

Course Outline

Course number	RBA303				
Course title	Legal Philosophy				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV credit points)				
Total hours	80				
Contact hours	32				
Independent studies	48				
Course level	bachelor				
Prerequisites	none				
Category	Mandatory	x	Restricted elective		Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Adam Czarnota	PhD	Rector

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Adam Czarnota	PhD	Rector

COURSE ABSTRACT

The module introduces core issues of legal philosophy and critical approaches to legal practice and legal thought. The programme of learning provides students with core skills of critical analysis and with the opportunity to reflect critically at an advanced level on core legal material, including topics covered in other first-year law modules and in later stages of the degree (e.g. the reading of criminal cases in order to identify the philosophical-political matters in them). The module starts with a reflection on two central questions that shape our thinking about the law: 1) "what is law?" and 2) "how we think about law?". Further subjects examine the relationship between law and morality, law and politics and how legal philosophy shapes legal practice. In addition, it examines how socio-political and historical events and legal practice, more generally, shaped, significantly, modern legal philosophy (theory). To that extent, students will

be in a position to observe that the theory of the law and its practice are closely interconnected, being part of a dynamic relationship. with the one shaping and informing the other and vice versa. Thus, the Legal Philosophy course encourages students to think critically about the institution of law and its operation in our everyday lives. It encourages them to question law's commands and ask; why it is as t is and in whose interests it operates.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Participation in class discussion (seminars)	40%
Final examination: essay (2000 words)	60%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Students are expected to attend the seminars (attendance is compulsory). Students are required to fill out the self-assessment report.
- 2) They are expected to come prepared for the seminars (read assigned texts).
- 3) As such, students are expected to work independently.
- 4) Preparation for the classes and answering the questions, will ensure that students are in a good position to apply the notions and concepts of legal philosophy in class discussion and in the long essay.
- 5) If a student feels unsure about something, he or she should contact the lecturer in order to resolve the issue.
- 6) Students should respect the deadlines set for submitting their assignments. In the case that there are any extenuating circumstances that render the submission of an assignment difficult, or if students would like to ask for an extension, they should follow the procedures set out by the Riga Graduate School of Law.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Law & Modernity	2
2	Customs, Virtues, Law	2
3	Legal Positivism: Hart	2
4	German Legal Theory: Law as Basic Norm	2
5	Natural Law Theory	2
6	Legal Hermeneutics: Interpretation and Principles	2

7	Legal Realism: A Third Path?	2
8	Law's Inner Morality	2
9	Rights: The Molecular Perspective	2
10	Legal Theory in the 21st Century: Legal Pluralism	2
11	Right and Wrong	2
12	Distributive Justice	2
13	Legitimacy & Democracy	2
14	Privacy	2
15	Punishment	2
16	Constitutionalism, Rule of law, democracy	2