COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
Legal German	

Lecturer(s)	Department, Faculty
Coordinating: Assoc. Prof. Dr Virginija Masiulionytė **Other:** Assoc. Prof. Dr Vaiva Žeimantienė, Assoc. Prof. Dr Dalius Jarmalavičius	Vilnius University Faculty of Philology Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic Universiteto 5, LT-01513 Vilnius

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
BA	Optional

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Classroom	Semester 3, 5 and 7	German

Requisites	
Prerequisites: ≥ A2 level of German language	**Co-requisites (if relevant):**

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed
Principal objectives of the course unit are to develop the ability to understand and analyze German legal language, the competence to express legal concepts clearly in both spoken and written German and to connect legal concepts with broader humanities' topics. The content of the course is differentiated according to learners' language level (from A2+ up to C2) and personal needs. The following general competencies also are being developed: analytical and critical thinking, independent work, time management, teamwork, problem-solving skills and digital competence: the ability to use IT and AI tools in order to learn and communicate more effectively, understanding the ethical aspects of such use.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be able to:		
- understand und to use German language within a legal context, having acquired a solid foundation in German legal vocabulary and a repertoire of typical lexical and grammatical structures and patterns;	seminars, examining real legal documents, group and pair discussion, role playing, completion of practical (interactive) tasks and exercises	written and oral assignments, small projects, tests
- demonstrate cultural and historical awareness of the German legal system;	seminars, discussions, group work, independent research	written and oral assignments, small projects
- to break down complex information and adapt their language in order to make the topic more accessible;	seminars, examining real legal documents, group and pair discussion, role playing, completion of practical (interactive) tasks and exercises	written and oral assignments, small projects
- to work collaboratively with others towards a common goal;	work in groups, group discussion, role playing	written and oral assignments, small projects

	work during seminars, analyzing and correcting possible errors, using generative AI tools to learn	homework check; timely completion of written and oral assignments, tasks, projects and tests
- to self-evaluate their professional development and academic progress, as well as integrate the newly acquired knowledge and skills into the formerly built context of learning		

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
The role of law in society. Law vs. lawlessness. Might makes right vs. the principle of the Rechtsstaat. Research projects using AI tools to investigate legal concepts over time.	2		8				**10**	**20**	Open- and closed-ended interactive tasks, vocabulary quizzes and games, group work, discussions, small research project
Introduction to the German Legal System. Law branches. Legal institutions and key legal figures. The separation of powers between the judiciary, executive, and legislature.	2		6				**8**	**10**	Open- and closed-ended interactive tasks, vocabulary quizzes and games, group work, discussions
Legal German in Everyday Life: common legal terms and documents (contracts, agreements etc.). Drafting simple legal documents using AI-generated templates.	2		6				**8**	**12**	Open- and closed-ended interactive tasks, vocabulary quizzes and games, group work, discussions, role-playing scenarios (client consultations, negotiations, court proceedings), collaborative projects solving legal issues using AI-generated legal advice
Open-book test 1	0		1				**1**	**4**	repetition
The concept of individual rights. Legal frameworks to protect individual rights. Fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution. Personal freedoms vs. duties towards society. Privacy rights vs. national security. Freedom of speech vs. hate speech regulations. Case studies and analysis: identifying main arguments.	2		8				**10**	**12**	Open- and closed-ended interactive tasks, vocabulary quizzes and games, group work, discussions, small research project
Significant legal documents in the history of the region: Constitution of 3 May 1791 as a second Constitution in the world. Its impact, symbolism and legacy. Significant German legal documents: Peace of Westphalia (1648). Foundation of modern state system. Weimar Constitution (1919). Establishing Germany as a democratic parliamentary republic.	2		8				**10**	**20**	Open- and closed-ended interactive tasks, vocabulary quizzes and games, group work, discussions, small research project
Open-book test 2	0		1				**1**	**4**	repetition
Total	**10**		**38**				**48**	**82**	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Cumulative and formative assessment:			

Completion of assignments, tasks and exercises	40 %	during the semester	10 (excellent). 95-100% of the assignments successfully completed. 9 (very good). 85-94% of the assignments successfully completed. 8 (good). 75-84% of the assignments successfully completed. 7 (satisfactory). 65-74% of the assignments satisfactory completed. 6 (sufficient). 55-64 % of the assignments completed. 5 (weak). 51-54% of the assignments completed. 4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements are not met. Successful completion means that established goals were reached based on the criteria and standards set in advance by the teacher(s) (if needed, in cooperation with the students)
Average grade of open-book tests	30 %	during the semester	Ten-point assessment scale: 10 (excellent). Excellent, exceptional knowledge and abilities. 95-100% of questions answered correctly. 9 (very good). Very good knowledge and abilities. 85-94 % of questions answered correctly. 8 (good). Knowledge and abilities are above average. 75-84 % of questions answered correctly. 7 (average). Average knowledge and abilities; there are a few not essential mistakes. 65-74 % of questions answered correctly. 6 (satisfactory). Knowledge and abilities are below average; there are mistakes. 55-64 % of questions answered correctly. 5 (weak). Knowledge and abilities meet the minimum requirements. 51-54 % of questions answered correctly. 4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements are not met.
Student's assessment by the peers	30 %	during the semester	Students perform peer assessment every time they are working in a group. At the end of the semester total peer-given points are calculated.

	Yes	No
Is able to collaborate with others towards a common goal	1	0
Is able to further develop other people's ideas	1	0
Encourages and/or promotes others to express ideas, acknowledges and values these ideas	1	0
Demonstrates a cooperative and supportive attitude	1	0
Contributes meaningfully to group discussions	1	0
Completes group assignments on time	1	0
Prepares work in a quality manner	1	0
Contributes significantly to the success of the project	1	0

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
Required reading				
Masiulionytė, Virginija		Interactive learning units on Moodle		https://emokymai.vu.lt/
		Quick Guide Graphic for Students: Should I Use AI?		
Recommended reading				
Schlüter Ellner, Corinna	2022	Juristendeutsch verständlich gemacht. Treffende Verben in der deutschen Rechtssprache: Sammelband.	3., erweiterte und überarbeitete Auflage	BDÜ Weiterbildungs- und Fachverlagsgesellschaft Fachverlag.
Simon, Heike, & Funk-Baker, Gisela	2013	Einführung in das deutsche Recht und die deutsche Rechtssprache	5., neubearbeitete Auflage	C.H. Beck
Thormann, Isabelle, & Hausbrandt, Jana	2016	Rechtssprache: klar und verständlich für Dolmetscher, Übersetzer, Germanisten und		BDÜ Fachverlag

		andere Nichtjuristen		
Generative AI Tools				
Bitlife			https://bitlife.ai/	
Classx			https://shorturl.at/cgkz7	
Deepl Write			https://www.deepl.com/write	
Microsoft Copilot			https://copilot.microsoft.com/	

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