

The Law Faculty of the University of Münster
List of English-taught Courses (*)

Course title	Course description	SWS (Hours per week)	Credits (**)	summer semester	winter semester
Undergraduate Studies					
List of English-taught courses (*) within our main degree program: "LAW"					
German Law					
Introduction to German Private Law for International Students	The lecture is designed to introduce foreign students to the basics of German private law. It gives an overview over the history and fundamental principles of the German Civil Code (BGB) and attempts to make students familiar with the most important provisions and their application. The lecture covers the law of contracts and obligations (including tort law), property law, as well as the basics of family, succession, commercial, and company law. Case examples and comparative remarks will help to understand the peculiarities of German private law and the German legal system. Students will take a written exam (6 ECTS) and have the opportunity to take an additional coursework (additional 2 ECTS).	2	6 or 8	✓	✓
Introduction to German Public Law for International Students	The course explores the foundations of German public law. It focusses on Germany's constitutional history and the constitutional order established by the Basic Law (fundamental principles, institutions, legislation, fundamental rights). An outline of German administrative law completes the picture. Students will take a written exam (6 ECTS) and have the opportunity to take an additional coursework (additional 2 ECTS).	2	6 or 8		✓
International Law / Comparative Public and Private Law					
Common Law Methodology	This course offers an introduction to certain aspects of common law legal systems, with a strong focus on how the systems in England and the United States function. Participants will learn about the structure of these systems as well as the method of legal analysis used in them. The knowledge and skills gained during the course will be assessed in a written examination at its conclusion.	2	6		✓
Comparative Constitutionalism (Verfassungsvergleichung)	The lecture on "Comparative Constitutional Law" compares German constitutional law with the British and French constitutions in particular, as well as (partly) with US law (Lepsius). Methodological questions of how the comparative method works are dealt with first. The lecture aims at understanding the functioning of constitutional law in general, e.g. by a comparison of German law to the unwritten, dynamic British constitution which is not organized in a hierarchical manner. Special lectures dealing with a comparison of single principles, constitutional institutions and proceedings will follow. By contrasting different constitutional systems, students will be enabled to reflect legal figures and institutional arrangements of	2	6	✓	

	German law critically. They will be able to fully understand constitutional arrangements which had been dealt with before in previous semesters without full reflection (e.g. the position of constitutional courts, relevance of statutes, legal figures such as <i>pouvoir constituant</i> and <i>pouvoirs constitués</i>).				
Comparative Property Law	<i>not yet available</i>	2	6		✓
Current developments in Global Human Rights Law	This course considers selected current developments in international and comparative human rights, but is taught with the overarching aim of introducing the ways in which rights operate in the real world. Each topic will be considered alongside relevant theory and analytical tools, and we will consider black letter legal materials alongside sources from history, sociology and political science. Along the way, we will engage the extraordinary rise of rights in courts in recent decades, cutting edge applications of rights around the world, and what makes rights-based litigation approaches succeed, and fail.	2	6		✓
European Media Law	<i>not yet available</i>	2	6		✓
Fundamentals of American Constitutional Law	Fundamentals of American Constitutional Law - constitutional law in the United States can be divided into two parts: one part dealing with the organization of government and the other part dealing with fundamental rights. This course will cover both of these parts and include discussions on: legislative power, executive power, judicial power, federalism, freedom of speech, religious liberty, equal protection under the law, and implied constitutional rights.	2	6	✓	
History of Human Rights	This course will discuss how humanity has moved from a world in which human rights laws were almost non-existent to one in which they are now widespread in national and supranational law and affect a large and growing number of areas of law. The focus is on the 20th century, beginning with a framing of the scope and then looking at key developments up to 1900, examining key developments before and after the First World War within the system of the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation. This is followed by an examination of developments after the Second World War, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international legal developments, as well as the emergence of the Inter-American and European legal systems. In the 1960s, we will examine the emergence of the main UN human rights instruments and the neglected link between this development and the independence movements in Africa, South and Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. In the 1970s and 1980s, we will look at the major changes in the inter-American and European legal systems and the emergence of the African legal system as well as the rise of modern human rights NGOs and the Helsinki process. Finally, we will look at developments in supranational legal systems after the Cold War, including the creation of the International Criminal Court. Developments will be considered as globally as possible: We will see that the centre of human rights activity shifts over time, with different groups, countries, regimes and states playing a role.	2	6	✓	
International Criminal Procedure	<i>not yet available</i>	2	6		✓
Law in the Digital Economy	The lecture "European Data Law" provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework governing the European data economy by introducing the key Eu-	2	6	✓	

