

Course Outline

Course number	RBE257					
Course title	Internet Law					
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 CP)					
Total hours	30					
Lecture hours	20					
Seminar and other hours	10					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites	None					
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	X	Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE and TEACHER

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Rihards Gulbis	Dr.iur.	Visiting Docent

COURSE ABSTRACT

The course consists of legal topics serving to the creation and development of the successful digital presence (internet site of a company or an individual, online market place, provision of digital content services, news aggregators etc.). The course covers the following issues: establishment of a digital identity of a company or an individual (domain law), use and provision of different content online (copyright and trademark law), online marketing (regulation of advertisement activities, competition law), relations to clients (online contracting, e-commerce, consumer law) and use of personal data. In addition, the issues of legal liability for non-compliance with the applicable regulations are also included.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is aimed to provide the students with both theoretical and practical knowledge enabling them to tackle the basic legal issues related to building the presence in the digital environment. Students will have an opportunity to gain comprehensive understanding on the legal framework and the interplay of different legal branches involved as well as updated information about ongoing legislative reforms in Latvia and at the EU level. The theoretical information will be supported by the broad case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), the Latvian courts and and some other national courts of different countries. The practical skills will be developed with the help of case studies, group work, individual presentations etc.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam	50-70%
Case studies and other class activities	30%
Voluntary student presentations	0-20%

Course exam: the exam is a 30-question multiple choice exam test, where the students must mark the correct answer from 4 choices to every question. It is a closed-book exam.

Case studies and other class activities: case studies will be mainly dedicated to the analysis of the case law of the CJEU and the ECHR and will be executed by means of group work. More details on other class activities will be provided before the respective seminar.

Voluntary student presentations: the students may volunteer to prepare a presentation about a topic provided by the course teacher or a topic chosen by the student (subject to approval by the course teacher). The list of topics will be uploaded on the Intranet before the beginning of the course. Duration of the presentation: 6-10 minutes. The presentation may be prepared by one or two students working in a team. Each student may volunteer to do one presentation during the course.

Course completion: the course is completed if the student has attended all the seminars and completed the exam. In case a seminar is missed due to the justified reasons the student has to submit the written analysis of the case / essay on the topic provided by the course teacher.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Introduction to Internet Law	2
2	Domain Law	2
3	Copyright and Related rights online	6
4	Trademark Law online	4
5	Online Marketing	4
6	Online Contracting	6
7	Protection of Personal Data	3
8	Legal Liability	3

COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecture/seminar
1	Introduction to Internet Law (digital v. analogous environment; key actors on the digital scene; notion of information; legal framework)	Lecture
2	Domain Law (registration of domain names; collisions with trademark law; settlements of legal disputes)	Lecture

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecture/seminar
3	Copyright and Related rights online (history, principles, impact of the digitalisation on the copyright system; work and notion of digital content; objects of related rights)	Lecture
4	Copyright and Related rights online (rights of an author and holders of related rights; copyright limitations and exceptions; transfer of rights; collective management of rights; infringements of copyright in the digital environment)	Lecture
5	Copyright and Related rights online	Seminar
6	Trademark Law online (trademarks and their functions; rights to trademarks; registration of trademarks; protection of trademarks in the digital environment)	Lecture
7	Trademark Law online	Seminar
8	Online Marketing (legal provisions on regulation of advertisement activities; competition law issues)	Lecture
9	Online Marketing	Seminar
10	Online Contracting (general rules on conclusion of contracts online; Terms of service (TOS))	Lecture
11	Online Contracting (contracts with consumers; rights of consumers in online shopping)	Lecture
12	Online Contracting	Seminar
13	Protection of Personal Data (notion of personal data; processing of personal data; use of cookies)	Lecture
14	Legal Liability (liability of online intermediaries; remedies)	Lecture
15	Protection of Personal Data and Legal Liability	Seminar

COURSE LITERATURE

No.	Author, title, publisher
1	Bently L., Sherman B. Intellectual property law. Fourth edition. Oxford University Press, 2014 (selected topics)
2	Materials on official internet sites of the WIPO (www.wipo.int), EU Commission (https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en etc.), EUIPO (https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en), Latvian Patent Office (www.lrpv.gov.lv/), Ministry of Culture (http://www.km.gov.lv/en/sector/copyright.html), Consumer Rights Protection Centre (http://www.ptac.gov.lv/en/), Competition Council (http://www.kp.gov.lv/en/), Data State Inspectorate (http://www.dvi.gov.lv/en/) and other sites provided during the course
3	Course slides and other handouts uploaded to the course Intranet site
4	Additional materials will be distributed during the course