Course Descriptions (English Courses)

1. **Introduction to American Law**

   (Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060300, Tuesday, 4 (s.t.)-6 pm, HGB 50)

   This course is a basic introduction to the law and legal system of the United States in English. It covers the basic characteristics of the common law system, the doctrine of stare decisis, sources of law in the United States, the U.S. court system (both state and federal), the jury system, parties to a lawsuit, basics of the adversary system of trial, pleadings and motions, pretrial discovery, the trial process, case briefs and citations. This course is a core course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty. The course is though a lecture, some participation is expected.

   Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.

2. **U.S. Constitutional Law II: Fundamental Rights**:

   (Dr. Beke-Martos; Course ID 060301, Tuesday, 2 (s.t.)-4 pm, HGB 40)

   This course is an introduction to certain fundamental rights of the American legal system through the Bill of Rights and the adjudication of the United States Supreme Court. Students will be taught how to read and brief cases through selected excerpts of landmark decisions. Issues include judicial review, the right to privacy, the right to freedom of expression, the death penalty, the right to choose, as well as same-sex marriage. This course is a core course for the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty. The course is though a lecture, some participation is expected.

3. **Interpreting the Founding Documents of the United States**

(Dr. Beke-Martos, Course ID 060311, August 01-05, 2022, 9 am-4 pm, GD 04/153)

The Constitution of the United States of America is the product of the 1787 Constitutional Convention and the subsequent ratification processes in the various states. Yet the process that culminated in Philadelphia commenced long before. This course focuses on the founding of the United States through the documents that paved the way. Starting from the Declaration of Independence, participants read through and discuss the Northwest Ordinance, the Articles of Confederation as well as the various drafts introduced but not adopted at the Constitutional Convention. The grammatical interpretation of these texts along with private correspondence and public commentaries of that time provide an insight into the understanding of a federal America, exactly as the Founding Fathers had envisaged it.

Participants will be required to read and interpret texts for themselves and be ready to answer questions or discuss different legal institutions included therein. Required reading will be made available through Moodle. Proficiency in English is preferred.

This course is an elective course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.
4. **An Introduction to International Dispute Settlement**
(Mr. Wuschka; Course ID 060303, June 17, 18, 24, 25, 2022, 9 am-4 pm, GD 1/148)

This course focuses on the procedural side of international law. In addition to general principles of international dispute settlement, students will be familiarized with various fora for the resolution of inter-state, investor-state and commercial disputes, including their rules of procedure. The institutions to be discussed are, inter alia, the International Court of Justice, the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement system, arbitral tribunals, as well as the currently hot-debated system for the settlement of investment disputes (e.g. ICSID).

The course is limited to 20 participants (SPB 4 students and interested others).

This course is an elective course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.

5. **U.S. Contract Law**
(Mr. O'Connell; Course ID 060304, April 26., May 03., 10., 17., 24., 31., 2022, 8.30 am – noon, GD 1/148)

U.S. Contract Law introduces law students to American contract law. The course will cover basic contract law concepts (including offer and acceptance, mistake, problems of proof; function of consideration; conditions; assignments; third-party beneficiaries and effect of changed circumstances) as well as legal remedies of contracting parties, including damages in contract and quasicontract, specific performance, reformation and rescission. Students will be expected to participate, read and discuss selected cases. Required reading will be provided.
6. Literature and Jurisprudence in the 21st Century

(Dr. Prochownik, Ms. Wolski, Course ID 060124, Monday, 4 pm-6 pm, Zoom Video Course)

This seminar aims to introduce students to the “Law and Literature” movement in contemporary legal scholarship.

In the first and introductory part of the course, we will discuss the main directions of this field of study: “Law in Literature” (which explores the phenomenon of law as well as issues of legal philosophy in literary texts) and “Law as Literature” (which aims to contribute to the study of law in the form of a literary text). Finally, we will discuss some critical reactions regarding these projects. In this part, we will learn about and examine the views of significant figures in the legal and literary movements (e.g., Benjamin Cardozo, James Boyd White, Jane Baron, Martha Nussbaum), including famous legal philosophers (e.g., Ronald Dworkin, Richard Posner). In the second and central part of the seminar, we will adopt the perspective of “Law in Literature” and “Law as Literature” to literary and legal texts, respectively. We will assume the “Law in Literature” perspective and discuss a selection of literary texts - novels and short stories of the 21rst century concerning legal or legal-philosophical issues (e.g., Bernhard Schlink, Juli Zeh, Ferdinand von Schirach). Furthermore, we will adopt the “Law as Literature” perspective to examine a selection of recent (sometimes curious) court decisions.

We will finalize the seminar with a general discussion of whether and how works of literary fiction (such as those discussed in the seminar) can contribute to legal thought and practice, and the potential of literary analysis of legal texts for jurisprudence.

