COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory Courses

LAW 101 Introduction to Legal Method and the Study of Law (6 ECTS)

The course aims at a) presenting the major characteristics and principles of the legal system, and b) acquainting the students with the different sources of law and the methods to study them. In this framework, the course explains the important distinction between public and private law, as also the basic rules of the legal order (hierarchy of sources, legislative and judicial procedures). Further on, the structure of the legal rule and legal reasoning is presented in broad terms, followed by an introduction to the methods of interpretation of the law. The student is introduced to the legal profession and the skills required to study law.

LAW 102 Introduction to Private Law (6 ECTS)

Introduction to Private Law in Cyprus and Europe, aimed at acquainting students with legal thinking and providing them with fundamental legal knowledge. The first part of the course introduces students to the sources, interpretation and fundamental notions of private law; the basic European legal traditions (Common Law and Continental Systems) and how Cyprus law conforms or differs. The second part of the course examines at length questions from the law of persons. The third part presents other basic subjects and institutions in the private law of Cyprus.

LAW 104 Introduction to Criminal Justice (6 ECTS)

The course provides a critique of the criminal justice system. Following an introduction to the topic, it examines the international literature on police and policing in western countries, including police powers, citizens’ rights and police corruption. Attention is then drawn to judicial discretion in sentencing in common law countries and sentence severity, penal aims (i.e., rehabilitation, retribution, deterrence, social protection and denunciation). Finally, the course examines the use and impact of imprisonment and other sanctions imposed by the courts on convicted offenders.

LAW 105 Constitutional Law I (7 ECTS)

The rationale of the course is to examine the current state of the Constitutional Law of Cyprus. The historical development will be as important in this process as consideration of the future. Constitutional law can no longer be seen in isolation from European law and the constitutional arrangements of other jurisdictions (EU, ECHR). In addition, important aspects of the Constitution are analysed (separation of powers), as well as judicial decisions construing the Constitution (doctrine of necessity, protection of human rights).

LAW 106 Law of Contracts I: General Part (8 ECTS)

Contract law is at the heart of private law – a vital introduction to law, the foundation of transactions. Topics include the notion of contract and contractual obligation, the requirements for the formation of a valid contract, construction of the contract, contractual terms and matters arising in the course of contract performance.

LAW 171 European Legal Tradition (6 ECTS)

The course addresses the evolution of law (principally private law) in Europe and the formation of Western legal tradition, from graeco-roman times to present-day European – with emphasis on medieval and early modern law. Western Europe is the course’s starting point, with the historical evolution of Greek law and the English Common Law in comparative perspective. The course also presents vignettes from the law of medieval and modern Cyprus.

Basic themes of the course include: unity and diversity in the evolution of European laws; creation and transformation of the learned tradition in law and its central role in the creation of a European legal civilization; the relationship between academic-learned law and legal-social practice; the role of, and relations between ecclesiastical and secular state institutions; and the debates as to the nature of law (is it a technical system of institutions, a constituent of cultural identity, or an agent of social action?).

LAW 201 European Union Law I (6 ECTS)

The module introduces the organisational structure of the EU and focus on its legal system. Specifically, the emphasis is placed on the constitutional principles, that the Court of Justice has formulated, and on the peripheral and interconnected legal premises, that complement the procedural law of the Union. Finally, the approach is one that examines simultaneously the legal response of the national legal orders, on the basis of the analytical hypothesis stating that the evolution of EU law is the product of judicial dialogue.

LAW 202 European Union Law II (6 ECTS)

The module concentrates on the substantive law of the EU and on the four fundamental freedoms, with the emphasis being placed on the free movement of goods. In addition, the procedural law of the Union is full explored and explained, as well as the different aspects of the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice.

