Course Outline

Course number	RTL105				
Course title	**Privacy and Data Protection**				
Credit points	3 ECTS				
Total hours	75				
Contact hours	24				
Independent studies	51				
Course level	Masters				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	X	Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Aleksandrs Potaičuks	PhD	Docent (assistant professor)

COURSE TEACHERS

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Aleksandrs Potaičuks (certified trainer of the Council of Europe's HELP programme)	PhD	Docent (assistant professor)

COURSE ABSTRACT

This course aims to introduce students to the key concepts and principles of privacy and data protection law, paying particular attention to new emerging technologies.

The course is designed on several assumptions. Firstly, although it is intended to be an advanced course on data protection, it will initially provide a general overview of the core principles of data protection in Europe, before building on this with advanced knowledge of new technologies. Secondly, the course aims to impart more regulatory

knowledge. Thirdly, the course focuses on new technologies that pose new risks to data protection and privacy.

This course is intended to be more practical than theoretical. At the start of the course, students will be asked to select (or develop) a particular technology. During the subsequent lectures and seminars, students will examine and discuss their chosen technologies and associated risks in relation to various privacy topics, including the scope of personal data and privacy concerns, the rights of data subjects, international transfers, privacy policies, cloud technology, the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI). By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the various data protection issues relating to their chosen technology.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	*Weighting*
1. Final exam	100%
2. * If a student submits a statement of accomplishment from the Council of Europe course "Data Protection and Privacy Rights" before the final lecture, their final grade may be increased by one point.	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The exam will assess problem solving skills through open-type questions. It is intended to cover all topics learned during the course.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	*Main subjects*	*Planned hours*
1	Introduction to privacy and data protection & new technologies	12
2	Data transfer requirements, standard contractual clauses and binding corporate rules	2
3	The data protection authorities, data protection officers and incident response	2
4	Protection of privacy as a fundamental right	4
5	Privacy in electronic communications – ePrivacy, Data Security in Cloud and IoT & Emerging Trends in Data Protection	2
6	Data protection and AI	2

COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

	Session subjects and readings	Lecture/seminar
1	**Lecture 1: Introduction to the course and data protection legal frameworks** • Council of Europe: Handbook on European Data Protection Law, Publications Office of the European Union, 2018, p. 15 – 27	Lecture
2	**Lecture 2: Personal data & key data processing principles** • Council of Europe: Handbook on European Data Protection Law, Publications Office of the European Union, 2018, p. 81 – 134	Lecture
3	**Lecture 3: Personal data & key data processing principles** • Council of Europe: Handbook on European Data Protection Law, Publications Office of the European Union, 2018, p. 139 – 247	Lecture
4	**Seminar 1: Designing the app & recognising data protection issues** • Trepte, S. (2011). *Privacy online: Perspectives on privacy and self-disclosure in the social web*. L. Reinecke (Ed.). Berlin: Springer.	Seminar
5	**Seminar 2: The notion of consent in data protection** • European Data Protection Board. Guidelines 05/2020 on consent under Regulation 2016/679 • European Data Protection Board. Opinion 08/2024 on Valid Consent in the Context of Consent or Pay Models Implemented by Large Online Platforms	Seminar
6	**Seminar 3: Data protection policy for a technology: case study** • OpenAI OpCo, LLC. Privacy policy. Latest updated version • Meta Privacy Policy. Latest updated version • European Commission: Privacy code of conduct on mobile health apps	Seminar
7	**Lecture 4: Data transfer requirements, standard contractual clauses and binding corporate rules** • Council of Europe: Handbook on European Data Protection Law, Publications Office of the European Union, 2018, p. 249 – 265 • European Data Protection Board. Guidelines 02/2024 on Article 48 GDPR • European Data Protection Board. Guidelines 2/2018 on derogations of Article 49 under Regulation 2016/679	Lecture

