on a topic chosen individually (and agreed to by the lecture) related to area of law covered by course agenda. The topic of the presentation should be analytical and demonstrate the student's ability to apply the studied concepts related to law. The length of the presentation must be minimal 10 and maximal 15 slides. The content of the presentation must be carefully sourced (students will have submitted a bibliography with academic references)

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Demonstration of knowledge on the subject	40%
Quality of analysis, valid argumentation, and use of critical thinking	20%
Quality of presentation, ability to counter opposing side's argumentation	20%
Organization and structure of the presentation, teamwork	10%
Delivery of the presentation (ability to hold attention, usage of technologies – power point, tec...)	10%

Assignment 4: Final and Midterm Exam

Midterm exam will assess progress of students in the first part of the course – Sessions 2 to 6. Final exam will be comprehensive, and students will be responsible for all topics covered in classes including student presentations as well as assigned readings (with emphasis on the 2nd half of semester – Sessions 7-13). Both exams will be in-class paper tests in writing form combining multiply choice and false and true questions (closed book - question, 4 possibilities, only 1 correct answer).

In case studies, students solve real-life situations in the field of law. The goal is to gain information about the ability to apply the acquired information and knowledge in a real-life situation.

There will be 12 questions (10 questions as a close book question a 2 case studies) per maximum 45 minutes which is a standard format used in the EU competition tests. Students should demonstrate that they have a good understanding of the most relevant issues and concepts and that they are able to provide swift and correct answers.

Assessment breakdown Mid-term Exam

Assessed area	Percentage
Mid-term Exam – 10 closed book questions from areas covered Sessions 2-6 (short answers)	40%
2 case studies solution	60%

Assessment breakdown Final Exam

Assessed area	Percentage
Final Exam – 10 closed book questions from areas covered all Sessions (short answers)	40%
2 case studies solution	60%

8. General Requirements and School Policies

General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules in the Academic Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work. Please see the AAU intranet for a summary of key policies regarding coursework.

Course specific requirements

There are no special requirements or deviations from AAU policies for this course.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95–100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A–	90–94	
B+	87–89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83–86	
B–	80–82	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
C–	70–72	
D+	65–69	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.
D	60–64	
F	0–59	

* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Prepared by: Dr. Libor Lukášek, Ph.D.

Date: July 23, 2026

Approved by: doc. JUDr. Magdalena Svobodová, Ph.D.

Date: 19.8.2026