



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code LAW-365	Course Title Comparative Law I	ECTS Credits 6
Department Law	Semester Fall	Prerequisites Two from LAW-202, LAW-212, LAW-242 and LAW-252/6
Type of Course Law Elective	Field Law	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 3 rd / 4 th	Lecturer(s) None assigned
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

This course aims essentially at introducing students to comparative law and the comparative methodology. It will familiarize the students with the nature of the major legal families of the world and the working of the legal systems based on the respective legal families or legal traditions. Moreover, it will familiarize students with the functions of comparative law, particularly its use as a tool in law-making at national, regional, and international levels as well as in judicial decisions.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Explain the increasing importance of comparative law in an increasingly globalised and transnational world.
2. Appraise the development of comparative law as a new subject of legal enquiry.
3. Discuss the different legal families of the world: civil, common, Islamic, Chinese.
4. Evaluate the enormous debt that civil law systems owe to Roman law.
5. Evaluate the roots of the common law of England.
6. Discuss the key features that distinguish civil law and common law in the field of public law.
7. Appraise the adjustments that the subject has had to make during the past two decades in light of the almost universal decline of the socialist system.
8. Appraise the public / private law dichotomy.

Course Content:

1. Introducing Comparative law: definitions and derivations; distinguished from other disciplines; the origins of comparative law; its contemporary significance.
2. The classification of legal systems into legal families: terminology; examination

and application of the criteria; convergence theory and legal unity.

3. The civil law system: historical development.
4. The English common law system: historical development; common law in the United States, South East Asia and India.
5. European Community Law: its place within the legal family.
6. Socialist law and other types of legal system: hybrid legal systems; eastern legal conceptions; the Chinese and Japanese conceptions.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, tutorials, written examinations and assignments

Assessment Methods:

One written assignment, mid-term exam, final exam

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year
Peter De Cruz	Comparative Law in a Changing World, 3 rd ed.	Routledge-Cavendish Publishing	2007

Recommended Textbook(s)/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year
Mathias Reimann and Reinhard Zimmermann (ed.s)	The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law	Oxford	2008
K. Zweigert and H. Kotz	An Introduction to Comparative Law, 3 rd ed.	Clarendon Press	1998