		Session subjects and readings	Lecture/seminar
8		**Seminar 4: The data protection authorities, data protection officers and incident response**	Seminar
		• Council of Europe: Handbook on European Data Protection Law, Publications Office of the European Union, 2018, p. 175-180; 187-203; 236-248	
9		**Lecture 5: Protection of privacy as a fundamental right**	Lecture
		1. Constitutional control: actualities in the case law of ECHR & CJEU 2. Data Protection in the Workplace 3. Health & special categories of personal data	
		• Guide on Article 8 of the ECHR: https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/guide_art_8_eng • ECHR's Factsheets in relation to private life: https://www.echr.coe.int/factsheets • Potaičuks, A. (2024). Data Protection Under Review of Constitutional Court: Administrative Databases Directly Accessible to Public Authorities. *TalTech Journal of European Studies, 14*(2). https://doi.org/10.2478/bjes-2024-0017 • Potaičuks, A., & Tamužs, K. (2025). Open Court Principle and Respecting Privacy: Granting Anonymity and Restricting Access to Case Files in Constitutional Court Review Procedure. *International Journal for Court Administration, 16*(1). https://doi.org/10.36745/ijca.593 • D'Aponte, M. New technologies and respect for the worker's privacy in ECHR case law. *Revue de droit comparé du travail et de la sécurité sociale 4* (2021). https://doi.org/10.4000/rdctss.2718	
10		**Seminar 5: Protection of privacy as a fundamental right**	Seminar
		• Guide on Article 8 of the ECHR: https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/guide_art_8_eng • ECHR's Factsheets in relation to private life: https://www.echr.coe.int/factsheets • Potaičuks, A. (2024). Data Protection Under Review of Constitutional Court: Administrative Databases Directly Accessible to Public Authorities. *TalTech Journal of European Studies, 14*(2). • Potaičuks, A., & Tamužs, K. (2025). Open Court Principle and Respecting Privacy: Granting Anonymity and Restricting Access to Case Files in Constitutional Court Review Procedure. *International Journal for Court Administration, 16*(1).	
11		**Lecture 6: Privacy in electronic communications – ePrivacy, Data Security in Cloud and IoT & Emerging Trends in Data Protection**	Lecture

	Session subjects and readings	*Lecture/se minar*
	• Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2002 concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector • European Data Protection Board report concerning the use of cloud-based services by the public sector • European Data Protection Board. Guidelines 1/2020 on processing personal data in the context of connected vehicles and mobility related applications • European Data Protection Board. Guidelines 2/2023 on Technical Scope of Art. 5(3) of ePrivacy Directive	
12	**Lecture 7: Data Protection and AI; summary** • European Data Protection Board. Opinion 28/2024 on certain data protection aspects related to the processing of personal data in the context of AI models	Lecture

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course has the following main learning outcomes:

Knowledge:
Upon successfully completing the course, students will have:
1. Knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of data protection law;
2. knowledge of how data protection law works in practice in technological contexts;
3. An understanding of some of the main challenges to privacy today, including constitutional law, AI and big data;
4. The ability to analyse practical situations involving possible privacy violations and identify redress mechanisms.

Skills:
Upon successful completion of the course students will acquire:
1. Legal research skills allowing them to engage in independent research;
2. Presentation skills to develop and present complex legal arguments;
3. Skills necessary to apply the knowledge acquired to case studies;

Competencies:
Upon successful completion of the course students will have:
1. Use intellectual competencies in analysis, evaluation, synthesis and application to assess the logic, validity and relevance of complex legal and philosophical arguments relating to data protection.
2. The ability to work autonomously within the complex and specialised area of data protection law.
3. The ability to introduce an internal privacy protection policy within the organisation.

By completing the study course and successfully passing examination, the student will be able to:

Learning outcomes	Evaluation criteria		
	(40-69%)	*(70-89%)*	*(90-100%)*
Knowledge	The student has acquired only a basic understanding of the course content and lacks clarity on several core concepts.	The student meets the general knowledge expectations, though there are still areas of incomplete understanding.	The student has demonstrated in-depth knowledge and understanding of the issues related to the course subject.
Skills	The student displays only a fundamental level of skills.	The student shows solid and competent skill development.	The student exhibits advanced and highly developed skills.
Competences	The student is able to apply knowledge only at a basic level. They struggle to assess and evaluate legal issues and can identify relevant legal norms, but have difficulty applying them accurately.	The student can apply knowledge at a satisfactory level, though not yet independently or with full accuracy. There are occasional challenges in applying legal norms correctly.	The student can apply knowledge both independently and accurately. They are capable of assessing and evaluating legal issues, identifying relevant legal norms, and applying them appropriately.

Please analyse the contribution of defined grading criteria to learning outcomes. Number of grading criteria and learning outcomes should correspond to previously defined one.

Grading criteria	Learning outcomes										
	1.	**2.**	**3.**	**4.**	**5.**	**6.**	**7.**	**8.**	**9.**	**10.**	**11.**
Final exam	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

COURSE LITERATURE

Compulsory literature

No.	Author, year, title, publisher
1	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights: Handbook on European data protection law (FRA, 2018)
2	Guidelines and opinions of the European Data Protection Board indicated during the course
3	Judgments of the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights indicated during the course

Additional literature and sources

No.	Author, year, title, publisher
6	Kuner, Christopher, and others (eds), The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): A Commentary (New York, 2020; online edn, Oxford Law Pro), https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198826491.001.0001
7	Ebers, Martin, and Karin Sein, eds. Privacy, Data Protection and Data-Driven Technologies. Taylor & Francis, 2024.