	<p>European legal acts of the past four years. The first module covers platform regulation, which, through the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA), establishes for the first time a uniform regulatory framework across the European Union for platforms and Big Tech companies. The second module consists of general data law in the form of the Data Act, which serves as a horizontal regulatory act forming the backbone of European data economy legislation and is complemented by the Data Governance Act (DGA) and sector-specific regulations, such as those for healthcare and finance. The third and final module is dedicated to European cybersecurity law, which is steadily gaining importance with the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA), the Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA), and the NIS2 Directive. Finally, the world's first regulatory framework for Artificial Intelligence, the AI Regulation, is presented. The presentation of the individual legal acts does not occur in isolation but is enriched by lectures from practitioners to establish the necessary practical relevance.</p> <p><i>Due to limited capacities only four places can be guaranteed! Prior application at the SIZ is required.</i></p>				
Roman Foundations of European Private Laws (Römische Grundlagen und europäisches Privatrecht)	<p>For more than a millennium, Roman law has shaped the legal systems of continental Europe. From the 11th century onwards, it found its way into legal scholarship and practice, and continued to live on in the modern 19th and 20th century codifications.</p> <p>The German BGB too can be regarded as a branch grown from the stem of Roman law. Therefore, insight into its Roman foundations can help develop a deeper understanding of modern German law, in particular private law. However, there is not such a thing as 'the' Roman law. In this course, the different stages of development of Roman law will be studied and discussed. Travelling through the four periods of Roman history (the Monarchy, the Roman Republic, the Principate, and the Dominate), the development of Roman law from the Law of the XII Tables (510 BCE) until Justinian's codification of Roman law (c. 530 CE) will be outlined.</p> <p>In contrast to the course Römisches Privatrecht (Römisches Vermögensrecht)/Roman private law, the focus will not be on substantive private law, but rather on Roman society, its governmental institutions and constitutional law, the sources of Roman law and Roman legal practice. In addition, some attention will be given to the law of (civil) procedure, and some aspects of material law, notably the law of delict and the transfer of ownership.</p>	2	6	✓	
Völkerrecht II: International Human Rights Protection	<p>This lecture, which is taught in English, builds upon the knowledge gained in the class Völkerrecht I and focusses particularly on International Human Rights Protection. Following an introduction on the sources and mechanisms of human rights protection, the lecture explores the role of national and international courts and the methodology and structure of human rights analysis. Afterwards, individual rights such as the right to life, civil and political rights, and equality rights are covered in more detail.</p>	2	6	✓	
Seminar (varying topics; registration in previous semester necessary)	<p>In addition to regular lectures, seminars of various kinds are offered at the Law Faculty of the University of Münster. Approximately 15-25 students participate in a seminar. They deal in depth with a specific legal topic. A seminar is not a weekly course but consists of writing an academic thesis comparable to a Bachelor thesis (ca. 25-40 pages) on one aspect of the main</p>	2	12	✓	✓

