

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Law	
Course ID: PraF.KPDPK/ENbMP19-5/26	Course title: World Legal Systems
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 2 per level/semester: 26 / 26 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: 1.	
Educational level: I.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: Continuous assessment: completion of assignments on selected documents in study groups during seminars (30 %); completion of a written essay of up to 3,500 words on a topic approved by the teacher (20 %), final oral exam (50 %) 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 assessed in part with the use of statutory provisions without commentary, in accordance with the instructor's instructions. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 50/50	
Learning outcomes: a) Knowledge: By completing the course, the student will be able to name the basic characteristics of the major legal systems (civil law, common law, religious systems, customary law systems), including the types of sources, their creation and methods of interpretation, the status of the legal professions and legal scholarship. The student can also summarize and explain the historical circumstances and sources shaping each system. b) Skills: The student can also assess the appropriateness of the choice of methods and develop a reasoned proposal for a comparative study at the macro level. The student is also able to summarize knowledge from different legal systems for deeper analysis in the development of legal solutions taking into account historical, cultural, social and economic factors. c) Responsibility and autonomy: The student is able to independently evaluate basic arguments taking into account the benefits and risks of adopting foreign legal institutes or norms from one legal system to another and is prepared to work effectively with peers in group projects, to show respect for different points of view and to take responsibility for the results and fair distribution of group work.	
Class syllabus: 1. Introduction to comparative law, historical overview of the development of comparative legal science 2. Methods and objectives of comparative law, contemporary world legal systems 3. Historical formation of the civil law system and its structure	

4. Style-forming elements of the civil law system - legal norms, institutes and branches, dualism of law with division into public and private law
5. Historical formation of English law, its structure and sources
6. Historical formation of United States law, its structure and sources
7. Style-forming elements of English law I. – structure of the judiciary, interpretation of law
8. Style-forming elements of United States law - structure of the federal and state judiciaries and features of civil and criminal proceedings
9. Globalization unification and convergence of legal systems
10. Hybrid (mixed) legal systems - Quebec, Louisiana, Scotland
11. Development and current state of the law of China and Japan
12. Development and characteristics of Islamic law
13. Traditional African Law

Recommended literature:

HUSA, J. Introduction to Comparative Law. Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2023.
 KISCHEL, U. Comparative Law. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
 GLENN, H. P. Legal Traditions of the World: Sustainable diversity in law (5th edn). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
 VALCKE, C. Comparing Law. Comparative Law as Reconstruction of Collective Commitments. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
 BUSSANI, M. – MATTEI, U. (eds.). The Cambridge Companion to Comparative Law. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
 LUNDMARK, T. Charting the Divide between Common and Civil Law. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
 DAVID, R. – BRIERLEY, J. Major Legal Systems in the World Today. An Introduction to the Comparative Study of Law. London: Stevens & Sons, 1985.
 SLAPPER, G., KELLY, D.: English Legal System. Abingdon: Routledge, 2017.
 FRIEDMAN, L. M. American Law: An Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.
 ODA, H. Japanese Law. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.
 CHEN, A. An Introduction to the Chinese Legal System. Hong Kong: LexisNexis, 2019.
 HALLAQ, W. An Introduction to Islamic Law. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
 HIMONGA, Ch., NHLAPO, T. African Customary Law in South Africa. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

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. Mgr. et Mgr. Matej Mlkvý, PhD., LL.M., Mgr. Igor Hron, PhD.

Last change: 30.03.2026

Approved by: