



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 available for Bachelor and Master students
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



ERASMUS+ INCOMING STUDENTS

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

NON-ERASMUS INCOMING STUDENTS

Nomination	<p>Nominations by e-mail to international@prf.cuni.cz</p>
Application procedure	<p>All incoming non-Erasmus students are required to fill in the Application Form, see HERE and e-mail it together with all required attachments to sara.sojkova@prf.cuni.cz</p>



Winter Semester

Course	Supervisor	ECTS	Code
Common European Asylum System (in the time of refugee crisis)	doc. JUDr. Lenka Pítrová	5	HASO13
Critical Legal Theory, DEI, and the Populist Backlash	Volker Kaul, M.Sc., Ph.D.	5	HASO18
Czech Constitutional System as a Part of European Constitutional Tradition	doc. JUDr. Jan Kudrna, Ph.D.	5	HASC1
Czech Legal History	prof. JUDr. Jan Kuklík, DrSc.	5	HASO5
Digital Legal Studies: Constitutionalism in the Digital Age	JUDr. Mgr. Tomáš Dumbrovský, LL.M., Ph.D., J.S.D.	5	HASO17
Emerging Legal Disciplines – Medical and Sport Law	JUDr. David Kohout, Ph.D.	5	HASO8
Environmental Law of the Sea	JUDr. Karolína Žákovská	5	HASO15
Intellectual Property Law	JUDr. Petra Žíkovská	5	HSSO8
International Double Taxation	JUDr. Petr Kotáb, Ph.D.	5	HASO16
International Protection of Human Rights/Universal and Regional Standards	prof. Dr. iur. Harald Christian Scheu, Mag. phil., Ph.D.	5	HASC5
Introduction into Central European legal Culture	prof. JUDr. Zdeněk Kühn, Ph.D., LL.M.	5	HASO6
Introduction to Public International Law in the Czech Legal Context	prof. JUDr. Pavel Šturma, DrSc.	5	HASO2
Jurisprudence	Mgr. Petr Agha, LL.M., Ph.D.	5	HASO3
Legal Reasoning: First Amendment Case Law	Sean Davidson, J.D.	5	HASO9
Natural Resources Law	prof. JUDr. Milan Damohorský, DrSc.	5	HASO4
Recent Trends in European Copyright Law	JUDr. Petra Žíkovská	5	HASC11
Studies of the ICC Case Law	JUDr. Milan Lipovský, Ph.D.	5	HASO11
Theories of Legal Personhood and Juristic Person	prof. JUDr. Karel Beran, Ph.D.	5	HASO12



Summer Semester			
Course	Supervisor	ECTS	Code
Constitutional Review in Central European Context	prof. JUDr. Helena Hofmannová, Ph.D.	5	HSSO9
Contracts and Torts	prof. JUDr. PhDr. David Elischer, Ph.D.	5	HSSO2
Crime and Criminal Law in European and International Context	prof. JUDr. Bc. Tomáš Gřivna, Ph.D.	5	HSSC4
Digital Legal Studies: Computational Data Analysis	JUDr. Mgr. Tomáš Dumbrovský, LL.M., Ph.D., J.S.D.	5	HSSO12
Environmental Law and Policy	prof. JUDr. Milan Damohorský, DrSc.	5	HSSC1
EU Company Law and International Commercial Transactions	Doc. JUDr. Mgr. Magdalena Pfeiffer, Ph.D.	5	HSSC3
European Law in the Czech – EU Context	prof. JUDr. Richard Král, LL.M., Ph.D., DSc.	5	HSSC2
Financial Market Regulation in the Light of Financial Crisis	JUDr. Ing. Lenka Dupáková, Ph.D.	5	HASO10
International Administrative Law	prof. JUDr. Jakub Handrlíca, LL.M., Ph.D., DSc.	5	HASC8
International Aviation Law	JUDr. Lucie Vosečková, Ph.D.	5	HSSO11
International Peace and Security in Cyberspace	JUDr. Milan Lipovský, Ph.D.	5	HASO14
Islam and Christianity before the ECHR	Sean Davidson, J.D.	5	HASC9
Labour Law and Social Security Law	doc. JUDr. Jakub Tomšej, Ph.D.	5	HSSO4
Law and Economics	Sven Hoeppepner, M.Sc., LL.M., Ph.D.	5	HSSO3
Law and Politics: Contemporary Issues	Mgr. Petr Agha, LL.M., Ph.D.	5	HSSO14
Out-of-Court Dispute Resolution	JUDr. Zbyšek Kordač, LL.M., LL.M.	5	HSSO5
Why We Follow Rules: Law and the Mind	Volker Kaul, M.Sc., Ph.D.	5	HSSO13



