

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	The course aims to equip students with the necessary documenting and writing skills for producing a dissertation at the end of their studies as well as to introduce them in general to the world of legal research (guidance will be provided on various issues ranging from referencing to paraphrases, abstract, errors of style and language, summaries, argument construction). Students will be provided with notions of style, epistemology and the link between the two. In particular, the course will focus on interdisciplinary legal research. After providing a theoretical framework for understanding interdisciplinarity (and its merits in the field of law), it will expose the students to two radically different types of interdisciplinary legal research: law and literature, on the one hand, and empirical legal studies, on the other hand. Once explained, these two strands of research will be contrasted so as to show how different intellectual projects build on different epistemic and ideological assumptions about the nature and the purpose of law.
Abilities	Reading legal texts from various strands of legal scholarship, both doctrinal and interdisciplinary Writing academic articles in the field of law. Handling databases Documenting, bibliography and references related skills
Responsibility and autonomy	The course will contribute to the development of students' responsibility and autonomy through critical thinking and concrete competences such as reading and writing.

7. Content

7.1 Courses	Teaching methods	Observations
1. The relationship between style and epistemology	lecture	
2. A theory of Interdisciplinarity	lecture	
3. How to do research in law: general aspects	lecture	
4. Documenting		
5. Elements of academic writing I		
6. Elements of academic writing II		

7. Interdisciplinarity in Practice I: Law and Literature – general aspects	lecture	Course held by Prof. dr. Cosmin Cercel
8. Interdisciplinarity in Practice I: Law and Literature – purpose	lecture	Course held by Prof. dr. Cosmin Cercel
9. Interdisciplinarity in Practice I: Law and Literature – movements	lecture	Course held by Prof. dr. Cosmin Cercel
10. Interdisciplinarity in Practice I: Law and Literature – achievements	lecture	Course held by Prof. dr. Cosmin Cercel
11. Interdisciplinarity in Practice II: Empirical legal studies – general aspects		
12. Quantitative research in law		
13 Qualitative research in law	lecture	
14 Legal Writing and Ideology	lecture	

Bibliography

1. Power point slides on the e-learning platform
2. 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)
3. Alexandra Mercescu, Quantifying the Law? A Critique of "Legal Origins", in *Rethinking Comparative Law* (with S. Glanert and G. Samuel), Edward Elgar 2021.
4. William Strunck, *The Elements of Style*.
5. Joe MORAN, *Interdisciplinarity*, 2d ed., London, Routledge, 2010.
6. Irina Domourath, The politics of interdisciplinarity in law, in *The Politics of European Legal Research*, ed. By Marija Bartl, Jessica Lawrence, Edward Elgar, 2022.
7. Sanne Taekema et Bart Van Klink, «On the Border [:] Limits and Possibilities of Interdisciplinary Research», in *Law and Method [:] Interdisciplinary Research into Law*, edited by S. Taekema and Bart Van Klink, Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 2011.
8. Lina Kestemont, *Handbook on Legal Methodology, From Objective to Method*, Intersentia, 2018.
9. Kieran Dolin, *A Critical Introduction to Law and Literature*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

7.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Style and Epistemology. The Importance of Language	Interactive (discussions, team work, quizzes, reading, writing) TED talk	
2. A Theory of Interdisciplinarity	Discussions	
3. How to do research in law: general aspects	Discussions	
4. Documenting	Practical exercises	
5. Elements of Writing I	Practical exercises	
6. Elements of Writing II	Practical exercises	
7. Interdisciplinarity in Practice I: Law and Literature – general aspects	Practical exercises	Seminar held by Prof. dr. Cosmin Cercel
8. Interdisciplinarity in Practice I: Law and Literature – purpose	Practical exercises	Seminar held by Prof. dr. Cosmin Cercel
9. Interdisciplinarity in Practice I: Law and Literature – movements	Practical exercises	Seminar held by Prof. dr. Cosmin Cercel
10. Interdisciplinarity in Practice I: Law and Literature – achievements	Practical exercises	Seminar held by Prof. dr. Cosmin Cercel
11. Interdisciplinarity in Practice II: Empirical legal studies – general aspects	Practical exercises	
12. Quantitative research in law	Practical exercises	
13 Qualitative research in law	Practical exercises	
14 Legal Writing and Ideology	Discussions based on case studies	
<p>Bibliography</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power point slides on the e-learning platform 2. 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) 3. Alexandra Mercescu, Quantifying the Law? A Critique of “Legal Origins”, in <i>Rethinking Comparative Law</i> (with S. Glanert and G. Samuel), Edward Elgar 2021. 4. William Strunck, <i>The Elements of Style</i>. 5. Joe MORAN, Interdisciplinarity, 2d ed., London, Routledge, 2010. 		

6. Irina Domourath, The politics of interdisciplinarity in law, in *The Politics of European Legal Research*, ed. By Marija Bartl, Jessica Lawrence, Edward Elgar, 2022.
7. Sanne Taekema et Bart Van Klink, «On the Border [:] Limits and Possibilities of Interdisciplinary Research», in *Law and Method [:] Interdisciplinary Research into Law*, edited by S. Taekema and Bart Van Klink, Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 2011.
8. Lina Kestemont, *Handbook on Legal Methodology, From Objective to Method*, Intersentia, 2018.
9. Kieran Dolin, *A Critical Introduction to Law and Literature*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

1. 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.

2. 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	Written examination	70%

	international sources of law		
9.5 Seminar / laboratory	Writing skills	Evaluation of a portofolio comprised of a variety of written tasks	30%
9.6 Minimum performance standard: the student must obtain a grade of at least 5 out of a maximum of 10.			

Date:

21.02.2025

Person in charge of the subject:

Dr Alexandra Mercescu



Date of approval by the faculty department

Department director