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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA
NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA**

LAW INSTITUTE

educational division (faculty/institute/academy) as higher education programme developer

COURSE SYLLABUS

LEGAL RESEARCH AND REASONING

course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

40.03.01 JURISPRUDENCE

field of studies / speciality code and title

The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme of higher education:

BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

2026

1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The course is designed to help students learn how to make professional writing decisions, how to construct proof of a conclusion of law, and how to develop their own processes of writing.

Course objectives: upon completion of course, students will be able to:

1. Determine the value of various authorities and how they interrelate. Utilize primary and secondary authority under appropriate circumstances.
2. Use hard copy digests and online resources to research law.
3. Read and analyze cases to determine issues, holdings, facts, legal reasoning, and disposition.
4. Create accurate, word-processed case briefs according to various formats.
5. Perform constitutional and statutory research. Identify how the legislative process affects legal research.
6. Utilize secondary authority to understand, analyze, and tie together primary authority and to find additional primary authority to support a legal issue.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course is aimed at the Bachelor's students formation of the following competences (part of competences):

Table 2.1. List of target competencies (parts of competencies)

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GPC-1	GPC-1. Can analyze the main patterns of formation, implementation and development of law.	GPC-1.1. Knows the basics of the history of law, its nature and patterns; GPC-1.2. Uses legal methodology in order to analyze the main patterns of formation, implementation and development of law; GPC-1.3. Formulates and explains their position to complete professional tasks using relevant legal information.
GPC-5	GPC-5. Can use their speaking and writing skills in a cohesive, well-reasoned and logical way with a uniform and correct use of professional legal terminology.	GPC-5.1. Has mastered the main methods of formal logic and tactical methods of legal argumentation to express their oral and written position on a specific legal problem; GPC-5.2. Uses their speaking and writing skills in a cohesive, well-reasoned and logical way to set out the facts and circumstances, states their legal position; GPC-5.3. Correctly uses legal terminology in professional communication.

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the variable component of (B1) block of the higher educational programme curriculum.

Within the higher education programme students also master other (modules) and / or internships that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as results of the course study.

Table 3.1. The list of the higher education programme components/disciplines that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as the course study results

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules, internships*	Subsequent courses/modules, internships*
GPC-1	GPC-1. Can analyze the main patterns of formation, implementation and development of law.	Theory of State and Law History of State and Law of Foreign Countries History of Russian State and Law Civil Law Basic Provisions of Civil Law Implementation and Protection of Civil Rights. Right of Ownership and Other in Rem Rights Law of Obligations. Tort Law Contract Law Intellectual Property Law. Inheritance Law Family Law Civil and Commercial Procedure International Public Law Labor Law International Private Law Commercial Law and Corporations	Roman Law Comparative Constitutional Law and Justice Comparative Criminal Law Comparative Administrative Law and Justice Comparative Civil and Commercial Law Comparative Criminal Procedure Comparative Civil Procedure Comparative Financial and Tax Law Work Experience (Investigation-Prosecution) Internship Work Experience (Judicial) Internship Work Experience (Pre-graduation) Internship
GPC-5	GPC-5. Can use their speaking and writing skills in a cohesive, well-reasoned and logical way with a uniform and correct use of professional legal terminology.	Language Module Foreign Language for Legal Purposes Russian Language for Legal Purposes Theory of State and Law Foundations of Rhetoric and Communication Civil and Commercial Procedure Criminal Procedure and Forensic Science	Comparing Legal Techniques Work Experience (Investigation-Prosecution) Internship Work Experience (Judicial) Internship Work Experience (Pre-graduation) Internship

* To be filled in according to the competence matrix of the higher education programme.

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total workload of the course is 3 credits (108 academic hours).

Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the periods of higher education programme mastering (**full-time training**) *

Type of academic activities	Total academic hours	Semesters			
		1	2	3	4
<i>Classroom learning, academic hours</i>	34			34	
Lectures (LC)	17			17	
Lab work (LW)					
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)	17			17	
<i>Self-studies</i>	58			58	
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam/passing/failing grade)</i>	16			16	
Course workload	academic hours	108		108	
	credits	3		3	