Course Description – Winter Semester

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.



Critical Legal Theory, DEI, and the Populist Backlash

HASO18

Critical Legal Theory (CLT) makes two principal claims—one moderate and the other more radical. First, building on legal realism, CLT argues that law is not neutral or objective but rather entrenches discrimination against historically marginalized groups, such as those defined by gender, race, class, ethnicity, and religion. Second, and more radically, CLT contends that law is not merely biased but actively constructs these very social categories, creating structural hierarchies by positioning individuals as “privileged or subordinate” (S. Haslanger). In this sense, law is seen as a fundamental source of social inequality. If CLT is correct in identifying law as a root cause of these inequalities, the principle of fairness would mandate a profound overhaul of our legal system. In response to the injustices highlighted by CLT, various affirmative action programs have been introduced, particularly in sectors such as government and public administration and corporate and organizational structures. The most prominent of these are DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) policies, which have been implemented widely in the United States. Similarly, the EU has adopted comparable frameworks, such as the

Gender Equality Strategy and the Anti-Racism Action Plan. These policies, however, have sparked strong opposition from historically dominant groups, leading to what has been labeled as a “populist backlash.” For example, the Trump administration moved to dismantle federal DEI programs, framing the effort as a return to “merit-based opportunity.” This raises a key question: Does the populist backlash reflect an inherent rejection of social justice, or does it signal concerns that the legal remedies proposed by CLT may introduce new injustices, perceiving justice as a zero-sum game?





Czech Constitutional System as a Part of European Constitutional Tradition

HASC1

The course "Constitutional System of the Czech Republic as a Part of European Constitutional Tradition" focuses on the described issues de constitutione lata, or their interpretation within the framework of positive legal regulation, i.e. the current framework of the constitutional order and the norms immediately following and developing it. Attention will be paid to both the Constitution of the Czech Republic and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, while their individual institutes will be interpreted in the context not only of the laws that implement the constitutional order, but also of the current case law of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic. All this in the context and comparison within the legal rules of both the Council of Europe and the European Union, or their member states.



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.



Digital Legal Studies: Constitutionalism in the Digital Age

HSSO12

The last few decades have been marked by rapid digital transformations in the daily lives of individuals, as well as in the structures and activities of governments and businesses. As a result of these transformations, new regulations going beyond the nation state, i.e. new societal constitutional domains/ constitutional fragments are emerging. The Internet is one of the important social spheres generating constitutional orders (rights, duties and limits on power) outside the state. With this motivation, this course aims to reflect on various constitutional fragments generated by the global digital societal transformation. First, we will review what and how we can understand the idea of a constitution and constitutional norms in our current digital world. Second, we will focus on societal digital transformations' ethical/normative dimensions.

Third, we will closely look into various practical domains where constitutional norms emerge, such as the regulation of speech, misinformation, fake news, cybersecurity, data protection, and intellectual property rights. The course will be jointly taught by the research team led by Dr. Tomas Dumbrovsky, at the Faculty of Law and guest lecturers when necessary.





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).



