

Legal and Economic Studies Programme

Law Courses Winter Term 2021

The Legal and Economic Studies (LES) Programme is a unique partnership between the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. This new programme allows incoming exchange students to take classes offered by both faculties for an interdisciplinary and international educational experience. The language of instruction is English and all incoming exchange students from the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Business Administration are automatically eligible for the programme; no separate application is required. Students can choose one or more programme courses; students should clarify with their home institutions whether credit can be granted.

LES Law Courses

In Winter Term 2021/22 the law faculty has four LES law courses. The courses do not have any prerequisites and are suitable for students who do not primarily study law. Students can sign up for courses online or by writing Ms. Wesener, holly.wesener@hhu.de.

1. The Law and Legal System of Germany: Public Law. 4 ECTS. Kniest. Wednesdays, 12:30 – 16:00 (17.11, 01.12, 15.12, 12.01, 26.01, 02.02).
2. Public International Law. 4 ECTS. Wesener. Mondays, 12:30 – 14:00 (18.10.21 – 1.2.2022).
3. Institutions of the European Union. 4 ECTS. Richter. Tuesday, 16:30 – 20:00 (26.10, 9.11, 23.11, 30.11) and 14:30 – 18:00 (Tuesday 7.12). Excursion to Brussels on 10.1.2022. Mr. Richter has prepared a [video introduction to the course](#).
4. Comparative Law. 4 ECTS. Wesener. Tuesdays, 12:30 – 14:00 (19.10, 26.10, 16.11, 30.11, 25.1, 2.2) and 12:30 – 16:00 (2.11, 14.12. 11.1, 18.1).

Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12:30-14:00	Public International Law	Comparative Law	The Law and Legal System of Germany: Public Law		
14:30-16:00		(Comparative Law / Institutions of the EU on select dates)			
16:30 - 18:00		Institutions of the European Union			
18:30 - 20:00					

Course Descriptions

The Law and Legal System of Germany: Public Law

ECTS credits: Lecture and exam (2 HPW¹): 4 ECTS
 Optional term paper: 5 ECTS

Availability: The course will generally be offered each winter term.

Responsible Lecturer: Oliver Kniest, LL.M.

Contents:

The course provides a concise overview of the German Constitutional and Administrative Law. The course includes a field trip to the state parliament (Landtag) of North Rhine Westphalia (if permitted).

Topics to be covered may include:

1. General principles of fundamental rights
2. Various fundamental rights
3. Fundamental constitutional principles
4. Constitutional organs
5. Political parties
6. The legal forms of administrative actions
7. Special administrative law

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- understand core concepts of German Constitutional Law and the general principles of the German Administrative Legal system;
- know various fundamental rights and explain their comprehensive protection system; and
- describe the constitutional organs of the Federal Republic of Germany and their respective functions.

Examination Types/ Requirements for Award of Credit Points: Comprehensive examination in the form of a written exam at the end of the winter term. Successful participation in the exam. The exam will be passed if the grade is at least 4 points (out of 18 possible points).

¹ Hours per week. One academic hour is 45 minutes of class time. HPW in German is *Semesterwochenstunde* or SWS.

Introduction to Public International Law

ECTS credits: Lecture and exam (2 HPW): 4 ECTS

Availability: The course will generally be offered each winter term.

Responsible Lecturer: Holly Wesener, J.D. LL.M.

Contents:

The course provides a succinct but well-rounded insight into public international law, the system of rules governing relations between states, states and international organisations, and individuals, within the international community.

Topics to be covered may include:

1. The foundations and structure of international law;
2. The sources of international law;
3. The actors in the international legal system;
4. Jurisdiction;
5. Immunity from national jurisdiction and diplomatic protection;
6. State responsibility; and
7. Case studies in the areas of the international law of the sea, international human rights law, the use of force and/or the law of armed conflict.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- understand and discuss core concepts of public international law and the workings of the international legal system;
- explain the concepts of international legal personality, attribution of conduct, state responsibility, and sources of law, combining them with the knowledge of substantive legal rules, apply them to concrete situations; and
- relate current events to public international rules and principles.

Examination Types/ Requirements for Award of Credit Points: Comprehensive examination in the form of a written exam at the end of the winter term. Successful participation in the exam. The exam will be passed if the grade is at least 4 points (out of 18 possible points).

Institutions of the European Union

ECTS credits: Lecture and exam (2 HPW): 4 ECTS

Availability: The course will generally be offered each winter term.

Responsible Lecturer: Jochen M. Richter

Contents:

The course provides students with an introduction to the institutions of the European Union and the legal foundations for the institutional structure. Through a combination of lectures and practical exercises students will learn about the legal framework and its practical implications for the working aspects of European Union institutions. The course includes a field trip to an EU Institution and meetings with EU representatives.

Topics to be covered may include:

1. The legal framework of the EU;
2. The Institutions of the EU according to Art. 13ff. TEU;
3. EU Regulatory Powers arising from the Treaty of Lisbon;
4. The Law and Practice of Working Methods in Parliament;
5. Article 7 TEU and the Rule of Law;
6. The European Semester according to Regulation (EU) No 1175/2011 as a method of coordinating European economic and fiscal policy;
7. European Parliament Elections;
8. Field trip: The EU Institutions and their representatives.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the Institutions of the European Union, their respective functions and working methods;
- Interpret the legal foundations for the institutions and how they work together;
- Summarize the EU policy cycle;
- Discuss the EU legislative process; and
- Prepare a briefing note.

Examination Types/ Requirements for Award of Credit Points: Comprehensive examination in the form of a written exam at the end of the winter term. Successful participation in the exam. The exam will be passed if the grade is at least 4 points (out of 18 possible points).

Comparative Law

ECTS credits: Lecture, presentation and exam (2 HPW): 4 ECTS
 Optional term paper: 5 ECTS

Availability: The course will generally be offered each winter term.

Responsible Lecturer: Holly E. Wesener, J.D. LL.M.

Contents:

The first part of the course will introduce students to the discipline of comparative law, its aims, tools and methods. The second part of the course will review and analyse the two main legal traditions in the world, Common Law and Civil Law. During the third part of the course, students will give presentations applying comparative legal analysis to actual cases.

Topics to be covered may include:

Part 1:

1. Introduction to comparative law
2. Basic features, tools and methods of comparative law

Part 2:

3. Common law as a legal family
4. Civil law as a legal family
5. Common law v. civil law

Part 3:

6. Comparative law case studies in the areas of contract law, constitutional law, tort law and/or corporate law

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- exhibit a basic knowledge of the principal legal systems of the world, their origins, historical development and current interaction, and the supporting institutional framework,
- understand and explain the main issues of the academic discipline of comparative law; and
- demonstrate an ability to apply comparative legal methods.

Examination Types/ Requirements for Award of Credit Points: Presentation of a comparative law case study (30%) and comprehensive written examination at the end of each term (70%). The course will be passed if the grade is at least 4 points (out of 18 possible points). Students may choose to expand their presentation to a term paper for an additional 5 ECTS.