



Course Outline

Course number	RBC506				
Course title	Interdisciplinary Research: Law and Politics				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)				
Total hours	80				
Lecture hours	22				
Seminar and other hours	10				
Course level	Bachelor (Law and Diplomacy Programme)				
Prerequisites	RBA127: Legal Research Methods				
Category	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective		Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Filip Cyuńczyk	PhD	Visiting lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Filip Cyuńczyk	PhD	Visiting lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

This is a course of interdisciplinary research, which methodology basis on the specificity of the Law and Diplomacy Programme. The methodology is composed of the elements affecting the broadest possible picture of legal and political relations among several societies. It focuses on conceptualizing and executing both doctrinal and empirical legal and political research projects. The course will examine the understanding of broad socio-legal and socio-political realities, the students' interdisciplinary research design abilities, will equip them both in the theoretical and methodological toolbox. It will guide students through the research design process (e.g. starting from the choice of topic, formulation of a research question, research conduction and ending with writing a conclusion). The final course result will be equipping them in the skills, which creates the possibility for the Law and Diplomacy programme's interdisciplinary research conduction. The theoretical concepts represent both approaches to law and politics typical for these two branches of academia. In other words, Law and Diplomacy programme students will achieve an ability to analyse the law from different perspectives (i.e. as an independent and dependable variable).

As such, it aims to develop a sophisticated and rigorous sense of how to create scholarly research in law and politics.

As the lectures and seminars are combined, there will be practical exercises at each class. Students are expected to be active and aware that the final paper should be designed step by step, thanks to the new skills acquired during the class meetings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has the following main objectives:

Knowledge:

1. Students have revised the necessary theoretical knowledge to conduct a doctrinal research basis on the correlations between legal and political spheres of society's everyday functioning.
 - a. Particularly on the correlations between such elements as politics, law, society, international relations, and the role of the international and supranational law.
2. Students are aware of the main approaches to the interdisciplinary research and understand them.
3. The students are aware of the most critical issues related to comparative research, including socio-legal and socio-political dimensions.
4. Students have learnt to identify critical mistakes and the blind spots in academic research design.

Skills:

1. Students have improved legal research skills by including interdisciplinary elements.
2. Students have enhanced argumentation skills.
3. Students have improved writing skills.
4. Students can independently design their undergraduate research.
5. Students can use the theoretical framework in their argumentation lines.

Competences:

1. Students are able to formulate a topic of a research paper and set research questions.
2. Students can explain the role of an introduction and a conclusion in academic research. Students are able to identify the essential elements of an introduction and a conclusion.
3. Students are able to explain the most important elements of doctrinal research.
4. Students are able to justify choices related to comparative research.
5. Students can build their argumentation line by showing the sequence of cause and effect.
6. Students have trained an ability to notice typical mistakes in academic research and correct them.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Class participation/Class presentation	10%
Article's review	30%
Research paper	60%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, a student has to:

1. Submit, 24 hours after the last session, to the dedicated section in **RGSL Portal** a critical review of the academic article related to his/her research interests and the topic of bachelor thesis (30% of the final grade);
 - a) The technical details of the task will be discussed with the group during the introductory session.
 - b) If a student receives a negative grade for a *Review* task, it is not possible to re-take this component. The following rule includes task submission after the deadline.

2. Submit, not later than one week after the last session, to the dedicated section in **RGSL Portal** a *Research Paper* (Final Paper) basis on the topic of a planned bachelor thesis. (60% of the final grade)
 - a) The technical details of the task will be discussed with the group during the introductory session.
 - b) If a student fails the *Research Paper* task or if the course's final grade is negative, a student is entitled to re-submit the corrected *Research Proposal* (re-exam). However, the re-submit grade will still count only 60% towards the final grade.
 - c) If, after the re-submission, the final grade is still negative, unfortunately, the student has to re-take the course.

3. Class Participation weight is equal to 10% of the final grade. The class participation grade is counted as follows:
 - a) Students active involvement in sessions;
 - b) At some seminar or lecture sessions beginning, some oral presentations will be necessary. In effect, the "active participation" can be exchanged for the max. 10 minutes oral presentation at several session beginning. Volunteers will prepare the speech on the topic offered by the lecturer.
 - c) **Class Participation Grade does not include students' reports presentations on their research papers progress! (Sessions 6 and 11).**

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
01.	Introduction and Summary	4
02.	Research: development and progress	4
03.	Law and Politics mutual relations	6
04	The Ideal of Law	2
05.	Theory of Constitutionalism	2
06.	Theory of Justice	2
07.	Another Theories of Jurisprudence: Natural Law, Feminist Theory, Racial Subject, Rights in Legal and Political Philosophy	4
08.	Populism impact on contemporary democracy	2
09.	Law and Politics: in regional (CEE) reality	6