

## **Historical Introduction to Comparative Law – syllabus + information on assessment**

**2025/2026, summer semester**

### **02/20/2026: *Course orientation***

Students are provided with general information on the course, syllabus, intended learning outcomes, the assessment and attendance policy. Formation of study groups.

### **02/27/2026: *Reception of Roman Law***

This lecture examines the rediscovery and reception of Roman law in medieval and early modern Europe. It explores the role of the University of Bologna, the glossators and commentators, and the transformation of Justinian's *Corpus Iuris Civilis* into a foundational source of continental civil law. Particular attention is given to the interaction between learned Roman law and local customary laws.

### **03/06/2026: *History of Canon Law***

An introduction to the development of canon law from early Christianity through the medieval period until modern era. The lecture discusses sources of canon law, ecclesiastical courts, and the interplay between canon law and secular law. The long-term impact of canon law on European legal culture will be highlighted.

### **03/13/2026: *History of Common Law***

This session traces the origins and evolution of the English common law system from the Norman Conquest onward. Topics include royal courts, the writ system, the doctrine of precedent, equity and the Court of Chancery, and the global expansion of common law traditions.

### **03/20/2026: *Era of Codifications***

The lecture focuses on the great codification movements of the 18th and 19th centuries, including the French Civil Code (1804), the Austrian Civil Code (1811), and the German Civil Code (1900). It examines the intellectual background of codification, particularly natural law theory and historical school of jurisprudence, and considers codification as both a legal and political project.

### **03/27/2026: *Development of Selected Institutes of Family Law***

This lecture explores the historical evolution of marriage, parental authority, and the legal status of women and children. It compares Roman, canon, and modern civil law influences, and discusses the gradual secularization and modernization of family law.

### **04/10/2026: *Development of Selected Institutes of the Law of Things***

An examination of the historical foundations of property law, including ownership, possession, servitudes, and real rights. The lecture traces doctrinal development from Roman law through medieval transformations to modern codified systems.

### **04/17/2026: *Development of Selected Institutes of Law of Inheritance***

This session surveys the evolution of succession law, including testate and intestate succession, forced heirship, and the protection of family property. The lecture highlights Roman origins and later adaptations in continental and common law systems.

**04/24/2026: *Development of Selected Institutes of Law of Obligations***

A historical overview of contractual and non-contractual obligations. Topics include the Roman classification of contracts, the development of consensualism, good faith, and the emergence of modern contract doctrine in civil and common law traditions.

**05/08/2026: *Development of Selected Institutes of the Law of Torts***

This lecture examines the historical roots of delict and tort liability, from Roman *delicta* and medieval wrongs to modern negligence doctrine. It compares fault-based and strict liability models and traces the expansion of liability in modern legal systems.

**05/15/2026: *Development of Selected Institutes of the Labour Law***

A study of the historical development of labour regulation, from guild systems and master-servant relations to industrial labour law. The lecture considers the impact of industrialization, collective bargaining, and the rise of social legislation in the 19th and 20th centuries.

**05/22/2026: *Final exam***

Comprehensive written examination covering key concepts, historical developments, major legal traditions, and comparative perspectives discussed throughout the course.

**Facilitators:** Terézia Švedová, Frederika Vešelényiová

**Assessment information**

20 % will be awarded based on continuous assessment: 10 % for group assignments elaborated in the class + keeping of individual reflective journal + 10 % for a written end-of-semester critical examination essay.

80 % will be awarded based on final exam.