



## Course Outline

<b>Course number</b>	
<b>Course title</b>	<b>Legal Ethics and Psychology</b>
<b>Credit points</b>	<b>3 ECTS</b>
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>24 Contact Hours</b>
<b>Lecture hours</b>	
<b>Course level</b>	<b>Masters</b>
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>&lt;&lt;None&gt;&gt;</b>

### COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<b>Name</b>	<b>Academic degree</b>	<b>Academic position</b>
Lauris Liepa	LL.M.	Visiting Lecturer

### COURSE TEACHERS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Academic degree</b>	<b>Academic position</b>
Lauris Liepa	LL.M.	Visiting Lecturer
Ģirts Dimdiņš	PhD Psych	Visiting Professor

### COURSE ABSTRACT

*The course provides students with in-depth understanding of the main principles of legal ethics, as well as the main psychological mechanisms that may influence the application of these principles. Formal requirements and theoretical principles are illustrated with practical examples. After completing the course the students should be able to identify ethically disputable situations and the corresponding psychological risk factors, and to come up with possible solutions.*

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

#### **Academic competences to be gained through the course**

- *Knowledge of main principles of legal ethics and their legal basis in regulatory framework.*
- *Knowledge of psychological theories that are relevant to development and application of legal ethics.*

#### **Professional competences to be gained through the course**

- *Ability to recognize ethically problematic situations in legal practice*

- *Practical skills necessary to apply the principles of legal ethics in solving ethical problems*
- *Ability to recognize the psychological mechanisms that may lead to unethical behaviour in legal practice and decision making*

#### GRADING CRITERIA

No.	Criteria	Weighting
1	Exam	<<60%>>
2	Course paper	<<40%>>

#### COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Moral Judgments and Perception of Justice	4
2	Social Influence and Social Relationships	6
3	Trust as a Psychological Phenomenon	2
4	Relationship between Lawyers and Corporate Clients	2
5	Management and marketing of Legal practice	5
6	Social and other contexts of the lawyers practice	5

#### COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecture/seminar
1	Introductory Lecture: The course and the subject of Legal Ethics and Psychology.	GD and LL
2	Moral Judgments, Their Relation to Ethical and Unethical Behavior	GD
3	Perception of Justice	GD
4	Factors Influencing Human Judgment	GD
5	Mechanisms of Social Influence. Human Relationships and Their Influence on Behaviour.	GD
6	Trust as a Psychological Phenomenon	GD

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecture/seminar
7	Introduction into the Legal Ethics part of the Course	LL
8	Confidentiality and Legal Privilege vs. Modern Challenges for the Profession. Conflicts of Interest in the Modern Commercial Law	LL

<b>Session</b>	<b>Session subjects and readings</b>	<b>Lecture/seminar</b>
	Practice.	
9	International law firm. Multi-disciplinary practice.	LL
10	Legal Practice as Business. Payment for Legal Services and Access to Justice.	LL
11	Future development of Legal Practice in the European Union	LL
12	Management of a Law Firm. Marketing of Legal Services.	LL

### COURSE LITERATURE

<b>No.</b>	<b>Author, title, publisher</b>
1	Moore, D. A., & Loewenstein, G. (2004). Self-Interest, automaticity, and the psychology of conflict of interest. <i>Social Justice Research</i> , 17, 189-202.
2	Tenbrunsel, A. E., & Messick, D. M. (2004). Ethical fading: The role of self-deception in unethical behavior. <i>Social Justice Research</i> , 17, 223-236.
3	Rai, T. S., & Fiske, A. P. (2011). Moral psychology is relationship regulation: Moral motives for unity, hierarchy, equality, and proportionality. <i>Psychological Review</i> , 118, 57-75.
4	Hewstone, M., & Martin, R. (2008). Social influence. In M. Hewstone, W. Stroebe & K. Jonas (Eds.), <i>Introduction to social psychology: A European perspective</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> ed., pp. 216-243). Malden, MA: Blackwell.
5	Deborah L. Rhode, Geoffrey C. Hazard, Professional Responsibility and regulation. (Foundation Press, NY, 2002)
6.	Internet resources for legal ethics: European Regulation: <a href="http://www.ccbe.org">http://www.ccbe.org</a> United States regulation: <a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/ethics/">http://www.law.cornell.edu/ethics/</a> Actual news topics, decisions of organizations and court cases: <a href="http://www.legalethics.com/index.law">http://www.legalethics.com/index.law</a> Professional opinions, related interesting sites: <a href="http://ethicsandlawyering.com/">http://ethicsandlawyering.com/</a>