Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA
RUDN University

Law Institute

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

COURSE SYLLABUS

TRANSLATION AND CRIMINAL LAW

course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

45.04.02 Linguistics

field of studies / speciality code and title

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

Legal Translation and Interpreting

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

2025

1. COURSE GOALS

The main purpose is to introduce students to Criminal Law as one of the professional disciplines necessary for mastering legal interpreting skills. This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts of Criminal Law as well as methods of interpreting analysis of texts pertaining to the given legal domain. The content of the course is designed to familiarize the students with those concepts and analytical tools they may require for translation practice of relevant legal documents. In addition, it attempts to provide an overview of the field that enables students to seek answers for further questions about administrative law and to start formulating and pursuing their own research interests in legal language domain.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course is aimed at the development of the following professional competences:

Table 2.1. List of competences that students acquire through the course study

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GPC-5	Can carry out interlingual and intercultural interaction in accordance with the conventions of speech communication in a foreign language community, in line with the rules and traditions of intercultural professional communication with native speakers	Indicator 1 Knows the conventions of foreign community communication in diverse situational contexts
		Indicator 2 Masters comprehensive tools for interlingual and intercultural interaction in line with the rules and traditions of intercultural professional communication with native speakers
GPC-7	Can work with the major search engines, expert systems and other knowledge systems as well as systems of verbal information processing	Indicator 1 Knows major search engines, expert systems for knowledge representation and verbal information processing
		Indicator 2 Masters comprehensive digital tools for knowledge representation and verbal information processing
PC-3	Can conduct legal translation in compliance with the norms of the target text, as well as preserving the meaning and functional purpose of the source text	Indicator 1. Knows the general standards and specifics of various genres of legal documents (with reference to the working language pair) for legal translation
		Indicator 2. Masters the strategy and tactics of translating standard genres of legal texts

On completion of the Course the student
- knows basic concepts and terms (English – Russian, Russian-English) of Criminal Law from the comparative angle
- knows basic linguistic phenomena of all language levels, functioning principles and varieties of the language under study in texts of Criminal Law domain

- knows basic strategies and tactics of creating texts of professional importance in Criminal Law domain
- knows reasons for conflicts in intercultural communication in legal domain
- can provide interpreting analysis of legal texts in Criminal Law domain
- can identify effective strategies of translation suitable for legal texts and use them creatively for his/her own translation of written or oral texts
- can conduct research and make presentations on topics related to Criminal Law
- can create and edit professional texts within Criminal Law
- masters bilingual legal information processing skills
- masters skills of translating texts in the relevant branch of law.

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the variable component of (B1) block of the higher educational programme curriculum. It is taught in English, the students are expected to know English at level B2-C1 to follow explanations, take notes, and ask questions, as well as provide the answers for overall course study related activities in English.

Students are expected to know Criminal Law key concepts and theories.

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	Subsequent courses/modules
GPC-5	Can carry out interlingual and intercultural interaction in accordance with the conventions of speech communication in a foreign language community, in line with the rules and traditions of intercultural professional communication with native speakers	Cross Cultural Communication and Mediation (in English) / Межкультурная коммуникация и медиация (на английском языке) Consecutive Interpreting Course (English-Russian) / Практический курс устного перевода (английский-русский)	Multilingualism and Lawmaking: EU Practice / Многоязычие и законотворчество: практика ЕС
GPC-7	Can work with the major search engines, expert systems and other knowledge systems as well as systems of verbal information processing	Translation studies Legal documents translation Editing and proofreading Computer-assisted Tools for Legal Translation	Multilingualism and Lawmaking: EU Practice / Многоязычие и законотворчество: практика ЕС
PC-3	Can conduct consecutive and sight legal interpreting in compliance with the norms of the target text, as well as preserving the meaning and functional purpose of the source text	Cross Cultural Communication and Mediation (in English) / Межкультурная коммуникация и медиация (на английском языке)	Court interpreting / Судебный перевод Public service interpreting

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The course total workload is 2 credits (72 academic hours).