	<p>topic of the seminar, which is specified by the seminar instructor.</p> <p>The seminar paper is usually written during the lecture-free period before the beginning of the semester. In some seminars the seminar paper has to be handed in during the lecture period. You will then present the results of your written work in an oral presentation in a block course (2-3 days) held during the lecture period.</p> <p>Writing the thesis and attendance in the block course as well as the presentation are compulsory by registration for the seminar!</p> <p>Registration for the seminars takes place at the end of the previous semester, i.e. international students can only participate in a seminar in their second semester of study or must have already registered before the start of their first semester. An overview of the seminars offered and information on registration deadlines can be found in due course on the homepage of the Examinations Office: www.jura.uni@munster.de/de/fakultaet/pruefungsamt/. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the secretary of the examining professor.</p> <p>The majority of seminars is held in German, but every semester there are 1-2 seminars which are offered in English.</p> <p>Please note: Law students (state examination programme) and Bachelor students have priority due to the limited number of places!</p>				
Colloquium (varying topics; registration in previous semester necessary)	<p>Basically, colloquia are comparable to seminars (see above for registration, course size and time frame). In contrast to a seminar, however, students do not write a whole academic thesis, but only a shorter discussion paper, which must then be presented and defended by the students. In addition, the students must participate in the discussion as part of the defence of the discussion papers of the other participants in the colloquium.</p> <p>Please note: Law students (state examination programme) and Bachelor students have priority due to the limited number of places!</p>	2	9	✓	✓
List of English-taught courses within our certificate program: "Foreign Law Program (FFA)" (*)					
American Criminal Trial Practice - A hands-on tour of a murder trial in the U.S.	<p>The course will provide a broad overview of American Criminal Jury Trials by way of actual cases and actual evidence. The manner of presentation will be what you might expect to find if you were attending a typical American law school class on Trial Advocacy. The materials will be presented in an interactive way with in-class exercises and discussions.</p> <p>The course will introduce students to all phases of a criminal jury trial from a legal, procedural and practical point of view. The course will begin with an explanation of jury selection, voir dire, and the practical methodology thereof. It will then focus on the content and presentation of opening statements to a jury panel. Next students will be familiarized with the procedure of introducing evidence in the form of testimony and physical evidence and taking into consideration the rules regarding admissibility. The course will also explore methods of impeachment and rehabilitation of lay and expert witnesses. The discussions will then focus on closing arguments and trial strategies. Finally, the course will introduce the procedural legal framework for death penalty cases in the U.S.</p>	2	6	✓	
Australian Constitutional Law	<p>This module is conducted in the English language and is drawn from the book Cannon, Lessons from the Australian Constitution: An Introduction to the Australian Legal System, Lit Verlag, Berlin and Muenster (2008). In the time available the coverage will be general and the breadth and depth of</p>	2	6	✓	

	the course will be adapted to suit the background understanding of the students and their grasp of the English language.				
British Constitutional Law	<p>The course introduces the fundamentals of British Constitutional law. The course introduces the sources of law in this area and types of constitution before moving on to the fundamental principles such as the rule of law and parliamentary sovereignty.</p> <p>The course considers the 'unwritten' nature of the constitution in the sense that there is no single codified document such as the GG in Germany or the Constitution in the US. Students will see how Acts of Parliament, common law (case law) and conventions play their part.</p> <p>The course introduces the voting system, how laws are made, the role and composition of Parliament, the Government, its function and the various forms of scrutiny. It considers the impact of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the UK's relationship with the EU with a particular emphasis on Brexit. The course further considers devolution and judicial review.</p>	2	6	✓	
Business and Human Rights: Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in International Value and Production Chains	The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights which were adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011 are turning from 'soft law' into 'hard law' in many states as they are enacting binding legislation on corporate due diligence obligations. This course will shed light on the emerging legal field of business and human rights governing the material due diligence obligations in different jurisdictions as well as access to justice for victims of human rights violations in connection with corporate activities. The course will also give an overview on current legal developments including on the European level.	2	6	✓	
Common Law Legal System	This course seeks to introduce students to aspects of the common law by focusing on the legal systems in England and the United States. After having been given an overview of the legal profession and court system, students are shown various aspects of court procedure and then spend several weeks learning about how the law works, with an emphasis on learning about how one uses case law and the role statutes play in the legal system.	2	6		✓
Common Law of Contract	This course introduces the fundamentals of common law contract law, with an emphasis on contract law in the United States. The course introduces the fundamentals of contract law, including: policy considerations, contract formation, required formalities, interpretation, performance, breach, defenses, and remedies. Students are asked to analyze cases and related fact patterns, in order to apply the relevant contract law and understand its practical implications.	2	6	✓	
Common Law of Tort	The course introduces fundamentals of common law tort law, with an emphasis on tort law in the United States. The course provides an overview of negligence, intentional torts and strict liability, including required elements, policy considerations, relevant tests, defenses and damages. Students are asked to analyze cases and related fact patterns, in order to apply the relevant tort law and understand its practical implications.	2	6	✓	
Company and Commercial Law	This course covers English company law in depth whilst also considering various broader aspects of commercial law. First, it considers the various types of business structures such as partnerships and companies, which are the focus of the course. Secondly, it considers the advantages and disadvantages of the various structures, in addition to any formalities which may be required and the concept of the 'corporate veil'. It then moves on to look at duties of directors and the role they play in good corporate governance. In addition to this, the course covers how companies are financed, the	2	6	✓	

	role of shareholders and the termination of companies. The final section moves on to consider the behaviour of companies in broader social contexts, examining corporate criminality, social responsibility, and human rights issues.				
Constitutional and other Protections of Suspected Criminals in the U.S.	<p>This course will focus on cases as the method of teaching, as common law relies heavily upon the case law developed by the Supreme Court of the United States, and other courts. The class will examine concepts of protections provided to people under the 4th, 5th and 6th Amendments, with special discussions also addressing the 14th Amendment, to the Constitution of the United States.</p> <p>Reading the abbreviated "Nutshell" version of a text will help the students as the course follows the continuing development of standards used in applying these protections by the courts. As they have changed over time, and are continuing to change, the class will look at some old cases, and will study some of the most recent cases, and discuss the directions that the majority and minority views on the Court are appearing to urge.</p> <p>A limited part of the course will be designed to allow students an opportunity to discuss in English pretrial and trial issues with a sitting judge. Students will be given an opportunity ask questions and discuss topics of their choosing.</p>	2	6	✓	
Evidence in a Common Law Setting: The South African Example	<i>Not yet available</i>	2	6	✓	
Human Rights Protection in Europe	<i>Not yet available</i>	2	6	✓	
International and Comparative Indigenous Rights	<p>This course is intended to provide an introduction to the unique legal and political position of the world's 370 million Indigenous Peoples. Given the immensity of the variations in lifestyle, economic and social circumstances, traditional belief systems, levels of involvement in state governance and different legal positions within nation states, this course can only provide an overview of this fascinating topic. The course will begin with a review of the development of international law in the context of</p> <p>European expansion to the Americas and Africa in the 1500s to the mid 1900s. We will then examine in detail the specific historical and legal developments in the USA, Canada, Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand as case studies through examining similarities, differences and the way legal and political ideas have travelled amongst the 4 countries. The course will end with a return to international law to examine how the law has been radically transformed over the past 40 years.</p>	2	6	✓	
International Commercial Arbitration	<p>The course „International Commercial Arbitration: Theory and Practice" aims to offer an interactive and comprehensive insight into international commercial arbitration, emphasizing both theoretical understanding and practical application. Students are expected to actively participate, culminating in a 25-minute oral presentation on a subject of their choice from a provided list.</p> <p>Course objectives include provision of a thorough understanding of international commercial arbitration principles, practices, and procedures as well as development of students' ability to critically analyze and apply civil law, common law, and established best practices in arbitration. The course emphasizes on fostering effective communication skills through oral presentations and active class participation as well as enhancing research skills by engaging with relevant commentaries, treaties, arbitration rules, and case law.</p> <p>The syllabus comprises selected readings in English (and</p>	2	6		✓

	<p>partially in German) encompassing relevant commentaries, treaties, arbitration rules, and case law. These readings serve as the foundation for both classroom discussions and the preparation of oral presentations. Topics covered include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and scope of international commercial arbitration • Arbitral procedures and rules • Enforcement of arbitral awards • Jurisdictional issues and conflicts of law • Comparative analysis of civil law and common law approaches in arbitration 				
International Competition Law	<p>This course is intended to provide an introduction to the international basis of competition law.</p> <p>Learning outcomes: Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate a sound knowledge and critical understanding of competition law in its international context; • demonstrate an awareness of the policy context and framework of international competition law; apply relevant principles of law to problematic fact situations; and • critically evaluate the relevant principles of law and make reasoned proposals for reform of specific areas of international competition law. 	2	6		✓
International Conflicts of Law in U.S. Legal System	<p>The anticipation and resolution of international legal disputes is often made more complex by fundamental contradictions existing between realities of international transactions and artifices of law. A basic fact of international relations is that private, as well as public, transactions abound that over-leap national boundaries. No such over-leapings, however, characterize the ordinary allocation and exercise of legal authority. Hence, a dispute involving an international transaction typically triggers responses from two or more national legal systems. Our course involves mostly an American perspective, exploring, through U.S. case law, the principles of jurisdiction and four methods of resolving conflicts of legislative, executive, and judicial jurisdiction: party choice, balancing, comity, and forum non convenience.</p>	2	6	✓	
International Intellectual Property Law	<p>Students will be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge and critical understanding of intellectual property law in its international context; demonstrate an awareness of the policy context and framework of international intellectual property law; apply relevant principles of law to problematic fact situations and critically evaluate the relevant principles of law and make reasoned proposals for reform of specific areas of international intellectual property law.</p>	2	6	✓	
Introduction to International Contract law	<p>This course is intended to provide an introduction to the challenges of contractual arrangements in an international setting and to the choices to be made, with a focus on practical matters of how to draft such agreements. Learning outcomes: Students will be able to identify and address the most important aspects to be dealt with in contractual arrangements in an international setting (choice of state court jurisdiction or arbitration, choice of law, uniform substantive law such as the Vienna Sales Convention, comparative contract law with a focus on the interpretation of contractual agreements).</p>	2	6		✓
Introduction to Public International Law	<p>This course offers an introduction to Public International Law in English, which has become the language of international law. For exam purposes, the focus will be on concepts and English terminology, but classes will also consider examples and illustrations to build up a sense of the international</p>	2	6	✓	

	public law order. We will aim for an overview, and so we cover a mix of both classical and contemporary topics of importance. We will start with foundational topics, including statehood and international legal personality, territory, the sources of international law, the law of treaties, jurisdiction, diplomatic relations and sovereign immunity. We will then examine selected substantive topics, including the use of force and the law of war, international adjudication and international criminal law, international economic law, international environmental law, international institutional and constitutional law, and international human rights, concluding with the increasingly important relationship between international law and domestic legal systems.				
U.S. Constitutional Law I: Structure of American Government	This class presents students with an overview of the most important provisions of the U.S. Constitution, and cases of the United States Supreme Court interpreting them. The tripartite nature of the federal government is discussed in historical context, as are concepts of U.S. federalism and the notion that the federal government is one of delegated powers. The class will also acquaint students with rudimentary aspects of U.S. Administrative Law.	2	6		✓
U.S. Constitutional Law II: Fundamentals Rights	Students attending this course will take a deep dive into various aspects of fundamental rights found in the U.S. Constitution. They will do so using several cases that were or are working their way through the U.S. court system. The cases will be introduced to students in the first session, and then be used to some extent throughout the course. More specifically, students will begin by looking at 2nd Amendment rights as they learn about the methods used by U.S. courts to interpret the U.S. Constitution. The course will then turn its attention to the First Amendment, which houses provisions dealing with freedom of speech and religious liberty, among others. From there students will explore how the Supreme Court has dealt with the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. We will then finish up by looking at how courts can and have read rights into the Constitution.	2	6	✓	
U.S. Criminal Procedure Law	In this course, we will learn about some selected issues in US criminal procedure law. The course begins with a general overview of the US criminal justice system (parties involved; differences between civil and criminal proceedings). We will learn about due process guarantees provided in the US Constitution. The concept of punishment is discussed (purposes and goals of punishment). We will then continue with the Trial Process, which will include the following topics: (a) burden of proof in criminal cases (here two short videos will be presented) and (b) plea bargaining in the USA (here a group activity will take place). The course concludes with lessons on the 4th Amendment's Search and Seizure Protections, the Exclusionary Rule and "Fruit of the Poisonous Tree" doctrine, and Confessions (Miranda Warnings). At the conclusion of the course, students will have learned important terminology in criminal procedure law and the criminal justice system as well as to critically consider/discuss some of the legal issues presented.	2	6		✓

(*) This list contains a selection of law courses from which you can chose for the purpose of your learning agreement. This information is supplied without liability. Detailed specifications of lectures (content, amount of credits, appointed semester, etc.) may be subject to change. Please check <https://vkonline.jura.uni-muenster.de/> regularly for further courses, detailed information and current changes. It is important to note that the FFA courses only have limited availability. For further information please contact the FFA office: ffa@uni-muenster.de.

Registration for FFA courses requires prior registration at the SIZ.

*(**) The ECTS-credits for courses within the main degree program "LAW" listed above are awarded to incoming students (guest students) exclusively in order to recognize the additional workload for non-native speakers. Full degree students of our Faculty receive fewer credits for the same classes.*