Environmental Law of the Sea

HASO15

The course aims to introduce students to the importance of oceans and marine ecosystems for life on the planet and the well-being of both local communities and the international community as a whole, and to familiarize them with the basic sources of international law relevant to the protection and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources and the challenges to their proper implementation.



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.





International Double Taxation

HASO16

The course provides enhanced explication of legal and extra-legal issues arising in international taxation of income. It focuses on international legal double taxation, its causes and effects, as well as the tools and instruments for the elimination or at least moderation of the same, including the instruments contained in international double taxation treaties (DTTs). Students will become acquainted with basic notions, terminology, and sources of international tax law. They will work with the texts of model treaties on elimination of double taxation as well as selected bilateral treaties actually concluded and applied between various countries. They will learn to find, interpret, and apply relevant rules of elimination of international double taxation and will be given the opportunity of learning how to resolve selected practical situations by application of gained skills and knowledge. The course is not strongly based on positive law of the Czech Republic or any particular country, and the competences gained in it by the students can thus be utilized in any jurisdiction in which they may operate in the future.



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.





Introduction into Central European Legal Culture

HASO6

This course focuses on the judicial culture of Central Europe, particularly on Poland, Hungary and the countries of former Czechoslovakia. We would briefly explain the origins of Central European judicial culture. After this historical introduction, we would deal with the communist judicial culture as developed in the four decades of Eastern European communism and with its impact on the transforming Central European legal cultures.

We would compare various features of judicial culture and its ideology in Central Europe with Western European judicial culture and try to assess what new these countries can bring to the emerging new European legal culture. In the framework of this course, the constitutional systems of the new EU candidate countries, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Turkey, will be analyzed.



Introduction to Public International Law in the Czech Legal Context

HASO2

The course intends to provide the participants with basic knowledge concerning the theory of public international law. Particular attention will be given to the Czech position in the international community and to the interaction between the Czech legal system and international law.



Jurisprudence

HASO3

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





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.



Natural Resources Law

HASO4

The course provides a comprehensive overview of the legal regulation of natural resources management at the international, EU and Czech national level. It deals with rules on the protection and sustainable use of both living and non-living natural resources, such as minerals, water, land and fauna and flora. It covers issues of energy generation from both conventional and non-conventional sources; it pays attention to specific legal regulation of marine resources exploitation and legal regime of resources of Antarctica.





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.



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.



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.





Course Description – Summer Semester

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.



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.



Crime and Criminal Law in European and International Context

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.





Digital Legal Studies: Computational Data Analysis

HSSO12

Artificial intelligence helps us in various ways in the legal field from conducting legal research to analyzing court decisions and even predicting the outcome of court cases. The goal of this course is to provide the students with the basic computational methods of analysis that can be utilized in legal research, such as Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning. First, we will begin by understanding the basic data structures and libraries in Python. Then, we will focus on how we can collect data and process it. Finally, we will work on how we can classify data through machine learning and natural language processing. The course is based on practical exercises on available legal data sets such as court decisions, legislation, and other regulations



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.





EU Company Law and International Commercial Transactions

HSSC3

The course consists of two blocks.

1) Eu Company Law in Comparative Perspective

The first block of the course focuses on the company law from the perspective of The EU and the Czech Republic in a comparative context. Students will learn about the regulation of companies at the EU level, both at the level of primary and secondary law. The development of company law and the extent of its harmonization will be explained. Attention will be paid not only to business companies but also to other legal persons who often act as entrepreneurs. At the same time, corporate governance rules and recommendations and their converging nature within EU Member States, as well as their comparison with the common law approach will be examined. Finally, the role of companies in M&A transactions and the effects of the shareholder agreement will also be discussed.

