

SUBJECT CHART

Legal Methodology II

1. Information on the study programme

1.1 Institution of higher education	West University of Timișoara
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Law
1.3 Department	Department of Public Law
1.4 Field of Study	Law
1.5 Cycle of study	Bachelor studies
1.6 Programme of study / Qualification	Drept european și internațional (<i>European and International Law</i>)

2. Information on the subject

2.1 Discipline denomination		Legal Methodology II					
2.2 Person in charge of course activities		Alexandra Mercescu and Cosmin Cercel					
2.3 Person in charge of seminar activities		Alexandra Mercescu and Cosmin Cercel					
2.4 Year of study	1	2.5 Semester	1	2.6 Type of evaluation	E	2.7 Subject regime	CS

3. Total estimated time (number of hours of teaching activities per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	2	of which: 3.2 course	1	3.3 seminar/laboratory	1
3.4 Total hours in the curriculum	28	of which: 3.5 course	14	3.6 seminar/laboratory	14
Distribution of time:					hours
Study using textbooks, teaching materials, bibliography and class notes					
Additional research in the library, using specialized electronic platforms/ field research					
Preparation for seminars / laboratories, homework, projects, essays					
Tutoring					
Examination					
Other activities					
3.7 Total hours of individual study	22				
3.8 Total hours per semester	50				
3.9 Number of credits	2				

4. Preconditions (if any)

4.1 curriculum-related	• none
4.2 competence-related	• at least B2 level English

5. Conditions (if any)

5.1 related to courses	• none
5.2 related to seminars / laboratories	• none

6. Subject-specific objectives – expected results of the learning process to which the subject contributes

Knowledge	<p>The course will teach students how to read a variety of legal texts with a focus on international sources of law and research materials.</p> <p>It will offer in-depth analysis of the practice of different legal methods.</p>
Abilities	<p>Read legal texts, especially international legal sources (ECJ decisions, ECHR decisions etc.)</p> <p>Write academic articles in the field of law.</p> <p>Handle databases</p>
Responsibility and autonomy	<p>The course will contribute to the development of students' responsibility and autonomy through critical thinking and concrete competences such as reading and writing.</p>

7. Content

7.1 Courses	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Style and Epistemology	lecture	
2. The Importance of Language	Lecture Lecture	
3. How to Do Research in Law: General Aspects	lecture	
4. Doctrinal research		
5. Interdisciplinary research		
6. Bibliographical Resources and References		
7. How to Write in Law: General Considerations	lecture	
8. Doctrinal Writing	lecture	
9. Judicial Writing	lecture	
10. Writing Otherwise: Objectives and Limits	lecture	
11. Legal Writing: Practical Aspects		
12. Translation Issues		
13 Common law texts	lecture	

14 Legal Writing and Digitalization	lecture	
Bibliography		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alexandra Mercescu, Change of Mind, Change of Style: Lawyers' Writing Manners", 15(3) International Journal of Law in Context (published by Cambridge University Press) 310 (2019) 2. Legrand, Pierre. 2011. "Foreign Law: Understanding Understanding". <i>Journal of Comparative Law</i> 6: 67-177. 3. William Strunck, <i>The Elements of Style</i>. 4. Simone GLANERT and Pierre LEGRAND, 'Foreign Law in Translation: If Truth Be Told ...», dans <i>Law and Language</i>', ed by Michael FREEMAN and Fiona SMITH, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013. 5. Bryan Garner, <i>Legal Writing in Plain English</i>, University of Chicago Press, 2001. 6. SAMUEL, Geoffrey, <i>Epistemology and Method in Law</i>, Aldershot, Ashgate, 2003. 7. Joe MORAN, <i>Interdisciplinarity</i>, 2d ed., London, Routledge, 2010. 8. Irina Domourath, The politics of interdisciplinarity in law in <i>The Politics of European Legal Research</i>, ed. By Marija Bartl, Jessica Lawrence, Edward Elgar, 2022. 9. Sanne TAEKEMA et Bart VAN KLINK, «On the Border [:] Limits and Possibilities of Interdisciplinary Research», in <i>Law and Method [:] Interdisciplinary Research into Law</i>, edited by S. Taekema and Bart Van Klink, Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 2011. 10. Lina Kestemont, <i>Handbook on Legal Methodology, From Objective to Method</i>, Intersentia, 2018. 11. James Holland and Julian Webb, <i>Learning Legal Rules: A Students' Guide to Legal Method and Reasoning</i>, OUP, 2022. 		
7.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Style and Epistemology	Interactive (discussions, team work, quizzes, reading, writing)	
2. The Importance of Language	Video presentation	
3. How to Do Research in Law	Practical exercises	

4. Reading a Legal Text		
5. Reading a Non-legal Text	Practical exercises	
6. Bibliographical Resources and References	Practical exercises	
7. How to Write in Law: General Considerations	Practical exercises	
8. Doctrinal Writing	Practical exercises	
9. Judicial Writing	Practical exercises	
10. Writing Otherwise: Objectives and Limits	Practical exercises	
11. Legal Writing: Practical Aspects I	Practical exercises	
12. Translation Issues	Practical exercises	
13 Common law texts	Practical exercises	
14 Legal Writing and Digitalization	Practical exercises	
<p>Bibliography: Alexandra Mercescu, Change of Mind, Change of Style: Lawyers' Writing Manners", 15(3) International Journal of Law in Context (published by Cambridge University Press) 310 (2019) Legrand, Pierre. 2011. "Foreign Law: Understanding Understanding". <i>Journal of Comparative Law</i> 6: 67-177.</p> <p>William Strunck, <i>The Elements of Style</i>.</p> <p>Simone GLANERT et Pierre LEGRAND, 'Foreign Law in Translation: If Truth Be Told ...», dans <i>Law and Language</i>', ed by Michael FREEMAN and Fiona SMITH, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013.</p> <p>Bryan Garner, <i>Legal Writing in Plain English</i>, University of Chicago Press, 2001.</p>		

8. Corroborating the content of the subject with the expectations of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers in the relevant programme field

- The content of the course corresponds to the expectations of the academic and professional community. Graduates will be able to write academic texts and different types of legal documents, do research work in a law firm, understand texts from both the civil law and the common law tradition.

9. Evaluation

Type of activity	9.1 Evaluation criteria	9.2 Evaluation method	9.3 Weight percentage of the final grade
9.4 Course	Ability to understand the main objectives of legal writing and the necessary methodologies for attaining those objectives; Ability to read legal and non-legal texts in a critical manner Ability to understand international sources of law	Written examination	70%
9.5 Seminar / laboratory	Writing skills	Evaluation for portofolio comprised of a variety of written tasks	30%
9.6 Minimum performance standard 50%			

Date:

4.02.2024

Person in charge of the subject:

Dr Alexandra Mercescu



Date of approval by the faculty department

Department director