

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Law	
Course ID: PraF.KTPFP/EnM17-3011/26	Course title: Legal Ethics
Educational activities: Type of activities: seminar Number of hours: per week: 3 per level/semester: 39 Form of the course: on-site learning, combined	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: 4.	
Educational level: I., II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: On-going evaluation: 50 % (on-going evaluation based on the activities on seminars, case studies and legal analyses) Final examination: 50 % (oral examination composed of case studies and oral discussion on cases) 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 %. Students are allowed to use all accessible sources of legal information, mainly non-commentary laws, commentaries, case law, legal literature and legal information systems. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 50/50	
Learning outcomes: Knowledge: The student will acquire expert and practical knowledge of legal ethics and the ethical relationships within various legal professions. The course will include practical real-world and hypothetical examples, comparative analyses of ethical codes in different countries, international regulation, and the theory of legal ethics. The student will learn and understand the ethical principles of various legal professions (conflict of interest, duty of confidentiality, relationships between lawyer-lawyer, judge-judge, judge-public, and prosecutor-public). Students will gain: An overview of how selected ethical dilemmas have been resolved in practice by the relevant disciplinary panels or ethics committees in Slovakia and abroad; An opportunity to compare their own proposed solutions; Insight into the broader context of ethical rules in relation to the principles of the rule of law. Skills: The student will be able to identify ethical issues that arise in legal practice and address ethical dilemmas faced by attorneys, judges, notaries, prosecutors, government officials, and others. The student will have the ability to independently integrate knowledge, navigate the complexities of ethical analysis, and lead discussions on the resolution of ethical dilemmas. The student will also possess the skills to conduct effective research, search relevant information sources, present their views, and respond to objections during discussions.	

Responsibility and independence: The student will be able to creatively apply the principles of legal ethics to practical, real-world, and hypothetical examples and to cases relevant to legal ethics. The student will be able to compare their own proposed solutions with the principles of legal ethics.

Class syllabus:

1. Basics of legal ethics
2. Ethical theories and legal ethics
3. Justice, ethics and law
4. Models and ethical norms
5. Human dignity and legal ethics
6. Ethics and professionalism of the legal professions, professional responsibility and professional standards – attorneys I
7. Ethics and professionalism of the legal professions, professional responsibility and professional standards – attorneys II – client-attorney relationship
8. Ethics and professionalism of the legal professions, professional responsibility and professional standards - judges – The Bangalore principles
9. Ethics and professionalism of the legal professions, professional responsibility and professional standards - prosecutors.
10. Ethics and professionalism of the legal professions, professional responsibility and human rights.
11. Professional duties, professional rules and codes of ethics.
12. Professional duties, corruption and the law.
13. Conscience and guilt.

Recommended literature:

MOLITERNO, J. E.: Slovak Comparative Ethics Course Material, 2015
KRONMAN, A. T.: The Lost Lawyer. Harvard Univ. Press, 1995
O'DAIR, R.: Legal Ethics. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2000
BIESEN, Ph. van den: Building on Basic Principles. Leiden: Stichting, 2011
As well as other literature as assigned by the teacher.

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. Mgr. Ľubomír Batka, Dr. theol., doc. JUDr. Branislav Fábry, PhD., doc. JUDr. Martin Turčan, PhD., Mgr. Marián Ruňanin

Last change: 19.03.2026

Approved by: