



Course Outline

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| Course number | RBA305 | | | | | |
| Course title | Introduction to Civil Law | | | | | |
| Credit points | 3 ECTS (2 LV credit points) | | | | | |
| Total hours | 82 | | | | | |
| Lecture hours | 20 | | | | | |
| Seminar and other hours | 10 | | | | | |
| 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> |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aleksandrs Fillers | PhD | Assistant Professor |

COURSE TEACHERS

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Academic degree</i> | <i>Academic position</i> |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aleksandrs Fillers | PhD | Assistant Professor |
| Krista Paula Petere | Mag. Jur. | Legal Research Adviser |

Allocation of lectures between the teachers may be subject to further adjustments.

COURSE ABSTRACT

The objective of the course is to introduce students to civil law (with a focus on the Continental tradition). Students learn about the key concepts of private law: property, tort, contract, natural person, company, etc. This knowledge will be indispensable for any further studies, research or practical work in the area of private law. After successfully finishing the course, students will be able to proceed with a more in-depth of different area of private law through specialized courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is for students to: 1) gain basic knowledge and understanding of the system of civil law; 2) understand difference between private law institutes and their origins in different legal traditions; 3) gain skills of critical thinking allowing to understand the diversity of legal rules and principles in civil law.

The learning outcomes of the course can be summarized as follows:

Knowledge:

1. Students will learn the basic structure of civil law and its main systems at the domestic level and international unification projects.

2. Students will learn the historical background of civil law in Europe and the main differences between leading legal families regarding their structure and principal rules.
3. Students will learn to differentiate key concepts of civil law (e.g., “obligation”, “tort/delict”, “property”, “inheritance”) and understand their role and function in the system of civil law.
4. Students will obtain knowledge about the functioning of civil law that will serve as a necessary foundation for further studies of specialized areas of civil law (contract law, intellectual property, family law, etc.).

Skills:

5. Students will develop legal skills including critical and comparative legal analysis.
6. Students will develop skills of writing academic works and participating in small class discussion during the lectures.
7. Students will learn to apply the acquired knowledge to practical case studies.

Competences:

8. Students will effectively identify key private law institutes, their purpose and role in the system of civil law and their relevance and function both in daily life and legal practice.
9. Students will be able to critically analyse civil law issues and give reasoned opinions about them.
10. Students will improve their listening and note-taking skills.

GRADING CRITERIA

| Criteria | Weighting |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| A mid-term assignment | 40% |
| Final exam | 60% |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Missed seminars. Students must be present in seminars. In case a student is unable to participate in seminar due to an objective reason, he/she must immediately inform the course administration. If the student has missed a seminar due to an objective obstacle, he/she will be requested to submit a homework assignment. However, in any event, a student will not be allowed to sit in the final exam if the student has not been present in at least 3 seminars.

2. Failed mid-term assignment. If a student has failed his/her mid-term assignment (either due to a non-submission or an unsatisfactory grade), he/she will not be able to re-take the mid-term assignment. However, the student preserves the right to sit in the final exam. The grade (from 0 to 3) of the failed mid-term assignment will be used to calculate the overall grade. If the overall grade is below 4, the student has to retake the whole course.

3. Failed final exam. If a student has failed his/her final exam (either due to an absence or an unsatisfactory grade), he/she has a right to re-take the exam. If the student does not submit the re-take exam or receives an unsatisfactory grade in the re-take exam, he/she has to retake the

whole course. If after the re-take exam, the overall grade is below 4, the student has to retake the whole course.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

| No. | Main subjects | Planned hours |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Introduction to history and theory of civil law. Different systems of civil law (German, French, common law, Latvian, international unification projects) | 2 |
| 2 | Natural and legal persons. | 2 |
| 3 | Property, possession and other <i>in rem</i> rights. Introduction to inheritance law. | 12 |
| 4 | Introduction to obligation law. | 8 |
| 5 | Torts (delicts) and quasi-delicts. | 8 |