The seminar will be held in English. During the seminar, we will read and discuss a new selection of theoretical, literary, and legal texts. Therefore, the course is open to both students who have already taken part in “Law and Jurisprudence” courses at RUB (in winter term of 2019/2020 or winter term 2021/2022) and would like to further extend their knowledge in this field, as well as to those students who have not taken part in those seminars and have no prior knowledge about “Law and Literature” movement.
7. **An Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law**

(Dr. Oliveira de Sousa, Course ID 060305, Thursday, 10 am - noon, Zoom Video Course)

This course provides an introduction to the overarching concepts of constitutional law in a comparative fashion. It draws on the political and legal systems of the United States, China, Brazil, the United Kingdom, France and Germany, in order to highlight differences and similarities across a diversity of constitutional traditions. During this course, you will become acquainted with the fundamental features of the systems of government referred above; acquire insights about recent philosophical discussions on judicial review and the different ways in which it can be designed; reflect on how features of the constitutional systems referred above may help to explain and understand current social phenomena (e.g. political polarization); and reflect on whether and how traditional concepts of constitutional law may be revised in order to cope with recent developments in the global and transnational arena. At the same time in which this course will draw on traditional doctrinal analyses of constitutional law, it will also draw on relevant side-literature, especially of constitutional theory and of political, social and legal philosophy.

During the seminar we will discuss and confront different accounts and responses to evil that come from moral philosophy and psychology, and legal philosophy (this will include discussion of classical and contemporary philosophical texts on the nature of evil, recent empirical findings on social and psychological factors involved in it, and legal philosophical questions about whether and what type of punishment it deserves).

The goal of the course is to acquaint the students with one of important problems of philosophy, science and daily life, but also to help them strengthen their critical thinking, writing and argumentative skills.
8. **Law, Democracy and Disagreement**  
(Dr. Oliveira de Sousa, Course ID 060317, Thursday, 2 pm-4 pm, Zoom Video Course)

It is no exaggeration to say that liberal constitutionalism is in crisis. Modern societies have been for a long time permeated by strong political and moral disagreements. With the rise of populism and nationalist politics in Europe, US and beyond, the situation seems to have become radicalized in recent years. Disagreements are now so widespread that the very basic notions of democracy and of political community are at stake. This raises a number of questions about the nature and purpose of politics, its relation to law, as well as the function of legal and political institutions. In order to discuss these questions, this course will introduce you to the works of various legal, political and social philosophers about controversial topics such as freedom of expression and speech, pornography, hate speech, abortion, euthanasia, fake news as well as to seminal texts about the nature of democracy and rights in liberal and non-liberal traditions (e.g. communitarianism).

(Mr. Hanrahan, Course ID 060306, Monday, 2-4 pm, Zoom Video Course)

This course will provide students with a basic and fundamental overview of major areas of intellectual property law in the United States. We will cover topics related to United States patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets, as well as how each of these different areas are interrelated to one another. We will not only discuss how to obtain intellectual property rights, but also how and when to enforce those rights against an infringer. The course will reference current United States laws, cases, as well as rules and procedures enforced by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and U.S. Copyright Office. Some participation is expected during the lectures.
10. **International Legal Dialogue**  
(Prof. Dr. Windel, Course ID 060173, course dates and times have to be announced, FS 3/314)

The event is intended to provide a platform for an international community of teachers and students to exchange views in an open discourse on legal issues brought about by globalization. Students will act actively and independently throughout the whole process, gaining their own direct access to international dimensions of law. A moderated colloquium, including presentations by foreign guest lecturers serves as an external framework. Participation requires an individual application and admission. The course involves giving a presentation in German or English on a topic of choice. 9 credit points are awarded upon finishing the course. Participation is mandatory.  
The event is also recognized as an elective course for the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.

11. **Analytical Legal Philosophy**  
(Prof. Dr. Magen, Course ID 060006, Tuesday, noon-2 pm, HGB 10)

Analytical legal philosophy aims to elucidate the nature of law. It asks whether the normativity of law is based on social facts like widespread obedience, or rather on moral truths like justice. And it tries to grasp the general structure and basic elements of legal systems. The lecture introduces major approaches (natural law, legal positivism, legal realism, interpretivism) and discusses their implications for legal practice.  
For further information please contact the chair of Prof. Magen: ls-magen@rub.de
12. **Summer School on Corruption, Data and the Sustainable Development Goals**

(Prof. Dr. Dijkzeul, Course ID 060316, 08.-13.08.2022, 9 am – 6 pm, BF 4th floor)

The Summer School aims to equip participants with the knowledge and the skills needed to collect, analyze and use governance data to monitor corruption and promote anti-corruption reforms across the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework.

