

Course Outline

Course number	RBE301					
Course title	Comparative Non-Contractual Liability Law					
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 CP)					
Total hours	30					
Lecture hours	15					
Seminar and other hours	15					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites	RBA233: Comparative Personal and Family Law					
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	X	Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

No.	Name	Academic degree	Academic position
1	Gábor Palásti	PhD	Associate professor

COURSE TEACHERS

No.	Name	Academic degree	Academic position
1	Gábor Palásti	PhD	Associate professor

COURSE ABSTRACT

Law prohibits the causing of damage, loss, harm or injury to others in its different branches and fields through different legal instruments. This course deals with the private law aspects of the legal consequences of causing damage to others, commonly known as *non-contractual liability law* or *tort law* or *the law of delicts*. Whether the damage arises from a simple car accident or pub fight or medical malpractice and the injury is caused to a single person only, or from manufacturing defective products which cause harm to thousands of people, or from the neglect of environmental measures leading to mass injuries, the basic concepts of non-contractual liability law tend to be similar in most Western legal systems. Thereby, the comparative approach between some selected common law and civil law legal systems is particularly fruitful in this course. The course surveys the basic notions and conditions of non-contractual liability law, such as a legal duty of care, breach of the duty, illegality, wrongfulness, causality between the breach and the damage suffered, the existence of damage or injury, the various fields of protection, particular well-known defenses such as self-defense or contributory negligence, and the calculation of damages. The course covers only the substantive private law aspects of tort cases (and does not extend to procedure or conflict of laws, neither to public law aspects).

The material is particularly rich in colorful case law. Most two-hour sessions are divided into a lecture and a seminar, in which students present cases illustrating the particular issue discussed in the lecture part of the session.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam *	80-100%
Student presentations of case studies (optional)	0-10%
In-class mini-test (optional)	0-10%

*Only those students are admitted to the exam who attend more than half of the sessions (8 classes or more).

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Subject	Planned hours
1	General introduction. The legal prohibition of causing damage and the main functions of non-contractual liability law. Basic concepts, general framework and legal sources (national and international). The terminology of tort law. Protected subjects.	10
2	The legal elements (conditions) of tort law cases.	12
3	The law of remedies in tort	4
4	Complex case study exercises	4