2) Cross-border Aspects of Commercial Transactions

The second block of the course focuses on cross-border aspects of commercial transactions. The legal regulation of cross-border civil and business matters in the EU will be analysed. Special regard will be given to both conflict of laws rules and international jurisdiction rules in the unified European private international law instruments in this area of law as well as relevant international treaties and Czech Act on Private International Law. Students will be introduced to the conflict of laws regime of international commercial transactions and to the methods of resolution of international commercial disputes, be it international litigation or methods of alternative dispute resolution (with emphasis on international mediation and international arbitration). In addition, the students will be introduced to the legal regulation of recognition and enforcement of foreign court decisions and foreign arbitral awards.



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.





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.



International Administrative Law

HSSC3

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 vaccination certificates 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.





International Aviation Law

HSSO11

This course covers the whole area of international aviation law, including air rights, security and safety, liability of the air carrier towards passengers, shippers, and third parties, and air traffic management. Firstly, we will focus on the public international regulation of civil aviation law, specifically on Chicago Convention establishing the core principles permitting international transport by air and the role of the International Civil Aviation Organization. From this starting point, we will explore the individual topics civil aviation law deals with. Special attention will be dedicated to the respective case law.



International Peace and Security in Cyberspace

HASO14

The regulation of international peace and security belongs among the cornerstones of international law and its goal is to guarantee the safety and peaceful coexistence and cooperation of states and other international actors. The creation of cyberspace has confronted the system with unforeseen challenges and the cyberspace, once considered a “free” domain, is gradually succumbing to law-based regulation.

Despite the recent efforts to regulate activities in cyberspace, the technical challenges of attribution as well as hesitations regarding the applicability of international law in its entirety to the new domain challenge the effectiveness of international peace and security.

The goal of the subject is to get the students acquainted with the system of international peace and security, as well as with the currently most debated areas of the system's interplay with activities in cyber space.

In order to reach the goal of the subject, students will be required to read prepared materials and actively participate in debates during lectures/seminars. Study methods include case-studies of both fictitious and real events in cyberspace





Islam and Christianity before the ECHR

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.



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





Law and Economics

HSSO3

This course is designed to introduce students into a framework of institutions such as formal laws, contracts, and informal norms within which all economic activity takes place. Economic analysis will be applied to illuminate the common law areas such as torts, contracts, property or criminal law. It will examine the effect of legal rules on individual behavior, behavior of firms, consequent resource allocation, income distribution, economic growth.

Furthermore, the economic analysis will examine whether these legal rules are in line with reaching socially optimum outcomes. Prior acquaintance with principles of economics is desirable, although brief overview of the relevant economic concepts is given in the introduction.



Law and Politics: Contemporary Issues

HSSO14

What happens when law and politics collide? This course introduces students to the key debates and tensions at the heart of modern legal systems. Each week, we explore a big question — about rights, justice, power, or democracy — by comparing two perspectives: a mainstream view and a more critical or radical one. Students will learn to think about law not just as rules or procedures, but as a political force that shapes (and is shaped by) society.

No prior knowledge of legal or political theory is required — just curiosity and a willingness to think deeply.



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.





Why We Follow Rules: Law and the Mind

HSSO13

This course explores the intersection of legal theory, moral philosophy, and psychology to examine what motivates citizens to obey the law—and under what conditions such obedience can be said to be autonomous, meaningful, and legitimate. Legal positivism, a dominant tradition in modern legal thought, holds that the validity of law is determined by its sources rather than its moral content. This formalist conception has come under increasing scrutiny in light of rising populism, democratic backsliding, and growing social polarization. While positivism aims to present law as neutral and independent from politics, religion, and society, critics argue that such neutrality is both illusory and politically dangerous. These critics converge on the view that legal validity alone cannot account for citizens' sense of political obligation. Instead, they argue that obedience to the law must rest on substantive moral grounds—grounds that make law not only formally legitimate but meaningfully just. Yet despite this shared critique of positivism, critical and civic approaches diverge profoundly on what those moral grounds should be. Broadly speaking, they offer three competing answers to the question of why people follow the law: freedom, culture, and justice.