LAW 205 Public International Law I (6 ECTS)

The course concentrates on the function, the basic concepts and fundamental principles of the international legal system, the means of international law-making and enforcement. It gives an overview of the traditional and contemporary theoretical approaches to international law, and examines the relationship between international law and domestic law in Cyprus and in other jurisdictions, the subjects of international law (states, international organizations, individuals, etc) and its sources (treaties, custom, etc). Using the Cyprus problem as a case study, the course emphasises the fundamental principles of international law, most notably the prohibition on the use of force and its controversial exceptions.

LAW 206 International Law II (6 ECTS)

The module focuses on the territorial dimension of International Law, with an emphasis on the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus and its jurisdiction in maritime zones. It further examines the means and mechanisms of implementing and enforcing international law, the rules of state responsibility, as well as the United Nations and its multiple functions.

LAW 213 Family Law (6 ECTS)

The course examines the legal institutions governing family and interpersonal relations: formation and dissolution of marriage, relations between spouses, marital property, relations between parents and children, paternity, adoption, institutions for the care of disabled persons. The course also considers procedural matters arising with regard to the Family Court.
LAW 216 Law of Property (6 ECTS)
The course studies the philosophical and constitutional justifications of property, the concept and basic types of property rights, as well as the general principles governing property law. The emphasis of property law—including this course is traditionally focused on immovable property. The course addresses the historical evolution of the protection of immovable property in Cyprus, the categories of immovable property, the acquisition and the content of ownership and of other real rights, the restrictions of property, the encumbrances over property, the transfer of immovable property. The role of the Department of Lands and Surveys of Cyprus in the field of registration of immovable property is crucial.

LAW 241 Criminal Law I: General Part (6 ECTS)
After examining the concepts of crime and Criminal Law, the course provides a brief introduction to the historical development of Criminal Law in Cyprus and the aims of the criminal sanction. Attention then turns to the legal concept of crime and the essentials of criminal responsibility. In particular, the course considers the theories on criminal act, the actus reus (and respectively the kinds of crimes and the omissions), the mens rea (and respectively the kinds of culpability, including recklessness), the problematic of causation and objective imputation, general defences concerning general liability’s prerequisites or justification or excuse, finally, the special forms of crime.

LAW 307 Private International Law (6 ECTS)
Private International Law addresses cross-border relations between individuals: in the courts of which state will the disputes arising from such relations be litigated? Which law should apply? How may a foreign resident be notified of a suit against him? May evidence located abroad be used in court? The course examines first the fundamental concepts and methods for regulating these international private relations (conflict rules, mandatory rules) and the problems in the general theory of private international law (legal characterisation, fraus legis, renvoi, preliminary questions, application of foreign law, public policy). It then considers the individual areas of private law (obligations contractual and in tort, property, family and succession).

LAW 311 Company Law (6 ECTS)
Business corporations are the principal agent of economic activity in the modern world. After considering the central themes in corporate law, and presenting the basic features of commercial entities (partnerships, companies) in Europe today, the course focuses on the Cypus Limited Company (LTD). The main topics include: structure of the business corporation, rights and obligations of partners/shareholders, the role of management and workers, management and representation powers, decision-making processes, company property, dissolution and liquidation, accounting rules and principles.

LAW 314 Law of Torts (6 ECTS)
The subject of the course is the civil obligations created by unjust and harmful conduct against another person (including its property or legal interest). Taking the Law on Civil Wrongs as a starting point, the course examines specific types of torts, including battery and assault, defamation, and negligence. We consider the grounds for tort liability – intentional harm, negligent conduct, and strict liability. The course also reflects upon the relationship between torts and contractual obligations, as well as property rights, and the role of tort law in modern social and economic life.

LAW 318 Law of Succession (6 ECTS)
The course examines the substantive and procedural law of succession, testate or intestate: validity of wills, statutory limitations on testator’s freedom, interpretation of wills, intestate succession, protection of heirs and third-party rights. The procedures for securing succession and clearing the estate are also covered.

LAW 321 Civil Procedure I (7 ECTS)
The course studies civil litigation as a comprehensive legal phenomenon. General principles of civil litigation, organization and function of civil courts, role of the legal profession. Available remedies. Commencement of civil proceedings. Court hearings. Court judgments and their enforcement. Admissibility and grounds for appeal.

LAW 323 Administrative Law I (6 ECTS)
The course presents the definition and sources of administrative law, which is closer to the continental system rather than the common law system. The analysis of basic articles of the Constitution, that constitute a legal foundation for the development of administrative law, is crucial for the understanding of the general principles of administrative law. Also, the analysis of the administrative organisation of the state and the presentation of administrative bodies and organisations in Cyprus are essential parts of the course. From the matters of the character and categories of administrative acts to the content and application of Article 146 of the Constitution, which provides for the administrative action review, the course will combine theory with an extensive presentation of case law.

LAW 327 Administrative Law II (6 ECTS)
The course focuses on the forms of remedies provided in administrative law, in the course of extrajudicial protection of rights afforded to individuals. Particular emphasis is laid on the development of current review mechanisms of acts of the state, as a result of the operation of independent bodies and state officers, such as the Office of the Commissioner of Administration (Ombudsman) or the Office of the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection. Then, emphasis is placed upon the systematic presentation of judicial process, in relation to administrative differences and administrative trial at first instance and during the review process. In this framework, the suspension of administrative acts is also presented.

LAW 331 Contract Law II: Commercial Law (7 ECTS)
The emphasis of this advanced course on the law of obligations lies in business transactions, as well as commercial papers and the legal treatment of business people. The course also considers the basic principles of commercial law, the relationship and differences between commercial law and civil law. It studies in detail the principal commercial transactions, such as commercial sales, commercial agency, business financing, as well as the basic forms of commercial bills and papers.

LAW 342 Criminal Law II: Special Part (6 ECTS)
Focusing on the relevant provisions of the Constitution, the Chapter 154 of the Criminal Code and the case law by the Supreme Court, the course considers serious offences against the constitutional order and the international status of the country, crimes against public order and peace, crimes against the legal exertion of state power, against life, health and sexual
self-determination, finally crimes against property and ownership on the one hand and against currency and documents on the other. Special attention is given to perpetuations against the person and against the property, according to the priority and detailed elaboration reserved to them in the common law tradition.

**LAW 344 Criminal Procedure (7 ECTS)**

Drawing on the Criminal Procedure Law and other relevant provisions and case law by the Supreme Court, the course examines the general principles of criminal procedural law, the jurisdiction arrangements, the pre-trial stage, especially the arrest warrant (including the European Arrest Warrant), the search order and the suspects’ rights. Attention then focuses on the intermediary stage (e.g., the detention order, the custody order and the indictment charges). Further, the course considers the trial (summons and subpoenas, procedure in open court, evidence). Special attention is given to evidence, whereby are analyzed the kinds of proofs and examinations, as well as their probatory force, the exclusionary rule and the scope of the freedom of the judicial judgment.

**LAW 345 Civil Procedure II (6 ECTS)**

Evidence law addresses the process by which a court may take knowledge and form opinion, as to the factual basis of the case at bar. The course presents the basic categories of evidence, questions of admissibility. It scrutinises the fact-finding process and the procedural problems arising in legal practice. The role of appeal in evidence matters is also examined. The course emphasises the basic principles governing evidence law, and insists on the differences between civil, criminal and administrative litigation, as well as on the constitutional dimension of evidence law.

**LAW 373 Philosophy of Law (6 ECTS)**

The aim of the course is to examine the philosophical approaches concerning the nature of the law and its bonds with power and ethics. The course explores the division among the positivist and the natural law theories. The ideas of the most important philosophers of modernity, like Hobbes, Kant, Rousseau, Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche on law and the state are also taken into consideration, so that the students better understand the work of major legal philosophers of the 20th century, like Hart, Kelsen, Rawls, Dworkin and Habermas, as also the contribution of the Legal Realists and the Critical Legal Studies movement.

**Elective Courses in Law**

**LAW 400 Diploma Thesis I (6 ECTS)**

Prerequisite: Three years of studies in Law.

**LAW 401 Diploma Thesis II (6 ECTS)**

Continuation of the course «Diploma Thesis I». Prerequisite: LAW 400

**LAW 405 Criminology (6 ECTS)**

The aim of the course is to introduce students to well-known theories of criminal behaviour and to examine in depth the etiology of serious crimes against persons and against property and, finally, to enable them to be critical in their approach to the phenomenon of crime in society. After an overview of contemporary criminology as a discipline, a number of theories explaining criminal behaviour are discussed: psychological (Freud, Eysenck) and sociological (the Chicago School, differential association, Marxist theory, labelling, and compound theories). Attention is drawn to offenders and crime victims in general.

**LAW 406 Legal Psychology (6 ECTS)**

The course considers the contribution of psychology (especially experimental and social psychology) to law in a number of areas. After examining how the gap between psychology and law could be bridged, attention is focused on the factors that impact adversely on the accuracy of eyewitness testimony, children as eyewitnesses, the psychology of the jury, sentencing as a human process and persuasion in the courtroom. Finally, lie–detection methods are considered as are suspect recognition procedures and police psychology. The aim of the course is to equip students with the specialist knowledge and skills required to answer certain questions in law, utilising knowledge in empirical psychology from a critical perspective.

**LAW 407 Economic Crimes (6 ECTS)**

Addressing economic crime from a criminal law and criminological perspective and focusing on particular categories of economic crime, the course first examines the concept of Economic Crime. Attention then focuses on different types of economic crime in Cyprus and overseas. Special attention is paid to offences involving obtaining money by deception and their investigation by the authorities in Cyprus, as well as how contemporary criminology accounts for them. Money-laundering and its relationship with corruption are discussed next. Finally, fraud detection and prevention by auditors are considered, as well as the issue of confidentiality in the lawyer – client and accountant – client relationship.

**LAW 408 Organized Crime (6 ECTS)**

The course is offered due to the organized crime’s legal and legal-political actuality. It considers the notion of organized crime, especially after the UN Palermo Convention, its differences from classical group crimes, as well as from the economic crime, the procedural consequences of the phenomenon (i.e., intrusive investigative techniques, such as surveillances, exceptions from the protection of privacy, cross-checking of data etc.) and its correlation with similar crimes like drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorism. The course considers also the most important features of organized crime, especially trafficking in human beings. Finally, special attention is given to the analysis and functioning of the European Arrest Warrant.

**LAW 411 Maritime Law (6 ECTS)**

Course subjects include: fundamental principles and concepts in maritime law, sources and historical development of Cyprus and international maritime law, introduction to common shipping policy. Topics include: ship (identification, ownership, flag, exploitation), admiralty jurisdiction, liability and limitations, ship-building sale and purchase, arrest, security rights (ship mortgage, maritime lien), marine insurance, collisions, towage, salvage, marine pollution.

**LAW 412 Bankruptcy Law (6 ECTS)**

The course addresses the principles involved in bankruptcy law and company liquidation. The course examines various aspects of the bankruptcy process, including the automatic stay, the avoidance of pre-bankruptcy transactions (e.g., fraudulent conveyances and preferences), the treatment of executory contracts, the debtor’s governance structure during bankruptcy, the financing of operations and investments in bankruptcy, sales
of assets during bankruptcy, and the process of negotiating, voting, and ultimately confirming a plan of re-organization.

**LAW 413 Special Issues in the Law of Obligations (6 ECTS)**

This is an advanced course in the law of obligations, especially contract law. Special types of contracts and complex problems arising in contract law, special topics from the law of obligations, and the problems of concurring contractual and tort liability are studied. The course also examines in depth the so-called quasi-contracts.

**LAW 414 Law of Trusts (6 ECTS)**

Trusts are a valuable tool in economic life. The course evaluates the reasons and main occasions for setting up a trust. It also examines the basic types of trust, the legal relations between involved parties (settler, trustee, beneficiary), the availability of judicial and administrative control over the trust’s administration, and the use of so-called international trusts.

**LAW 415 Copyright Law (6 ECTS)**

The course examines the legal and institutional framework for the protection of copyright and neighbouring rights in Cyprus and Europe. The basic systems of copyright protection and Cyprus legislation are analysed in the light of technological and legal developments and especially the European Directives. The course also examines theoretical aspects regarding the function and future of intellectual property and its interrelationship with personality rights and community rights. Links are drawn to the growth of new technologies and developments in the fields of information and entertainment industries.

**LAW 416 Industrial Property (6 ECTS)**

Industrial property covers technical creations (patents, industrial designs), and distinctive marks (trademarks, labels of geographic origin). The course examines the rationale behind the acquisition of, and choosing between, industrial property rights; procedures for acquisition; economic exploitation of industrial property rights, licensing agreements; available remedies (civil, criminal, administrative) and enforcement measures.

**LAW 417 Competition Law (6 ECTS)**

The course covers both unfair competition and antitrust law. It studies the basic principles and institutions of European and national antitrust law, and the relationship between the two. In addition, the course studies the function of the Commission for the Protection of Competition and the judicial review of competition cases.

**LAW 418 Financial Law (6 ECTS)**

The course examines transactions concerning the financing of economic activity, as well as the institutional framework for their supervision and regulation. Emphasis is placed on bank transactions, insurance contracts and the operation of stock and commodity exchanges. The course also examines prudential institutions and the regulation of banks, financial and insurance institutions and market exchanges.

**LAW 419 Special Issues in Civil Procedure (6 ECTS)**

This is an advanced course in civil procedure. Emphasis is placed on special procedures, prerogative remedies and the taking of interim measures. The course also considers the operation of tribunals.

**LAW 434 Civil Procedure II (6 ECTS)**

This course studies the Cypriot and European legal framework, which applies to mass media and legal questions related to the application of information technology. The course provides a comprehensive and critical approach on various modern topics, which lie in the intersection of different legal branches (private law, commercial law, public law, criminal law). More specifically, the emphasis of the course lies on the constitutional protection of freedom of expression, the analysis of the legal regime of television and radio media services and of the rules for advertising.

**LAW 441 European Public Law (6 ECTS)**

The course concentrates on the nature, meaning and different manifestations of European Public Law, as an independent and autonomous field of study. The multi-directional character of exchange of influences is analysed in detail, with specific reference to the protection of human rights, locus standi, the Ombudsman, principle of proportionality, legitimate expectations, access to documents and constitutional law in general. The course examines EPL as a dynamic process of exchange of influences between the EU, national legal systems and the ECHR, and it is from this perspective that a comparative analysis is undertaken.

**LAW 443 Employment Law (6 ECTS)**

The course studies issues related to Employment Law in Cyprus, and how it is being shaped in light of European harmonisation. Beginning with the doctrine of employment at will and its exceptions, the course considers public policy and private rights (as well as constitutional provisions) as limitations on the employer’s power to discharge and manage employees. The course also considers the basics of employment discrimination law, some legal issues arising before and after employment (employment references, covenants not to compete), the law governing wages and hours and questions of welfare and social security law.

**LAW 445 Ecclesiastical Law (6 ECTS)**

The course concentrates on Ecclesiastical law, the relationship between the Church and the State and on the nature of religious freedom, as well as on procedural matters of the organization of the Church.

**LAW 447 Environmental Law (6 ECTS)**

The course's aim is to present the basic principles and rules of the legal protection of the natural environment, as they have been formulated by international conventions and European Law. Students are also introduced to relevant regulations of Cultural Law (protection of antiquities etc), as also Planning – Building Law. Concepts, such as biodiversity and ecosystem, as also fundamental principles, such as the precautionary principle and sustainable development, which have become necessary parameters of economic development, are explained and analyzed.

**LAW 449 Tax and Fiscal Law (6 ECTS)**

The course studies substantive and procedural tax law, as well as the legal aspects of public finance. The general principles of tax law, its position within the legal system, the concept and types of taxes, the basic concepts in taxation systems, and the constitutional and the legal boundaries of the state's power to levy taxes are examined. The course considers Cyprus taxation law against the international and European background. The administrative and judicial remedies available are also examined.
LAW 453 Law of the United Nations (6 ECTS)
The course aims at familiarising students with the United Nations’ role, function and powers in the contemporary world. It examines the purposes and principles of the UN, the structure of the Organization and concentrates on UN (in)action in the fields of international peace and security and peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as human rights and development. It emphasises UN peace operations, including UNIFCYP, and the legal problems arising from their increasingly expanding activities.

LAW 454 Law of the Sea (6 ECTS)
The course provides a comprehensive overview of the basic concepts of the Law of the Sea, drawing on the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It examines the rights and obligations of states in each maritime zone, such as the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, as well as the continental shelf and the high seas. Emphasis is placed on the practice and legislation of the Republic of Cyprus. The course also deals with the protection of the maritime environment and the mechanisms of dispute settlement.

LAW 455 International Criminal Law (6 ECTS)
The course examines the historical development, the notion and general characteristics of International Criminal Law, and the major international crimes (genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, etc.). It further examines the basic elements of individual criminal responsibility, criminal prosecution and punishment in the case-law of domestic and international criminal courts. Finally, the course attempts a critical evaluation of the use and effectiveness of the system of international criminal justice.

LAW 456 Moot Court (6 ECTS)
The course prepares students to argue a hypothetical case on various issues of law, as if before international and/or domestic tribunals, such as the International Court of Justice. Students are guided on drafting written briefs in English and then defending their arguments orally, before panels of judges in the course of various moot court competitions held abroad. The most prestigious such competition is the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, which takes place in spring in the US capital, Washington D.C.

LAW 461 International Business Law (6 ECTS)
Introduction to the basic types of cross-border business transactions, the international legal framework governing them and the – judicial and alternative – methods of business dispute resolution. Topics include the institutions and sources of international commercial law, elements of international economic law, international sale of goods, uniform rules and trade usages for the sale and transport of goods, basic types of commercial documents, basic types of transactions for the distribution of goods and services or the financing of international business transactions, legal negotiation and methods for dispute resolution such as international commercial arbitration.

LAW 462 European Private Law (6 ECTS)
European integration affects every aspect of our social and economic life. This course examines the role of European integration in the transformation of the private law in the member states, especially in Cyprus. The introduction examines the institutional dimension of European Private Law, the underlying debates on unification-harmonization of laws and the methods used. The course will then deal with three specific topics: the general part of contract law, consumer protection, and contracts on financial services.

LAW 463 Comparative Law (6 ECTS)
The course addresses legal diversity and the method for studying foreign legal systems and comparing legal institutions. The course examines the basic characteristics of a legal system (legal sources, administration of justice system, notions of law, legal education and organization of the legal subject matter in fields, outside influences), the categorisation of legal systems in “legal families” and the use of defining notions, such as legal system, legal tradition, legal culture. We also consider the methodology of comparative research (micro- and macro-comparison). The second part of the course presents the basic European legal systems, and vignettes from American law and Japanese law.

Law 464 Alternative Dispute Resolution (6 ECTS)
The course combines the theoretical/interdisciplinary perspective on dispute resolution, with the practical/workshop dimension. Theoretical and policy discussion on dispute resolution is followed by negotiation and mediation exercises.