Course Descriptions (English Courses)

1. Introduction to American Law

(Dr. Beke-Martos, Course ID 060520, Tuesday, noon-2 p.m., GA 03/142)

This course is a basic introduction to the law and legal system of the United States in English. It covers the basic characteristics of the common law system, the doctrine of stare decisis, sources of law in the United States, the U.S. court system (both state and federal), the jury system, parties to a lawsuit, basics of the adversary system of trial, pleadings and motions, pretrial discovery, the trial process, case briefs and citations. Though the course is a lecture, some participation is expected. This course is a core course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.
Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.

2. U.S. Constitutional Law I: State & Governance

(Mr. von Estorff, Course ID 060527, Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon, GD 03/150)

This is an entry-level course on U.S. Constitutional Law. The course focuses on the text of the U.S. Constitution and its Amendments. Through grammatical and contextual analysis, students examine the structure and working of the American state and governance. Horizontal and vertical separation of powers and the basics of the common law legal system are also addressed and examined through documents and cases. Although the course is primarily a lecture, some participation is expected. This course is a core course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.
Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.

3. Interpreting the Founding Documents of the US:

(Dr. Beke-Martos, Course ID 060542, Tuesday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., GD 5/450)

The Constitution of the United States of America is the product of the 1787 Constitutional Convention and the subsequent ratification processes in the various states. Yet the process that culminated in Philadelphia commenced long before. This course focuses on the founding of the United States through the documents that paved the way. Starting from the Declaration of Independence, participants read through and discuss the Northwest Ordinance, the Articles of Confederation as well as the various drafts introduced but not adopted at the Constitutional Convention. The grammatical interpretation of these texts along with private correspondence and public commentaries of that time provide an insight into the understanding of a federal America, exactly as the Founding Fathers had envisaged it. Participants will be required to read and interpret texts for themselves and be ready to answer questions or discuss different legal institutions included therein. The course includes lecture elements, free discussions, team work and individual reading. Since the documents all date back to the 18th Century, proficiency in English is preferred.
This course is an elective course in the Certificate Program of the Legal Faculty.
Required reading: will be made available through Moodle.

4. Introduction to International Arbitration

(Mr. Wuschka, Course ID 060557, February 22.-25., 2027, 9 am-2 pm, GD 1/148)

This course introduces arbitration as a means to settle international disputes. It will address recourse to arbitration in different fields of law, including for inter-state disputes (e.g. under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration), commercial disputes, sports disputes as well as the constantly hotly debated topic of investor-state arbitration (e.g. under the auspices of ICSID). The course will feature guest presentations by speakers from various institutions.

5. UK Constitutional Law

(Mr. Schmitz, Course ID 060534, Friday, 10 am – noon (c.t.), GA 04/149)

The United Kingdom's constitutional system is distinctive in that it is not contained in a single written constitution, but has evolved over centuries through legislation, judicial decisions, conventions, and political practice. This course examines the foundations and key features of the UK constitutional framework, tracing its historical development and considering how it operates in practice today. Particular attention will be paid to the legislative process, electoral systems, and the legal and constitutional limits on the exercise of public power.
The course will then turn to the different levels of legal authority within the UK, exploring the constitutional implications of devolution and the distribution of powers between the UK and its constituent nations. Finally, it will consider the United Kingdom’s relationship with international law, including the constitutional changes and challenges brought about by Brexit.

6. Privacy and Data Protection Law in the US and UK

(Mr. Kramm, Course ID 060541, March 15-18., 2027, 9 am-2 pm, GD 1/148)

Every click, face scan and AI prompt can generate personal data. Who may collect it, how may it be used, and what happens when it crosses borders?

This course examines how the United States and the United Kingdom answer these questions through markedly different legal models. Students will explore the UK's post-Brexit framework, including the UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the reforms introduced by the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025. The course contrasts this rights-based approach with the evolving US landscape of sector-specific federal rules, Federal Trade Commission enforcement and an expanding patchwork of state privacy laws.

Using contemporary cases and practical scenarios, students will consider some of the most pressing questions of the year. Can personal data be used to train generative AI? When should individuals be able to challenge an automated decision? How should the law regulate facial recognition, age-assurance technologies, online tracking, data brokers and personalised pricing? What protections should apply to children's data, health information and precise location data?

The course also examines cybersecurity incidents, government surveillance, international data transfers and the UK–US Data Bridge. By comparing two influential but contrasting systems, students will learn how privacy law operates in practice and assess whether existing rules provide meaningful protection in an increasingly data-driven society.