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
Chapter 1. Introduction to legal analysis.	Introduction to legal analysis. Why lawyers analyze legal issues. Analyzing legal issues. The legal system. What is a legal issue. Identifying legal issues. Analyzing legal issues. Rule-based reasoning. The inner structure of a rule. Organizing the application of a rule. Where rules come from (sources of law).	LC / S
Chapter 2. An introduction to judicial decisions and statutes.	Reading cases and writing case briefs. What is a case? Why lawyers and law students read cases. Understanding cases. The parts of a case: an annotated case. Case briefs. Writing a useful case brief: finding your own briefing style. A sample case brief. Statutes (normative legal acts). Statutory codes. Determining a statute's meaning. How to identify and analyze statutory issues. Identifying the facts.	LC / S
Chapter 3. Introduction to legal writing.	The art of legal writing. The language as a professional tool. Your writing and your career. Predictive writing and persuasive writing. The art forms of legal writing. The process of writing. Writing in four stages: analyzing, organizing, the first draft, overcoming writer's block, rewriting. Some general advice about writing.	LC / S
Chapter 4. Office memoranda.	Office memoranda. Office memorandum format. Writing an office memorandum. Initially obtaining the facts: client interviewing.	LC / S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
	<p>Lawyers and clients. How to interview. How to begin. How to learn what the client knows. How to conclude.</p> <p>Predictive writing. How to predict. How to test your writing for predictiveness.</p>	
Chapter 5. General writing skills.	<p>Introduction to legal proofs. The structure of a legal proof. The logical framework of the legal proof. Using the deductive syllogism in legal proofs. Validating the analysis: rule support and Case comparison. An annotated legal proof.</p> <p>Selecting authority. The hierarchy of authority. How use statutes and precedents. Authority to fill a gap in local law. The use and abuse of analogy in law.</p> <p>Working with precedent. Eight skills for working with precedent. Formulating a variety of rules from the same precedent. Analogizing and distinguishing. Eliciting policy from precedent.</p> <p>Working with statutes. Ten tools of statutory interpretation. How to compile statutory analysis (before writing). How to present statutory analysis in writing.</p> <p>Working with facts. What is a fact? Identifying determinative facts. Building inferences from facts. Identifying hidden and unsupported factual assumptions.</p> <p>Citation. Citation manuals. When to cite. Citing cases. Citing statutes. Miscellaneous matters.</p>	LC / S
Chapter 6. Legal argument construction and reasoning with rules.	<p>Legal education and the introduction of skills of argument. Critical thinking. The definition of argument. The nature of problems and rules.</p> <p>Constructing arguments. Logic. Types of legal reasoning: deduction and induction. Abductive reasoning.</p> <p>The legal syllogism. The semantic notion of logical validity. The defeasibility of reasoning with rules. Defeasibility and modus ponens.</p> <p>Reformulating the rule. Rules as means to draw conclusions. Similarity of structure. Adapting the premises.</p> <p>The two step-models of reasoning with principles and rules. The validity of rules, principles and goals.</p> <p>The exclusion of rules.</p> <p>The scope limitations of rules. Conflict rules. Rules, goals and principles. Reasons against application of a rule. The difference between legal rules and legal principles. Analogous application of a rule. E contrario 'application' of a rule.</p>	LC / S

* - to be filled in only for **full**-time training: LC - lectures; LW - lab work; S - seminars.

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom equipment and technology support requirements

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
Lecture	A lecture hall for lecture-type classes, equipped with a set of specialised furniture; board (screen) and technical means of multimedia presentations.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Lab work	A classroom for laboratory work, individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and machinery.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Seminars	A classroom for conducting seminars, group and individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and technical means for multimedia presentations.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Computer Lab	A classroom for conducting classes, group and individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment, equipped with personal computers (in the amount of 30 pcs), a board (screen) and technical means of multimedia presentations.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Self-studies	A classroom for independent work of students (can be used for seminars and consultations), equipped with a set of specialised furniture and computers with access to the electronic information and educational environment.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Courtroom	A classroom for court hearing simulation equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome

* It is necessary to specify a classroom for self-study of students

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main reading (sources):

1. Deborah E. Bouchoux, Esq. (2016). *Legal Research and Writing for Paralegals*: New York:

Wolters Kluwer. eISBN: 978-1-4548-8169-8

2. William H. Putman (2010). LEGAL RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND WRITING. Delmar 5 Maxwell Drive Clifton Park, NY 12065-2919. ISBN-13: 978-1-4283-0442-0

Additional (optional) reading (sources):

1. Giorgio Bongiovanni, Gerald Postema, Antonino Rotolo, Giovanni Sartor, Chiara Valentini, Douglas Walton (2018). Handbook of Legal Reasoning and Argumentation: Springer Netherlands. ISBN: 978-90-481-9451-3, 978-90-481-9452-0

2. Frederick Schauer (2009). Thinking Like a Lawyer: A New Introduction to Legal Reasoning: HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS. ISBN: 0674032705

Internet-(based) sources:

1. Legal reasoning: Mastering Legal Reasoning: Strategies for Legallists (2024). URL: <https://fastercapital.com/content/Legal-reasoning--Mastering-Legal-Reasoning--Strategies-for-Legallists.html>

2. Electronic libraries with access for RUDN students

- RUDN Electronic Library System (RUDN ELS) <http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web>

- EL "University Library Online" <http://www.biblioclub.ru>

- EL "Yurayt" <http://www.biblio-online.ru>

- EL "Student Consultant" www.studentlibrary.ru

- EL "Lan" <http://e.lanbook.com/>

- EL "Trinity Bridge"

3. Databases and search engines:

- electronic foundation of legal and normative-technical documentation <http://docs.cntd.ru/>

- Yandex search engine <https://www.yandex.ru/>

- Google search engine <https://www.google.ru/>

- Scopus abstract database <http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus>

A complete list of ELS, databases and search engines is provided on the website of the Educational and Scientific Information Library Center (Scientific Library) of RUDN University <https://lib.rudn.ru>

*Training toolkit for self- studies to master the course *:*

* The training toolkit for self- studies to master the course is placed on the course page in the university telecommunication training and information system under the set procedure.

8. ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT AND GRADING SYSTEM* FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES LEVEL UPON COURSE COMPLETION

The assessment toolkit and the grading system* to evaluate the competences formation level (competences in part) upon the course study completion are specified in the Appendix to the course syllabus.

* The assessment toolkit and the grading system are formed on the basis of the requirements of the relevant local normative act of RUDN University (regulations / order).

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