The Summer School is designed to bring together students from various disciplines with anti-corruption practitioners to foster innovative approaches to curbing corruption in sectors such as health, education, justice, water and sanitation and climate action.

The cases of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Afghanistan and Indonesia will serve as examples of how corruption negatively influences development and reconstruction while threatening security and undermining peacebuilding. A key element of the course is that the participants are expected to produce a “roadmap” to fight a specific corruption problem, using governance data with linkages to the SDG framework. At the end of each learning session, the participants are required to answer a few short questions relating to their own corruption problem for which they are developing a road map. In answering these questions, the participants identify key players who can help them, map out relevant indicators and datasets for assessing and measuring corruption and develop an advocacy strategy.

The Summer School is offered as a partnership between Transparency International (TI), the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr University Bochum, and Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO).

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13. **International Humanitarian Law Clinic**
The “Bochum International Humanitarian Law Clinic” (Bochum IHL Clinic) is designed to provide students with hands-on experience of the practice of international humanitarian law (IHL). The course empowers students to learn through practical experience by applying theoretical knowledge to real life situations and corresponding legal problems humanitarian actors encounter in their day-to-day work. They will conduct research on projects for real life cooperation partners, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), national Red Cross Societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, and other actors in the humanitarian field. This may include the preparation of litigation before national or international courts, writing expert opinions to support NGO lobby work as well as drafting treaty language or legal handbooks for partner institutions. Students may also contribute to supporting victims of armed conflict in securing reparations or file communications to judicial and non-judicial institutions on their behalf. Participating in clinic work also permits students to acquire and develop skills in research, critical thinking, legal analysis, and problem solving. Additionally, students enhance their abilities to draft texts, give oral presentations, communicate, as well as organize and improve their social skills. The students work in groups together with students from the Joint Master's Programme in International Humanitarian Action (NOHA Master) and the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA). Participants of the IHL Clinic will not only have the chance to get in regular contact with the cooperation partners (i.e. possible future employers in the humanitarian field), but also exchange their experiences with members from other universities, that are part of an international IHL Clinic cooperation. The course will culminate in the ERASMUS+ funded IHL Clinic Exchange Conference, where students from the Bochum IHL Clinic will meet students from the universities of Rome and Leiden to present their findings, meet experts in the field, network and further intensify their knowledge of IHL. Further information can be found here https://www.ifhv.de/teaching/bochum-ihl-clinic
(Prof. Walt; Course ID 060310, June 7-10, 2022, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., GD 04/620)

This course examines the law governing the international sale of goods, primarily as regulated by the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods ("CISG"). The CISG has been adopted by 93 countries to date and potentially governs between 70 and 80 percent of world trade in goods. By almost any measure it is the most important international treaty dealing with commercial law. Specific topics we will investigate include the process of contract formation under the CISG, acceptance and rejection of the goods, contract interpretation and the role of trade custom, warranty liability, remedies, risk of loss, and commercial impracticability. We will use these topics to make more general inquiries into the structure of commercial relationships, the proper content of default rules, and the desirability of uniform international commercial law.

15. **International Environmental Law in the Anthropocene**
(Prof. Scholtz; Course ID 060309, June 13, 20, 27, 28, 2022 online, 6-7.30 pm, July 01, 2022 in person, 9 am-4.30 pm, July 02, 2022 in person, 9 am-2.45 pm, GD 1/148)

The module illuminates the response of International Environmental Law (IEL) to global environmental degradation and introduces students to key aspects, such as sustainable development, actors in IEL as well as the importance of soft law norms. An analysis of the normative framework enables students to critically assess the treaty regimes that regulate climate change, the loss of biodiversity, the sharing of freshwater resources, protection of marine resources and trade in hazardous substances. The module also explores the relationship between IEL and human rights,
security, and animal welfare. The purpose of the module is to equip students with the necessary insight, knowledge, and skills to work in and with this fascinating, interesting, and highly relevant field of Law.
Kursbeschreibung (Türkische Veranstaltung)

1. Türkisches Strafrecht im Vergleich zum Deutschen Strafrecht (Karsilastirmali olarak Türk ve Alman Ceza Hukuku)
(Jun.-Prof. Dr. Özaydin; Veranstaltungs-Nr. 060318, 29.04.+13.05.+24.06.+25.06.2022 von 13-18 Uhr, GD 1/450)

**Kursbeschreibung (italienische Veranstaltung)**

1. **Einführung in die italienische Rechtssprache** (Introduzione alla lingua giuridica italiana)

(Frau Campolucci; Veranstaltungs-Nr. 060316, Freitag, 14.00-15.30 Uhr, GD 1/468)

Questo corso è rivolto agli studenti di Giurisprudenza con conoscenze della lingua italiana. L'obiettivo principale è quello di impartire conoscenze linguistiche legali di base con l'aiuto di testi giuridici italiani. La presenza è obbligatoria.