7. U.S. Intellectual Property Law

(Mr. Hanrahan, Course ID 060526, Tuesday, 4-6 pm, Zoom Video Course)

This course will provide students with a basic and fundamental overview of major areas of intellectual property law in the United States. We will cover topics related to United States patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets, as well as how each of these different areas are interrelated to one another. We will not only discuss how to obtain intellectual property rights, but also how and when to enforce those rights against an infringer. The course will reference current United States laws, cases, as well as rules and procedures enforced by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and U.S. Copyright Office. Some participation is expected during the lectures.

8. Corporate Governance and Sustainability

(Prof. Amatucci, Course ID 060549, 27.10.-06.11.2026, 27.10.+03.11.2026 in GD 2/478, the other classes take place in GD 1/478)

This course examines the evolving role of corporations as socially responsible entities, exploring whether they should act in ways that benefit stakeholders and mitigate harm to society. It investigates the dominant economic model based on unlimited growth, which is increasingly being challenged. The course delves into the ethical foundations of corporate social responsibility and analyzes frameworks like shareholder primacy, stakeholderism, and enlightened shareholder value. It also explores the corporation as a complex social institution with a pluralistic purpose. A comparative analysis will look at corporate governance reforms in various jurisdictions aimed at promoting sustainability and stakeholderism. Finally, the course reviews recent trends in legislation aimed at improving corporate responsibility and governance.

9. UK Company Law

(Dr. Pitsillidou, Course ID 060552, Friday, 10 am - noon, Zoom Video Course)

This module provides a comprehensive introduction to the key legal principles and statutory provisions governing the formation, structure and governance of companies under UK Company Law. It examines the legal framework regulating the relationships between companies, directors and shareholders, with particular emphasis on company formation and incorporation, separate corporate personality and limited liability, the company constitution, directors' duties and responsibilities, and the protection of minority shareholders. Through the study of legislation, case law and practical scenarios, students will develop the ability to analyse complex corporate law issues, apply relevant legal principles and evaluate appropriate solutions within the business environment. The module also enables students to critically examine the role of company law in shaping effective corporate governance and provides a strong foundation for further study and professional practice in corporate law.

Kursbeschreibung (türkische Veranstaltung)

1. Türkisches Strafprozessrecht im Vergleich zum deutschen Strafprozessrecht

(Prof. Özaydin, Veranstaltungs-Nr. 060556, 30.10.+13.11.+11.12.2026+08.01.2027, 13-18 Uhr, GD 2/148)

Die Vorlesung „Türk Ceza Hukukuna Giriş/Einführung in das türkische Strafrecht" wird auf Türkisch gehalten. Neben der Vermittlung der strafrechtlichen Rechtsterminologie werden auch inhaltliche Themen, etwa die Definition und die Grundprinzipien des türkischen Strafrechts, die objektiven und subjektiven Tatbestandsvoraussetzungen einer Straftat und die Rechtswidrigkeit, behandelt. Daneben wird auch auf Kriminologie, Viktimologie, Strafvollzugsrecht und Strafverfahrensrecht eingegangen. Dabei werden Bezüge zum deutschen Recht hergestellt: Während das türkische Strafrecht früher zunächst vom französischen und dann vom italienischen Strafrecht inspiriert wurde, ist das türkische Strafgesetzbuch 2005 unter dem starken Einfluss des deutschen Strafgesetzbuches reformiert worden.
Das theoretische Wissen wird anhand von praktischen Übungen konkretisiert.

Kursbeschreibung (deutsche Veranstaltung)

1. Einführung in das deutsche Recht

(Herr von Estorff, Veranstaltungs-Nr. 060011, 05.-08.10.2026, 9-16 Uhr, GD 1/468)

Die Vorlesung richtet sich vor allem an Studierende, die an einer ausländischen Hochschule bereits juristische Vorlesungen besucht haben. In der Vorlesung wird zunächst ein grober Überblick über das deutsche Rechtssystem sowie das deutsche Rechtsstudium gegeben. In einer weiteren Einheit wird die Entwicklung des deutschen Rechts dargestellt. Sodann schließen sich jeweils eine Einheit zum Privatrecht, zum Strafrecht und zum Öffentlichen Recht an. Nach der Vorlesung sollen die Studierenden einen ersten Überblick über das deutsche Rechtssystem haben. Das in dieser Vorlesung gewonnene Wissen soll die Grundlage für den Besuch weiterer juristischer Vorlesungen bilden.