

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Law	
Course ID: PraF.KOP/ENbMP19-13/26	Course title: Comparative Obligation Law 1
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 1 / 2 per level/semester: 13 / 26 Form of the course: on-site learning, combined	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: 4.	
Educational level: I.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: - Continuous assessment (PowerPoint presentation of selected issues, discussion of this presentation): 40% - Final evaluation (preparation of a final written submission or case study): 60% Classification scale: A / 1 = 91 - 100%; B / 1.5 = 81 - 90%; C / 2 = 73 - 80%; D / 2.5 = 66 - 72%; E / 3 = 60 - 65%; FX = 0 - 59%. The course is tested in part using the uncommented legislation according to the instructions of the teacher. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 40/60	
Learning outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, the student is able to understand the fundamental principles of the law of obligations in a comparative context, with particular emphasis on contractual obligations. The student is capable of identifying similarities and differences between individual legal systems, especially between the continental (civil law) and Anglo-American (common law) traditions, and of analysing their theoretical foundations. The course offers students an overview of contractual obligations not only in the main jurisdictions of Western civilization, i.e. within the continental and Anglo-American legal families, but also in the context of existing initiatives aimed at the unification of European contract law. Particular attention is devoted to the Principles of European Contract Law and the Common Frame of Reference, developed on the basis of comparative research by leading European scholars. The aim of the course is to develop the student's ability to critically assess legal regulations, work with case law and scholarly literature in a foreign language, and apply the comparative method when solving legal problems. The course is taught using relevant legislation, model rules, case law, and practical case studies. Knowledge: The student: • knows the basic concepts of the law of obligations in continental and common law systems • understands the differences between contractual and non-contractual liability from a comparative perspective	

- is familiar with the fundamental principles governing the creation, modification, and termination of obligations
 - understands the significance of harmonisation and unification efforts in the field of the law of obligations
 - knows the basic model rules and their importance for the development of European private law
- Skills:

The student:

- is able to identify and analyse differences between the legal regulations of individual states
- applies the comparative method in solving practical cases
- works with legal texts and case law in a foreign language
- is able to formulate legal arguments in a comparative context
- can critically assess the advantages and limits of individual legal solutions
- prepares an academic text using comparative sources and proper citation

Responsibility and Autonomy:

In completing assignments, students work both individually and in groups. They independently analyse legal texts, case law, and scholarly literature, prepare comparative analyses, and actively participate in discussions and the resolution of model cases. Emphasis is placed on independent critical thinking, precise argumentation, and the ability to defend one's own legal conclusions in academic discussion.

Class syllabus:

- 1.## Introduction to the study - definition of the term obligation, reasons for the emergence of obligations in private law, an overview of the regulation of contract law in selected legal systems
- 2.# Europeanization of contract law
- 3.# Ability to enter into a contractual relationship, general restrictions on contractual freedom
- 4.# Representation, contracts for the benefit of a third party
- 5.# Origin of contracts - offer and acceptance, case, formal requirements
- 6.# Circumstances precluding the validity of the contract
- 7.# Typology of contracts and interpretation of contracts
- 8.# Consumer contracts, conditions in contractual relations
- 9.# Securing contractual relations I
- 10.# Securing contractual relations II
- 11.Changes in obligationsTermination of the contract I
12. Termination of the contract II
13. Final repetition

The legal systems subject to comparison include in particular: Germany, France, Hungary, Estonia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Poland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, the common law system, and the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Recommended literature:

1. GRAZIANO, T.: Comparative Contract Law: Cases, Materials and Exercises. London: Palgrave, 2009.
2. JANSEN, N., ZIMMERMANN, R. (eds.): Commentaries on European Contract Laws. Oxford: University Press, 2018.
3. von BAR, Ch., CLIVE, E., SCHULTE NOLKE, H. Principles, Definitions and Model Rules of European Private Law: Draft Common Frame of Reference (DCFR), 6 Volumes (Outline Edition). Munich: Sellier. European Law Publishers. 2009.
4. ZWEIGERT, K. - KÖTZ: An Introduction to Comparative Law. 3rd Ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

5. KNAPP, C. - CRYSTAL, N. - PRINCE, H.: Problems in Contract Law. Cases and Materials. Frederick: Aspen Publishers, 2007.
6. FARNSWORTH, E.A.: Contracts. 4th Edition. New York: Aspen Publishing, 2004.
7. KNAPP, C.L. – CRYSTAL, N.M. – PRINCE, H.G.: Problems in Contract Law. Cases and Materials. 6th Edition. New York: Aspen Publishing, 2007.
8. KNAPP, C.L. – CRYSTAL, N.M. – PRINCE, H.G.: Rules of Contract Law. 2011-2012. Statutory Supplement. New York: Aspen Publishing, 2011.

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: doc. JUDr. Martin Križan, PhD., prof. JUDr. Alexandra Löwy, PhD., JUDr. Laura Fotopulosová, PhD., LL.M., JUDr. Martin Hamřík, PhD.

Last change: 27.03.2026

Approved by: