



CZECH LEGAL SYSTEM IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT STUDY PROGRAMME FOR INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS

INSTITUTIONAL DETAILS

Name	Charles University
Erasmus Code	CZ PRAHA07
Faculty	Faculty of Law
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Academic Staff Mobility Coordinator	Mgr. Eleni Dimelisová dimelise@prf.cuni.cz

INCOMING STUDENTS

Courses	All courses are of Master level HERE
Academic calendar	Winter Semester October – mid February (incl. exam period) Summer Semester mid February – June (incl. exam period)
Recommended English language level	Nominated students are expected to have B2 level in English
Grading system	HERE



ERASMUS+ INCOMING STUDENTS

Nomination	Nomination only via the Charles University online form: HERE (deadlines: for Winter Semester/Full Year – April 15; for Summer Semester – September 15)
Application procedure	1. Online registration: HERE 2. Sending the Application Form and Learning Agreement (signed by student and student's home institution) to maresova@prf.cuni.cz (deadlines: for Winter Semester/Full Year – May 15; for Summer Semester – October 15)

NON-ERASMUS INCOMING STUDENTS

Nomination	Nominations by e-mail to international@prf.cuni.cz
Application procedure	All incoming non-Erasmus students are required to fill in the Application Form HERE and e-mail all required attachments to maresova@prf.cuni.cz



Winter Semester			
Course	Supervisor	ECTS	Code
Czech Constitutional Law	doc. JUDr. Jan Kudrna, Ph.D.	6	HASC1
Private Law	doc. JUDr. Ondřej Frinta, Ph.D.	6	HASC3
Financial Law	JUDr. Petr Kotáb, Ph.D.	6	HASO1
Natural Resources Law	prof. JUDr. Milan Damohorský, DrSc.	6	HASO4
Introduction to Public International Law in the Czech Legal Context	prof. JUDr. Pavel Šturma, DrSc.	3	HASO2
Jurisprudence	Mgr. Petr Agha, LL.M., Ph.D.	3	HASO3
Czech Legal History	prof. JUDr. Jan Kuklík, DrSc.	3	HASO5
Introduction into Central European legal Culture	prof. JUDr. Zdeněk Kühn, Ph.D., LL.M.	3	HASO6
Emerging Legal Disciplines – Medical and Sport Law	JUDr. David Kohout, Ph.D.	3	HASO8
Legal Reasoning: First Amendment Case Law	Sean Davidson, J.D.	3	HASO9
Intellectual Property Law	JUDr. Petra Žikovská	3	HSSO8
Recent Trends in European Copyright Law	JUDr. Petra Žikovská	3	HASC11
Studies of the ICC Case Law	JUDr. Milan Lipovský, Ph.D.	3	HASO11
International Protection of Human Rights/Universal and Regional Standards	prof. Dr. iur. Harald Christian Scheu, Mag. phil., Ph.D.	3	HASC5
Theories of Legal Personhood and Juristic Person	prof. JUDr. Karel Beran, Ph.D.	3	HASO12
Common European Asylum System (in the time of refugee crisis)	doc. JUDr. Lenka Pítrová	3	HASO13



Summer Semester			
Course	Supervisor	ECTS	Code
European and Czech Environmental Law and Policy	prof. JUDr. Milan Damohorský, DrSc.	6	HSSC1
European Law in the Czech – EU Context	prof. JUDr. Richard Král, LL.M., Ph.D., DSc.	6	HSSC2
Business Law and International Business Transactions	prof. JUDr. Monika Pauknerová, CSc., DSc.	6	HSSC3
Criminal Law	prof. JUDr. Bc. Tomáš Gřivna, Ph.D.	6	HSSC4
Contracts and Torts	doc. JUDr. PhDr. David Elischer, Ph.D.	6	HSSO2
Labour Law and Social Security Law	doc. JUDr. Martin Štefko, Ph.D.	6	HSSO4
Law and Economics	Sven Hoeppe, M.Sc., LL.M., Ph.D.	3	HSSO3
Out-of-Court Dispute Resolution	JUDr. Zbyšek Kordač, LL.M., LL.M.	3	HSSO5
International Administrative Law	prof. JUDr. Jakub Handrlica, LL.M., Ph.D., DSc.	3	HASC8
Islam in Europe – ECHR Case Law	Sean Davidson, J.D.	3	HASC9
Theory and Practice of the European Convention on Human Rights	Mgr. Petr Agha, LL.M., Ph.D.	3	HASC10
Constitutional Review in Central European Context	prof. JUDr. Helena Hofmannová, Ph.D.	3	HSSO9
HASC6 Legal Argumentation and Debate: First Amendment Issues in Context	Sean Davidson, J.D.	3	HASC6
Financial Market Regulation in the Light of Financial Crisis	JUDr. Ing. Lenka Dupáková, Ph.D.	3	HASO10



Course Description – Winter Semester

Czech Constitutional Law

HASC1

The course deals with the fundamental features of the Czech constitutional system. First of all, it analyses the historical roots of the current Czech constitutionalism and studies the position of main constitutional bodies and their mutual relations in the system of government (Parliament, Government, President of the Republic, Constitutional Court etc.). After this institutional introduction, various aspects of the substantive human rights protection in the Czech Republic are addressed.



Private Law

HASC3

The aim of the course is to introduce the essentials of Czech private law. Private Law, after 1989, has become again the very basis of the Czech legal order. The first part of the course is aimed at the understanding of the private law system, and its fundamental notions and principles thereof.

Then, the course will focus in more details on the essentials of subjects, property and other rights to things, essentials of contracts as well as essentials of torts. The end of this part of the course is aimed at labour law and intellectual property law. At the end of the course the attention will be paid to the judicial protection of the rights in the Czech Republic. This is aimed at the elements of the judiciary system, the civil litigation and the system of legal remedies.



Common European Asylum System (in the time of refugee crisis)

HASO13

The course is focused on one of the most important problems of our European contemporary life – refugee crisis and its political and legal solution. It should cover an introduction to the European Asylum System in a historical context and international context, analysis of EU legislation in force and case study on transposition of relevant legislation into Czech legal system. Contemporary problems in the time of Ukraine refugee crisis, and activation of temporary protection régime, especially in the light of the Czech Republic experience.

The course should focus not only on theoretical aspects of legal regulation of international protection of refugees, but should also give an opportunity for participants to simulate negotiations over the European legislation in the Council and to simulate an interview with an asylum or temporary protection seeker. The aim of the course is to improve the knowledge of the European Asylum system, its application.





Course Description – Winter Semester

Financial Law

HASO1

The purpose of the course is to provide rather brief and general and yet professionally oriented introduction to Czech Financial Law with occasional overlaps to the Financial Science. Special emphasis is given to those areas of Financial Law that are connected to the stay, activities, business and investments of foreigners in the Czech Republic. The course will cover both the fiscal and non-fiscal parts of Financial law as well as the basics of theory of finance and financial law.

Focus will be given to Czech tax system and its individual components, direct and indirect taxes, and also customs duties. The course will also cover the financial system, banking and insurance, in particular their public-law aspects.



Natural Resources Law

HASO4

The course will give to the students the fundamental information and knowledge of common, international, European and Czech legal regulation of using and protection of natural resources. Special attention will be given to energetic, nuclear and mining law in the climate change consequences.



Introduction to Public International Law in the Czech Legal Context

HASO2

The optional course provides an introduction to Public International Law. It is divided into 10 lectures that present both some basic concepts and principles of PIL and selected areas (branches) of this legal order. Even though the course starts from basic concepts, as some students have not yet studied PIL and need to learn the basics, it also includes certain lectures that go well beyond the mere introduction. This means that students with some knowledge of PIL can also benefit from the lectures and learn more.



Jurisprudence

HASO3

The aim of the course is to enhance students' understanding of law by placing it in its theoretical, philosophical and sociological contexts.





Course Description – Winter Semester

Czech Legal History

HASO5

In order to understand the recent legal development in Czech Republic it is an indispensable requirement to know the past. The Czechs are often deeply rooted in their history and the knowledge of the basics of Czech historical background appears therefore useful.



Introduction into Central European Legal Culture

HASO6

This course focuses on the legal culture of Central Europe, particularly on Poland, Hungary and the countries of former Czechoslovakia. We would briefly explain the origins of Central European legal culture. After this historical introduction, we would deal with the communist legal culture as developed in the four decades of Eastern European communism and with its impact on the transforming Central European legal cultures. We will compare various features of legal and judicial culture and its ideology in Central Europe with Western European legal culture. Last but not least, the issue of democratic backsliding in the region will be addressed. Although targeting central Europe proper, we will also debate the development in other countries (Ukraine, Russia, the Baltic states, the Balkans etc.).



Emerging Legal Disciplines – Medical and Sport Law

HASO8

It is possible to observe increasing tendencies for particularisation of law. The complexity of law and professional challenges bring needs for deeper specialization of modern lawyers beyond traditional branches of law. As a consequence new legal disciplines emerge and gain growing importance both in the legal theory and practice.

This course aims at introducing (some of) these new legal disciplines that arose often on the thin line between the Private and Public Law. The purpose of this course is to present the basic principles and most remarkable issues connected to these areas of law to the students and make them acquainted with approaches common to these legal (sub-)disciplines. The Medical Law has received a lot of attention over the last decades as it is preoccupied with values central to human life and involves often great ethical implications. The Sports Law regulates not only a leisure activity but in the present world it is connected also to business activities as well as disciplinary or even Criminal Law issues (e.g. doping, liability for damages).





Course Description – Winter Semester

Legal Reasoning: First Amendment Case Law

HASO9

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution safeguards freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and freedom of press, and also protects the principle of separation of church and state. Studying the judicial interpretation of the First Amendment is fundamental to understanding constitutional law in the United States, as many important and controversial high court cases have concerned the First Amendment, especially in recent years. This course focuses on U.S. Supreme Court decisions in selected First Amendment cases, including the arguments asserted and reasoning applied. Students are required to assess these cases and make legal arguments in seminar discussions and also formal moot court debate exercises.

In particular, the cases in this course concern the following topics: symbolic expression, extremist expression, political satire, threatening speech, speech rights of students, establishment of religion, and exercise of religion. This course also takes a comparative approach to studying many of the decisions, especially those which are inconsistent with the decisions of European courts in similar cases. Cultural differences and implications are naturally considered as well.

The objectives of this course include the following:

- to deepen students' understanding of U.S. interpretation of freedom of expression and religion;
- to provide context for students to compare and assess various approaches to such issues;
- to provide a framework for students to evaluate the applicability and merits of First Amendment legal arguments in potential future cases;
- to aid students in acquiring and using sophisticated legal English vocabulary and grammar.



Intellectual Property Law

HSSO8

This course covers the whole area of the intellectual property law, including patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets and designs. The course addresses the policies underlying the protection of intellectual property and compares the different ways organizations and individuals can use intellectual property to protect their interests. Technological developments affecting copyright are also addressed, including issues related to computer software and internet. Special attention shall be paid on the international and european case lawat the respective field.





Course Description – Winter Semester

Studies of the ICC Case Law

HASO11

The subject is intended for students with special interest in public international law, particularly international criminal law. To reach course goals the students are required to prepare every week according to the list of sources and exercises, to prepare answers to provided questions and actively participate in the lectures. Home preparation is thus combined with thematically focused interactive lectures. Students of the subject include Czech Master's degree students, Erasmus students and LL.M. students. The work is in English language only.



International Protection of Human Rights/ Universal and Regional Standards

HASC5

This course examines different aspects of international human rights protection. Special focus will be given to the protection of human rights as a fundamental component of the current international legal system. The course will introduce students to the development of both universal and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms of protection. Participants of the course will examine the international human rights system in the context of current changes in the structure and organization of international law.

The course aims at providing insight into relevant instruments of protection, like e.g. individual complaints procedures, the evaluation of state reports and fact-finding missions. Students will study selected case-law developed by the European Court of Human Rights and other international bodies, with a special focus to the practice of the Czech Republic.



Theories of Legal Personhood and Juristic Person

HASO12

How is it possible that "something" which does not naturally exist, "something" which cannot be perceived with one's own senses, can have rights and obligations?

How is it possible that "something" which – unlike a human being – cannot have its own reason and will, can engage in legal conduct? How is it possible that "something" which cannot have conscience and feel guilt– like a human being – can be legally responsible?

And what is then such a legal creation – a juristic person – good for? The presented course aims to answer all these questions and explain the concept of legal personhood, the concept of juristic person and the theories of juristic person.





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Course Description – Winter Semester

Recent Trends in European Copyright Law

HASC11

The course should cover recent changes in the European Copyright Law. It should be dealing with new Directives, specifically with the Directive on copyright in digital single market and its implementation in a different EU member states and its consequences. In the second part of the course we will focus on the respective decisions of the ECJ.





Course Description – Summer Semester

European and Czech Environmental Law and Policy

HSSC1

The course will give to the students the fundamental information and knowledge of international, European and Czech regulation of protection of the environment and its parts and components.



Business Law and International Business Transactions

HSSC3

The course consists of two blocks. The first block of the course focuses on the general principles of conducting business, including various aspects of business conduct such as the legal status of entrepreneurs and their commercial activities, the essentials of company law and most common business contracts in comparative Czech-European view. Special attention is paid to the impact of the European legislation on this area in national law in EU member countries, especially in Czech law. Further, the course offers introduction to Czech/European antitrust law as well as unfair competition law.

The second block of the course focuses on the regulation of cross-border civil and business relations and their practical implications. Special regard is given to both conflict rules and rules of international civil procedure in unified European private international law and in Czech national private international law. Students are introduced to the conflict of laws regime of international business transactions, in particular international business contracts as well as to various options of settlement of commercial disputes.



Constitutional Review in Central European Context

HSSO9

The course provides knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of the functioning of constitutional adjudication in the Central European region. The starting point of the course is to provide detailed knowledge of the status and functioning of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic. Simultaneously, the course places the constitutional adjudication of Czech Republic into a wider context of Central Europe, i.e. in the context of constitutional adjudication as applied in Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary.





Course Description – Summer Semester

European Law in the Czech – EU Context

HSSC2

First, basics of the institutional and legal system of the enlarged European Union and fundamental principles of its operation and evolution are presented. Then, summary of EU law of internal market and related policies will follow. Within this context the institutional and legal aspects of the Czech EU membership shall be introduced. The course will focus also on EU citizenship status, the role of the CJEU and the effects of EU law within legal and judicial systems of the EU Member States.



Criminal Law

HSSC4

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the basics of Czech criminal law, including its historical context. In doing so, we also draw on criminological theories. We will try to compare some institutes under different legal systems and focus on new phenomena in criminal law such as cybercrime or electronic evidence.



Contracts and Torts

HSSO2

The aim of the course is to provide students with more details the Czech contractual and tort/delict law. The aim is then to introduce the essential principles and typology of different contracts or more largely the obligation as whole. The course will focus in more details on the essentials of contracts in family law, inheritance law, consumer law as well as essentials of torts. The second part of the course will particularly focus on different prerequisites of civil liability as fault, causation, wrongfulness and damages. The course also put the Czech legislation into broader European context via comparative approach.



Course Description – Summer Semester

Labour Law and Social Security Law

HSSO4

The course examines and compares the history, structure, and regulations of both employment law (labour law) and social security law in Central Europe, while it mainly focuses on EU law aspects. The course provides a comprehensive information on current EU legislation, including CJEU case law, it focuses also on international law, not



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leaving behind some up-to-date impacts of EU legislation on Czech labour and social security law.



Law and Economics

HSSO3

This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts of law and economics. The course provides an overview on classical methods of law and economics and the departures from those classical concepts.

The course is organized along two lines. First, the course introduces basic concepts about, e.g., human behavior according to the economic model, institutions and their typology, economics as a toolkit. Second, the course applies these basic concepts to various legal context and, in so doing, highlights how the classical economic model evolves in order to make meaningful predictions about rule-subjected individuals.

The course is designed with law students in mind, who did not have much exposure to economics.





Course Description – Summer Semester

Out-of-Court Dispute Resolution

HSSO5

The aim of the course is to present different methods of dispute resolution. Litigating before national courts is not always the best method how to deal with the dispute which has arisen. Parties can employ number of other dispute resolution techniques and methods. First part of the course will deal with arbitration. Especially in the area of international commerce, arbitration became the preferred method of resolving disputes.

After introducing features of international commercial arbitration, the course will focus on the differences which can be found in the area of investment arbitration. The course will conclude with class on mediation and overview of other ADR methods.



International Administrative Law

HASC8

Foreign elements do regularly appear in the relations of administrative law – thus, the administrative authorities must cope with foreign driving licences, university diplomas issued by foreign universities, passports issued by other States, foreign nationals participating in administrative proceedings, facts that occurred abroad with relevance to inland (foreign incomes in tax law) etc. A special branch of law has emerged to deal with the issues, which has been labelled as "international administrative law" (droit administratif international, diritto amministrativo internazionale, Internationales Verwaltungsrecht).

This course will deal with both theoretical topics and with the issues of practical application

of the provisions of international administrative law (in particular with respect to the recognition of foreign administrative acts). The course is opened for both Czech and Erasmus students.



Financial Market Regulation in the Light of Financial Crisis

HASO10

The course is focused on the latest development in financial market regulation. Significant changes have occurred in the particular segments of the financial markets, as a response to the latest Global financial Crises 2007-2009. These changes have substantially affected financial market regulation. And there are still running works on their full implementation. The course will also touch upon the role of the central banks which over the past decade and a half have done things they never did before. Rushed by the emergencies of the Global financial Crises and the Covid 19 pandemic, the major central banks pursued extremely accommodative policies.



The course will aim not only on mentioned changes and central bank policies but also on the core understanding of the functioning of the financial markets, financial institutions and their instruments.



Course Description – Summer Semester

Islam in Europe – ECHR Case Law

HASC9

This course focuses on analysing and assessing decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in various cases involving the free religion and free expression rights of Muslims in Europe. These cases require judges to perform the often difficult task of determining where the border may lie in cases of free religion under the European Convention on Human Rights, which was drafted by the Council of Europe in 1950.

The topic of the free religion rights of Muslims has become particularly important in recent years, and most of the cases studied in this course are quite recent, including the 2014 decision in the case of the French veil prohibition (*S.A.S. v. France*). This course covers cases in a number of contexts, including the free religion rights of students in primary and secondary schools as well as the rights of believers in public.

In this course, students are encouraged to critically analyse the reasoning of the European Court of Human Rights in the cases studied, and there is a particular focus on the proportionality test, as well as the implications of its application. In addition, students are introduced to comparisons with cases decided by American high courts to gain better understanding of different reasoning used in different jurisdictions.

The objectives of this course are:

- to deepen students' understanding of how the free religion rights of Muslims are protected by the European Court of Human Rights; to deepen the students' understanding of the interpretation of freedom of expression and religion;
- to provide a deep insight into current issues concerning the definition of human rights in Europe;
- to provide students the tools to compare and assess various approaches to reasoning free religion cases;
- to aid students in acquiring and exercising sophisticated legal English vocabulary and grammar.





Course Description – Summer Semester

Theory and Practice of the European Convention on Human Rights

HASC10

This is a multi-disciplinary course that provides students with a rigorous and focused engagement with different disciplinary perspectives on the subject of human rights including philosophy, sociology and law. It provides students with contending interpretations of human rights as an idea and practice from the different standpoints that the disciplines present. The course applies the insights of disciplinary frameworks of understanding to key human rights issues such as universality, the right to life, free speech and globalization.

This course is designed to provide students with a broad introduction to the conceptual and legal problems raised by the development of a global human rights regime and to help students think their way through some of the complexities of European human rights law. It will provide an introductory analysis to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the substance of European human rights law, by looking at different generations of rights, their content and relation to each other, through an analysis of different “functions” of human rights (protection, participation, distribution, inclusion).



Legal Argumentation and Debate: First Amendment Issues in Context

HASC6

This course focuses on judicial decisions in various cases involving the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion. Students will be required to analyse U.S. Supreme Court decisions and form legal arguments in both class discussions and formal moot court debate exercises.

This course concerns the following issues relating to the First Amendment: presence of religious symbols in public places; freedom of the press (including both news gathering and leaking); obscene and indecent expression; religious and political expression in the workplace.

The objectives of this course are:

- to deepen students' understanding of U.S. interpretation of freedom of expression;
- to provide students the context to compare and assess various approaches to such issues;
- to provide the framework for students to determine the appropriate boundaries of individual freedoms; and
- to aid students in acquiring and using sophisticated legal English vocabulary and grammar.

This course is designed as a follow-up to the winter semester course titled „Legal Reasoning: First Amendment Case Law“, yet naturally this course covers different topics and entirely new cases and principles that are not covered in the winter semester course.

