



Course Outline

Course number	RBE331
Course title	Legal Interpretation
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)
Total hours	80
Lecture hours	32
Seminar hours	
Independent studies (hours)	48
Course level	Bachelor
Prerequisites	A student must have passed courses RBA127 "Introduction to Law", RBA313 "Contract Law", RBA306 "Constitutional Law". ¹
Category	B (Restricted elective) course

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Laura Ratniece	MA (<i>cum laude</i>), PhD	Assistant professor

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Laura Ratniece	MA (<i>cum laude</i>), PhD	Assistant professor

COURSE ABSTRACT

This course focuses on various issues related to legal interpretation. The students will study the key issues of legal interpretation and the classical legal interpretation methods. The students will focus on selected issues related to interpretation of national law, international law, EU law and contracts.

Elements of a student-centred teaching approach are adopted in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has the following main objectives:

Knowledge:

¹ Students who study at RGSL as Erasmus exchange students or within a framework of any other exchange programme are exempt from this requirement.

1. Students are aware of the key issues related to legal interpretation and understand them.
2. Students are aware of the different approaches to legal interpretation.
3. Students have acquired knowledge and understanding (corresponding to the bachelor level) about interpretation of national law, international law, EU law and contracts.

Skills:

1. Students have improved their argumentation and presentation skills.
2. Students have improved their legal interpretation skills.
3. Students have improved their legal research skills.

Competences:

1. Students are able to apply the knowledge gained during the course by analysing a court decision (of a student's choice). This *inter alia* requires an ability to assess and evaluate facts of the case, identify the legal interpretation methods which the court has applied.
2. Students are able to critically analyse issues related to legal interpretation. The students are able to give an opinion and provide reasonable arguments about issues related to the topics studied in this course.
3. Students are able to explain how they would approach interpretation of different legal norms and discuss challenges related to their interpretation.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam	70%
Presentation	30%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass the course, a student must: 1) give a presentation; 2) pass the exam. The final grade of the course will be the average grade of the exam and the presentation (based on the 70%-30% proportion). In case the presentation is graded below 4, it is not possible to re-take it / compensate for it. If a student fails the exam, a student is entitled to do a re-exam. If at the end of both components, the final grade turns out to be negative (1 – 3), a student needs to re-take the course.

Mandatory attendance requirement: taking into account the format of this course, it is absolutely mandatory to attend at least 11 classes. If a student misses more than five classes, the student will not be admitted to the exam.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1.	The meaning and challenges of legal interpretation.	4
2.	Interpretation of law.	24
3.	Interpretation of contracts.	4