

Course Outline

Course number	RBA306					
Course title	Constitutional Law					
Credit points	3 ECTS					
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>
Kristaps Tamužs	LL.M.	Visiting Lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Kristaps Tamužs	LL.M.	Visiting Lecturer
Jernej Letnar Čerņič	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, rule of law 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.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Mid-term exam	40%
Final exam	50%
Course paper (KT)	10%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The mid-term exam will account for 40% of the final grade and will address the material covered in the first half of the course.

The final exam will account for 50% of the final grade and will primarily address the material covered in the second half of the course (although inevitably a good grasp of the concepts covered during the first half will be necessary to fully understand the second half).

The course paper will be a short take-home assignment that will require the students to analyse constitutional law aspects of topical news stories.

The attendance is not mandatory but greatly encouraged and over the years has empirically proven to have a direct correlation with the final grade.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Branches of state power and their separation	6
2	International dimensions of constitutional law	2
3	Human rights	4
4	Constitutional law of Latvia	2
5	Constitutionalism and constitutional democracy	5
6	Models of constitutionalism: an overview	3
7	Limits of Power. Rule of law as a crucial issue of transitional constitutionalism	2
8	Role of the constitutional courts in the democratic transition period	2
9	New democracies under the pressure of populism	4
10	Course sum-up. Overview of the material	2