RIGA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW

Course Outline

Course number	**RBA306**					
Course title	Constitutional Law					
Credit points	3 ECTS					
Total hours	80					
Lecture hours	30					
Seminar and other hours	-					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites	None					
Category	**Mandatory**	**X**	Restricted elective		Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	***Academic degree***	***Academic position***
Kristaps Tamužs	LL.M.	Visiting Lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

Name	***Academic degree***	***Academic position***
Kristaps Tamužs	LL.M.	Visiting Lecturer
Filip Cyuńczyk	Ph.D.	Visiting Lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

The course is aimed at introducing the students to the basic concepts and principles of constitutional law. Constitutional law is concerned with the organisation of the state, and the relationship between the state and the individual. Constitutions, among other things, help to resolve conflicts within state's structures and among its organs and also conflicts between the state and the individual. Human rights of the people are ordinarily primarily guaranteed by constitutions and implemented by using constitutional mechanisms. The course will address issues related to the formation and transformation of constitutional law as well as its practical application, primarily on the basis of examples from the Germany, Latvia and the United States of America. The second part of the course will be based on the general constitutional theory with the references to the regional, Central and Eastern European, constitutional normative solutions and constitutionalism. The theoretical part will be focusing on the presentation of the basic concepts related to the formation of the constitutional political and legal order, general mechanisms of functioning of the constitutional liberal democracy and the specificity of the regional (CEE) transitional constitutional reality.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **Knowledge**

  The students will gain knowledge of "how" and "why" states are organised. The "how" will cover the actual functioning of constitutional democracies, such as elections and legislative process, administration of state power, the set-up and functioning of the judiciary as well as the separation of the branches of state power. Constitutional mechanisms for the protection of human rights will be discussed alongside the interaction between domestic law and international and supranational law. The "why" will cover the theoretical aspects of constitutionalism. Is constitutional democracy the only way to organise a state? Are there risks inherent in this system? Can we avoid them? What are the specifics of the regional CEE transitional constitutionalism?

- **Competencies**

  The students will gain a systematic overview of how legal systems operate. Constitutional law is the backbone of every national legal system. The students will gain an understanding of the interplay between the individual and the state as well as between various players at the state and international level.

- **Skills**

  The students will be able to identify and apply the principles of formation and operation of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of state power. It is expected that the students will have a solid foundation in resolving various human rights related issues. Also, they will be able to identify the theoretical background of the constitutional movements, both general and its regional (CEE) variations, as determined by various legal and societal factors.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Mid-term exam	40%
Final exam	40%
Course paper #1	10%
Course paper #2	10%