Table 4.1 Types of academic activities in time periods

Type of academic activities		Totalacademic hours	Semesters/training modules			
			5	6	7	8
Contact academic hours		*36*			*36*	
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		*36*			*36*	
Self-studies		*27*			*27*	
Evaluation and assessment (exam/passing/failing grade)		*9*			*9*	
Course workload	academic hours	*72*			*72*	
	credits	*2*			*2*	

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course module titles	Course module contents	Academic activities types
1 Criminal law: key concepts and definitions.	Characteristics of the criminal law in English speaking countries and Russia Historical overview of civil law development	Self-study S
2 Objectives ad functions of criminal law	Retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation and restoration	Self-study S
3 Elements of crime	Actus reus, mens rea, strict liability	Self-study S
4 Classes of offences in common law and Russian criminal law	Offence against the person, violent offence, sexual offence, offence against property	Self-study S
5 Key justice participants in a common law and civil law system	Police, prosecutor, judge, defense counsel, juries, victims	Self-study S
6 Criminal procedure: key concepts and definitions	Characteristics of the criminal procedure in English speaking countries and Russia	Self-study S
7 Discourse practice: translation	1 Уголовный кодекс РФ Глава 4. Лица, подлежащие уголовной ответственности 2 Апелляционное постановление	Self-study S
8 Discourse practice: translation	1 УПК РФ Статья 20. Виды уголовного преследования 2 Апелляционное постановление	Self-study S
9 Discourse practice: translation	1 УК РФ Статья 44. Виды наказаний 2 Апелляционное постановление	Self-study S

10 Discourse practice: translation	1 УПК РФ Статья 31. Подсудность уголовных дел 2 Постановление Пермского краевого суда – уголовное дело	Self-study S

Seminars

The research case activities aim to develop critical thinking skills in the field of current bilingual legal texts that are offered for practitioners in the field of criminal law branches. The activities include critical analysis of current variants of translation versions of a Russian Code text into English. Concrete materials for individual research case are expected to be agreed among the group and the teacher to fit the students' individual professional needs and research purposes.

The course is designed to provide students with no less than 30% of its content to be taught through interactive forms in the classroom and through cloud-based group discussion of translation products and their quality.

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)
Seminar	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.	Portable multimedia projector Benq MP610, notebook Acer Aspire 5315-301G08, screen, access to Internet. Software: Microsoft (OC, MS Office/ Office 365, Teams, Skype)
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.	System block IRBIS, monitor VIEW SONIC 19, multimedia projector VIEW SONIC PGD 5254, screen IPROJECTAL, access to Internet

* - Classroom 326

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main reading:

Bergman, P., Berman, S.J. The Criminal Law Handbook. Know Your Rights, Survive the System. Nolo, 2018.
The criminal justice system (UK). https://www.cps.gov.uk/criminal-justice-system
The criminal justice system (USA). http://www.correctionalofficer.org/us-criminal-justice-system
Criminal Justice in Russia. www.supcourt.ru/en/judicial_system/

Butler, W., Henderson, J.E. Russian Legal Texts:The Foundations of a Rule-of-Law State and a Market Economy. Kluwer Law International, 1998

Burnham, W., Maggs, P.B., Danilenko, G. Law and Legal System of the Russian Federation 2d ed. Yonkers, N.Y.: Juris (for the Parker School on Foreign and Comparative Law), 2004.

Butler, W. E. Russian Law. 2d ed. New York, N.Y.: Oxford, University Press, 2002.

Sources for research case of bilingual texts within Criminal law domain

Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (1996, amended 2012) (English version)

Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation (2001, amended 2012) (English version)

https://www.legislationline.org/documents/section/criminal-codes/country/7/Russian%20Federation/show

Legal Dictionaries

Butler, William E. Russian-English Legal Dictionary and Bibliographic Sources for Russian Law in English. Ardsley, N.Y: Transnational Pub., 2001.

DeBeer, Shane R. Dictionary of Business and Legal Terms: Russian-English/English-Russian. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1995.

Andrianov, S.N., A.S. Berson, and A.S. Nikiforov. English-Russian Law Dictionary: Moscow: ABI Press,2009.

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).

DEVELOPERS:

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