

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Law	
Course ID: PraF.KUP/ENm17-3133/26	Course title: Comparative Constitutional Law
Educational activities: Type of activities: seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 per level/semester: 26 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: 2.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: Continuous Assessment: 40% – participation in seminars and/or completion of case studies or legal analyses. Final Assessment: 60% – written essay. Grading Scale: A (1) = 91–100%; B (1.5) = 81–90%; C (2) = 73–80%; D (2.5) = 66–72%; E (3) = 60–65%; FX (fail) = 0–59%. During examinations, students may use all available sources of legal information, in particular unannotated legislation, commentaries, case law, legal literature, and legal information systems. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 40/60	
Learning outcomes: a) Knowledge: Upon completion of the course, the student possesses fundamental yet comprehensive knowledge of various models of constitutional law, particularly within the European continental and Anglo-American legal traditions, with a focus on selected constitutional institutions. b) Skills: The student is able to prepare and present a structured comparative analysis of constitutional institutions across different constitutional models. The student is also capable of producing an academic written text (essay) addressing constitutional issues, particularly from a comparative perspective. c) Responsibility and Autonomy: The student is able to think critically and independently and to articulate well-reasoned positions on various constitutional law institutions, especially from a comparative standpoint. The student is likewise capable of assessing the adequacy of existing legal regulation of specific constitutional institutions and proposing appropriate solutions for future development.	
Class syllabus: 1. Comparative Constitutional Law: Origins, Current State, and Contemporary Challenges 2. Constitution-Making and Constituent Power; Constitutional Amendments 3. The Relationship between Law and Politics: Selected Issues of Mutual Influence 4. Direct Democracy 5. The Executive Branch 6. The Head of State and Presidential Powers	

7. Judicial Review of Constitutionality and Constitutional Interpretation 8. Relations between the Legislative and Executive Branches 9. Political Parties and Their Constitutional Role 10. The Principle of Proportionality 11. The Impact of European Law on Constitutional Law 12. Final Assessment (Essay Writing)						
Recommended literature: BARBER, S. A., FLEMING, J. - Constitutional Interpretation: The Basic Questions. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. GINSBURG, T., DIXON, R. – Comparative Constitutional Law (Research Handbooks in Comparative Law Series), Edward Elgar Pub: 2013. HERINGA, A., W., KIIVER, P. – Constitutions Compared: An Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law (Third Edition), Intersentia: 2012. HUSCROFT, G., MILLER, B. W. - The Challenge of Originalism: Theories of Constitutional Interpretation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. JACKSON, V. C., TUSHNET, M. – Comparative Constitutional law, 2nd edition, Foundation Press: 2006. MOREL, L., QVORTRUP, M. (eds) - The Routledge Handbook to referendums and direct democracy. New York: Routledge, 2018. ORZESZYNA, K., SKWARZYŃSKI, M., TABASZEWSKI, R. - International Human Rights Law. Warsaw: C. H. Beck, 2023. ROSENFELD, M., SAJÓ, A. – The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Constitutional Law, OUP Oxford: 2012. QVORTRUP, M. (edt.) - Referendums Around the World. The Continued Growth of Direct Democracy. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014						
Languages necessary to complete the course: english						
Notes:						
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 0						
A	ABS	B	C	D	E	FX
0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Lecturers: prof. JUDr. Livia Trellová, PhD., Mgr. Diana Bernáthová, Mgr. Vincent Bujňák, PhD., Mgr. Romana Koneracká						
Last change: 19.03.2026						
Approved by:						