

Course Outline

Course number	RBA302				
Course title	Introduction to Law				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)				
Total hours	80				
Lecture and seminar hours	30				
Course level	Bachelor of Laws				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective		Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Janis Neimanis	Dr.iur.	Visiting lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Janis Neimanis	Dr.iur.	Visiting lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

If one would have to explain to others what law is about, why laws are enforced and how laws are applied, we would likely resort to examples from our own life experiences. Each of us has, at some stage, come face-to-face with law. All of us have rights, and we have responsibilities. At school, during studies, at work, at home. We make use of our rights on daily basis. Law is all around us. During this course, we will "classify", arrange and try to explain these life experiences from the perspective of theoretical application of the law.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the course are:

Knowledge:

1. The students will understand how laws are created, what is their origin and how they are enforced.
2. The students will gain a basis orientation within the legal system.
3. The students will be able to comprehend the methodology of law enforcement.

Skills:

1. The students will gain the ability to use different sources of the law and analyse them when facing legal issues.
2. The students will gain the ability to comprehend the legal rules not only by looking at the text of the legal rule.
3. The students will gain the ability to resolve legal cases by applying a methodological approach.

Competences:

1. The students will be able to apply the knowledge they have gained during the course by formulating a written opinion and arguing a fictional case (*casus*).
2. The students will gain the ability to develop further understanding of specific areas of the law by applying what they have learned.
3. The students will be able to critically analyse general questions of law. They will also be able to give opinions and provide argue issues concerned with general questions of the law.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Grade weight
Research (essay, case study)	30 %
Homework (case analysis)	30 %
Final 'open book' exam (case analysis)	40 %

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, the student must complete all homework and research during the time assigned by the lecturer and pass successfully (grade not below 4) 60% of all test questions forming part of the e-course.

The student must also pass successfully the final exam (grade not below 4).

Homework and research will be not graded. However, the lecturer will provide feedback so that the students are able to track their progress, which will be assessed and graded in total, and correct the mistakes they made themselves.

If the test questions are graded below 4, no re-take would be possible.

The exam will comprise written analysis of a case. If the exam is graded below 4, the student will be able to re-take the exam once. During re-take, the student will have to write another case analysis. The re-take grade will be the final grade for the whole course.

If the final grade is positive, the final grade will be calculated by applying the grade weight percentages.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS (30 h, 15 sessions; 1 session – 2 h)

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1.	Why we behave the way we behave? Is our behaviour based on rules? The notion of law. What is law about? The subjects of law. The subjective legal rights.	2 h
2.	What is norm (rule) of law?	6 h
3.	The system of law.	2 h
4.	Is the law a set of written legal rules? Who makes the law? Are there other sources of law besides written legal norms (rules)?	10 h
5.	Why legal norms (rules) are applicable and being enforced? What is the meaning of legal force?	1 h
6.	The text of legal norm (rule) and the meaning of legal norm (rule). The interpretation of law.	3 h
7.	The application of legal norms (rules). Case solving techniques. Legal argumentation.	6 h