

Course Descriptions (English Courses)

1. Introduction to American Law

(Mr. von Estorff; Course ID 060520, Monday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., HGD 10)

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 I: State & Governance:

(Mr. von Estorff; Course ID 060521, Tuesday, noon-2 p.m., HZO 50)

This is an entry-level course on U.S. Constitutional Law. The course focuses on the text of the U.S. Constitution and its Amendments. Through grammatical and contextual analysis, students examine the structure and working of the American state and governance. Horizontal and vertical separation of powers and the basics of the common law legal system are also addressed and examined through documents and cases. This course is a core course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.

Required reading will be made available through Moodle.

3. Introduction to International Arbitration

(Mr. Wuschka; Course ID 060536, June 10-13, 2025, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Zoom Video Course)

This course introduces arbitration as a means to settle international disputes. It will address recourse to arbitration in different fields of law, including for inter-state disputes (e.g. under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration), commercial disputes, sports disputes as well as the constantly hotly debated topic of investor-state arbitration (e.g. under the auspices of ICSID). The course will feature guest presentations by speakers from various institutions.

4. U.S. Intellectual Property Law

(Mr. Hanrahan, Course ID 060526, Tuesday, 4-6 p.m., 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.

5. International Dimensions of Law

(Dr. Thiede; Course ID 060527, Friday, 2-4 p.m., Podcasts)

Aims & Intended Outcomes: As indicated by its title, this course will focus on an introduction to Comparative Law, Conflict of Laws, European Law and Public International Law (with a focus on all questions of the law applicable (choice of law) in cases with a foreign element). Participants should obtain basic knowledge in Comparative Law, Conflict of Laws, European Law and Public International Law, understanding of problems in mentioned areas of law and (some) competence in questions of the law applicable in cases with a foreign element.

Previous knowledge expected: Instruction and assessment will be exclusively in English, and participants should have an appropriate level of linguistic competence.

6. Analytical Legal Philosophy

(Prof. Dr. Magen, Course ID 060013, Monday, 12.15 a.m.-13.45 p.m., HGD 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

7. UK Constitutional Law

(Mr. Provan, Course ID 060534, May 19, May 26, June 2, June 16, 2025, 8.30 a.m. – 2 p.m., GD 04/143)

As one of the only countries in the world without a codified constitution, the UK has a long and rich history of constitutional development dating back hundreds of years. This first part of this course will cover a historical overview of UK constitutional law leading to contemporary lawmaking procedures, voting systems, and the constitutional restraints on legislation and governance. The second part will look at different layers of UK legal authority, first looking inward to devolution and then outward to the UK's relationship with international law.

8. Law & Global Challenges

(Prof. Dr. Kaltenborn, Course ID 060532, Tuesday, noon-2 p.m., April 8, 2025, GD 04/153, the following course units will take place in GD 2/148)

This course focuses on global challenges in the light of public international law. Maintaining peace, fighting terrorism, climate change, human rights, refugee crises, rule of law, world trade, international organizations are just a few of the topics up for discussion.

Requirements for obtaining a certificate: short presentation in English and active participation in the other sessions (no final exam).

For further information please contact the chair of Prof. Kaltenborn: ls-kaltenborn@rub.de

9. International Legal Dialogue

(Prof. Dr. Windel, Course ID 060360, course dates and times have to be announced, FS 3/314)

The class 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 work 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 framework.

Participation requires an individual application and admission. The course involves both preparing a paper and giving a presentation in German or English. 9 credit points are awarded upon finishing the course. Participation is mandatory.

The class is also recognized as an elective course for the Certificate Anglo-American Law & Language of the Faculty of Law and it meets the requirements of a „domestic work“ (häusliche Arbeit).

10. Brexit: Constitutional and Political Perspectives

(Dr. Marceau, Course ID 060543, June 16, 2025, noon-2 pm, GD 1/148, June 17, 2025, 2 pm-7 pm, GD 1/148, June 18, 2025, 8 am-noon, GD 1/148, June 18, 4 pm-7 pm, GD 2/148, June 20, 2025, 8 am-noon, GD 1/450)

This module looks at the UK's decision to exit the EU with an emphasis on the UK's constitutional and political structures. It begins by examining the social and political context against which the decision to leave was made, including an analysis of the rise of Euroscepticism and populism. The course also explores the campaigns in the lead up to the Brexit referendum analysing the rhetoric of key political actors. Next, the course

examines the legal and political developments since the UK's decision to leave the EU, including the agreement struck with the EU. Overall, the course emphasises the constitutional structure in the UK and the way in which it has reacted to the Brexit decision. In particular, it explores how the fundamental principles of the UK uncodified constitution, namely Parliamentary Sovereignty and the Rule of Law were affected by the various events that led to Brexit. The course includes a detail analysis of key constitutional cases that were delivered by English courts within the context of Brexit.

11. IFHV Summer School "Corruption on Fighting Corruption by using Data on the Sustainable Development Goals"

(Prof. Dijkzeul, Course ID 080349, August 04, 2025 – August 09, 2025, 9 am – 5 pm, GABF 04/514)

The Summer School aims to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to collect, analyze, and use governance data to monitor corruption and promote anti-corruption reforms within the SDG framework. The program brings together students from various disciplines and professionals in the field of anti-corruption to foster innovative approaches to combating corruption in sectors such as health, education, justice, water and sanitation, and climate action. Using case studies from for example the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Indonesia, participants will learn how corruption negatively impacts development and reconstruction, undermines security, and hinders peacebuilding. A key element of the course is for participants to develop a "roadmap" to address a specific corruption issue.

For further questions do not hesitate to contact the Summer School Team at summerschool-ifhv@rub.de.

Kursbeschreibung (Türkische Veranstaltung)

1. Türkisches Strafrecht im Vergleich zum Deutschen Strafrecht (Karsilastirmali olarak Türk ve Alman Ceza Hukuku)

(Jun.-Prof. Dr. Özaydin; Veranstaltungs-Nr. 060538, 19.05.+16.06.+30.06.+07.07.2025, 13.30-18.30 Uhr, BF EG/22)

Karşılaştırmalı Olarak Türk ve Alman Ceza Hukuku" adlı ders, Türkçe dilinde anlatılacaktır. Bu ders bağlamında, Ceza Hukuku hukuk terminolojisinin aktarılmasının yanı sıra başta Türk Ceza Hukuku'nun tanımı ve genel prensipleri, suçun maddi ve manevi unsurları ve hukuka aykırılık gibi konular ele alınacaktır. Bunun yanı sıra dersin amacı; en önemli suçların incelenmesi ve bu bağlamda Yargıtayın vermiş olduğu en güncel kararlar da dikkate alınarak problemlerin tartışılmasıdır. Özellikle hayata ve vücut bütünlüğüne karşı suçlar, cinsel dokunulmazlığa karşı suçlar, uyuşturucu veya uyarıcı madde suçları ve bilişim alanında işlenen suçlar dersin içeriğini oluşturmaktadır. Bu bağlamda Alman Hukuku ile bağlantılar kurulacaktır: Tarihsel açıdan Türk Ceza Hukuku önce Fransız, sonra İtalyan Ceza Hukuku'ndan esinlenmişken; 2005 yılında Türk Ceza Kanunu nihai olarak Alman Ceza Hukuku'nun yoğun etkisi altında kalarak reform edilmiştir.