



Course Syllabus

Course Code LAW-151	Course Title Introduction to the U.S. Law	ECTS Credits 6
Prerequisites None	Department Law	Semester Spring
Type of Course Elective	Field Law	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Lecturer Dr. Dimitrios Koukiadis	Year of Study 2 nd
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement -	Corequisites -

Course Objectives:

This course seeks to provide to a non-American law school audience with an overview of the law of United States of America as well as a point of entry for further research and study. The course provides a comprehensive description of the major elements of the American Legal System. The course covers the constitutional formation and development of the United States of America, its constitutional evolution, its institutions, the legislation process, the general principles of U.S. law, the relationship between federal and state law, the sources of U.S. law, the core elements of public law, i.e. constitutional law and fundamental rights, of the judicial system and civil procedure, of private law, i.e. contract law, tort law and property law, and of criminal law and criminal procedure.

Students should be able to:

- Comprehend the legal background and jurisprudence of the U.S. law.
- Demonstrate a good knowledge of the key, special features of the U.S legal order.
- Describe the institutional structure of the U.S. legal system.
- Comprehend the way the U.S. judicial system functions, as well as the distinctive way of U.S. law-making and the balance between case law jurisprudence and statutory law.
- Describe the various sources of U.S. law and discuss their effect and relative importance;

understand the general fundamental principles of law as far as they apply on a federal and state level, including fundamental rights under the United States Supreme Court jurisprudence.

- Evaluate the increasing importance and interaction between U.S law and EU law.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Illustrate a good grasp of the U.S. law key legal concepts in most of the fields of law.
- Critically assess the United States Supreme Court's case law in the field of fundamental rights, economic regulation and economic freedom.
- Establish a good knowledge of principle features of the U.S. legal system and U.S. legal tradition including general familiarity with its institutions and procedures.
- Demonstrate some in-depth knowledge in special areas such as constitutional-, contract-, tort-, criminal-, data protection law.
- Employ a critical perception and analysis of the U.S. legal order.
- Identify and apply primary legal sources.
- Explain societal concerns and values behind legal principles and rules.
- Distinguish between reasoning founded on law and policy-based arguments.
- Write and speak the U.S. legal terminology accurately.
- Create new or imaginative solutions through approaching a problem by using legal materials in different ways.
- Conduct academic legal research through the U.S. legal methodology.
- Assemble and structure U.S. law web-resources and research tools needed for research/papers/thesis.

Course Content:

During the semester, the students will study the following topics:

1. The constitutional order of the United States of America, its historical/political/legal/institutional development, and the sources of U.S. law,
2. The federal and state institutional structure of U.S.A
3. The relationship between federal and state law.
4. The general principles and the core doctrines of U.S. law.
5. The U.S. legal system and the U.S. legislation process and policy-making
6. Some landmark U.S. Supreme Court's decisions such as the Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education, Reno v. ACLU, McPherson v. Buick et al. cases, and their effect on U.S. legal order.
7. Fundamental rights protection in the U.S. legal order, i.e. freedom of speech, economic freedom, protection of personality et al.
8. Equal Protection clause, Substantive and Procedural Due Process Clause
9. Contract-, Tort-, Criminal -, Business law principles.
10. Civil-, Criminal procedure issues.
11. The importance of the "Interstate Commerce Clause"
12. The legal education and the legal profession in U.S.A.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, written examinations, papers' presentation, forum discussions

Assessment Methods:

Final Examination, Mid-term Examination, Participation

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year
An Introduction to U.S. Constitutional Law	R.E. Barnett/J. Blackman	Aspen Publishing	2022
Introduction to the Law and Legal System of the U.S.	W.Burnham/S.F. Reed	West Academic Press (7 th ed.)	2021
Law of the United States : An Overview	Peter Hay	C.H. BECK, Munich	2016
An Introduction to Law and Economics	A. Mitchell Polinsky	Aspen Publishing (5 th ed.)	2018

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year
Introduction to the Law of the United States	David S. Clark and Tugrul Ansay (eds.)	Kluwer Law	1992
American Law in a Global Context: The Basics	George P. Fletcher and Steve Sheppard	Oxford Univ.Press	2005
The Oxford Introduction to U.S. Law: Constitutional Law	Michael C. Dorf Trevor W. Morrisson	Oxford Univ.Press	2010

The Common Law	Oliver Wendell Holmes	CreateSpace Independent Publishing	2014(reprint)
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