



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 Dimitrios Koukiadis	Year of Study 2 nd
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Corequisites None

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.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Have a good grasp of the U.S. law key legal concepts in most of the fields of law.
2. Consider the United States Supreme Court's case law in the field of fundamental rights, economic regulation and economic freedom.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of principle features of the U.S. legal system and U.S. legal tradition including general familiarity with its institutions and procedures.

4. Demonstrate some in-depth knowledge in special areas such as constitutional-, contract-, tort-, criminal-, data protection law.
5. Demonstrate critical awareness in the analysis of the U.S. legal order.
6. Identify and apply primary legal sources.
7. Identify societal concerns and values behind legal principles and rules.
8. Make a distinction between reasoning founded on law and policy-based arguments.
9. Be familiar with the relevant legal terminology accurately.
10. Create new or imaginative solutions through approaching a problem by using legal materials in different ways.
11. To conduct academic legal research.
12. To use relevant web-resources, and research tools needed for personal support.

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, Tutorials, Presentations, Role-Playing, Debates, Written Examinations, Assignments

Assessment Methods:

Participation in the classroom, writing and presentations of two assignments, mid-term exam, final exam

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year
<i>Law of the United States : An Overview</i>	Peter Hay	C.H. BECK, Munich	2016
<i>Introduction To The Law and Legal System of the United States</i>	William Burnham.	West Publishing Co.	2002

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year
<i>Introduction to the Law of the United States</i>	David S. Clark and Tugrul Ansay (eds.)	Kluwer Law	1992
<i>American Law in a Global Context: The Basics</i>	George P. Fletcher and Steve Sheppard	Oxford Univ.Press	2005
<i>The Oxford Introduction to U.S., Law: Constitutional Law</i>	Michael C. Dorf Trevor W. Morrisson	Oxford Univ.Press	2010
<i>The Common Law</i>	Oliver Wendell Holmes	CreateSpace Independent Publishing	2014(reprint)

<i>The Path of Law</i>	Oliver Wendell Holmes	Applewoods Books	1999(reprint)
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