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

Law Institute

Educational Division

COURSE SYLLABUS

Fundamentals of Legal Tech

(Course title)

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field

40.03.01 Law

field of studies / specialty code and title

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

Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

higher education program profile/ specialisation title

1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The main purpose is to consider current approaches to legal regulation of technologies related to legal tech (AI, blockchain, etc.), study the practice of applying these technologies by the legal community and the state, to consider the issues of legal security of using technology in the field of legal tech

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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

Competence Code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GC-1.	Can search for information, perform its critical analysis and synthesis, apply systematic approach to complete the tasks.	GC-1.1. Analyzes the task while identifying its basic components; GC-1.2. Identifies and ranks the information required to complete the tasks; GC-1.3. Searches for information and performs its rational analysis to complete the task based on various types of requests; GC-1.4. Offers options for problem solving and analyzes the possible consequences of using them; GC-1.5. Analyzes various ways of solving worldview-related, moral and personal problems based on the use of fundamental philosophical ideas and categories in their historical development and sociocultural context.
GC-6.	Can manage their time, build and implement a personal development plan based on the principles of lifelong learning.	GC-6.1. Develops and uses tools and methods of time management and control to complete specific tasks, projects, goals; GC-6.2. Analyzes the main opportunities and tools of continuing education based on their interests and needs, considering such criteria as conditions, tools, personal opportunities, career growth stages, personal development timeframe and labor market requirements; GC-6.3. Sets personal development goals and professional growth priorities;
GPC-8	Can obtain relevant legal information in a purposeful and efficient way from various sources, including legal databases, to complete specific professional tasks using information technology and considering information security requirements	GPC-8.1. Can obtain relevant legal information from various sources, including legal databases, processes and arranges it based on the goal; GPC-8.2. Uses information technology to complete specific professional tasks; GPC-8.3. Demonstrates the readiness to complete professional tasks while considering information security requirements.
GPC-9.	Can understand the principles of modern information technology and use them to complete professional tasks.	GPC-9.1. Is aware of modern hardware and software and knows the principles, based on which they operate; GPC-9.2. Knows how to choose modern technology necessary to solve specific professional problems; GPC-9.3. Has mastered the skills of using modern technology necessary to solve specific professional problems.
PC-2	Can apply legal norms in specific legal areas and use them in the way prescribed by law	PC-2.4. Has mastered the methods of searching for cases of implementation of law and monitoring it in order to complete professional tasks.

3.COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the core 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*	Subsequent courses/modules*
GC-1.	Can search for information, perform its critical analysis and synthesis, apply systematic approach to complete the tasks.	Theory of State and Law Philosophy History of State and Law of Foreign Countries	Theory of State and Law
GC-6.	Can manage their time, build and implement a personal development plan based on the principles of lifelong learning.	History of State and Law of Foreign Countries	History of Political and Legal Doctrines
GPC-8	Can obtain relevant legal information in a purposeful and efficient way from various sources, including legal databases, to complete specific professional tasks using information technology and considering information security requirements	Foundations of Rhetoric and Communication / Основы риторики и коммуникации Constitutional Law / Конституционное право	Criminal Procedure and Forensic Science / Уголовный процесс и криминалистика Financial Law and Tax Law / Финансовое и налоговое право Labor Law / Трудовое право
GPC-9.	Can understand the principles of modern information technology and use them to complete professional tasks.	Computer Science	Civil and Arbitration Procedure
PC-2	Can apply legal norms in specific legal areas and use them in the way prescribed by law		Administrative Law Civil Law Financial Law and Tax Law

* - filled in based on the competency matrix

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1) 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)**

Types of academic activities	TOTAL, academic hours	Semester / Module			
		1	2	3	4
<i>Contact academic hours</i>	36			36	
<i>including:</i>					
Lectures (LC)	18			18	
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)	18			18	
<i>Self-studies</i>	54			54	
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam or pass/fail grading)</i>	18			18	
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)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
Legal tech: historical aspect of the influence of the information technology on the legal profession.	Topic 1.1. The main industries of legal tech and history of their formation (artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), Augmented Reality(AR), Blockchain (Bch), legal to business/ legal to customer (L2B/L2C).	Legal tech encompasses transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and virtual/augmented reality, which have reshaped legal service delivery. The history of legal tech shows a progression from simple digitization to advanced platforms like L2B (legal-to-business) and L2C (legal-to-customer) solutions. These industries emerged to address inefficiencies in traditional legal processes, driven by the need for automation and enhanced client access.	LC, S
	Topic 1.2. Major legal professions shaped by the legal tech industry.	The rise of legal tech has created new legal professions, including legal data scientists, e-discovery specialists, and legal process analysts. Traditional roles like paralegals and litigators are also evolving, requiring digital literacy and proficiency with AI-driven research tools. Moreover, lawyers increasingly act as technology advisors, guiding clients on regulatory compliance for innovations such as smart contracts and ICOs.	LC, S
	Topic 1.3. Information technologies as a driver for the development of the legal industry	Information technologies act as a key driver for the legal industry by automating	LC, S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
		<p>routine tasks, reducing costs, and improving access to justice. They enable faster document review, predictive analytics for case outcomes, and secure online dispute resolution. As a result, IT integration is pushing the legal sector toward more data-driven, efficient, and client-centric models.</p>	
Government Digitalization Strategy	<p>Topic 2.1. Goals and objectives of the digitalization of the state function.</p>	<p>The digitalization of state functions aims to increase the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of public services for citizens and businesses. Key objectives include reducing administrative burdens, minimizing corruption risks, and enabling data-driven policy making. Ultimately, it seeks to create a seamless electronic interaction between the state and its stakeholders.</p>	<p>LC, S</p>
	<p>Topic 2.2. Stages of the state digitalization and the main regulatory documents of Russia and foreign countries.</p>	<p>State digitalization typically progresses through stages from basic informatization to fully integrated e-government and smart governance. Major regulatory documents in Russia include the "Digital Economy" national program, while foreign examples include the EU's eIDAS Regulation and the US Digital Government Strategy. These frameworks establish standards for interoperability, data exchange, and the legal validity of electronic interactions.</p>	<p>LC, S</p>
	<p>Topic 2.3. Major Mega trends in the digitalization of public administration.</p>	<p>Key megatrends in public administration digitalization include the shift toward</p>	<p>LC, S</p>

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
		<p>proactive service delivery, where state services are provided automatically without citizen requests. Another trend is the use of big data and AI for predictive governance and risk management. Additionally, the creation of unified digital platforms and cross-border interoperability is transforming how governments interact with each other and with citizens.</p>	
	<p>Topic 2.4. Technological solutions in the field of the digitalization of the state function used in Russia and abroad and their procedure for the legal regulation.</p>	<p>Technological solutions used in public administration digitalization include unified portals like Russia's Gosuslugi, e-justice systems, and blockchain-based land registries in countries like Sweden and Georgia. Legal regulation for these solutions covers data protection, electronic signature validity, and the legal status of automated decisions. Both Russia and abroad have enacted laws governing the use of AI and distributed ledgers in state functions to ensure accountability and transparency.</p>	<p>LC, S</p>
<p>Legal regulation and application of AI technology in legal activities</p>	<p>Topic 3.1. Doctrinal and legal definitions of AI.</p>	<p>Doctrinal definitions of AI in legal scholarship emphasize autonomy, learning capability, and goal-oriented behavior, while legal definitions often focus on transparency and controllability. Different jurisdictions have proposed varying legal frameworks, such as the EU's risk-based approach or Russia's concept of AI as a set of technologies. Legally, the challenge is</p>	<p>LC, S</p>

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
		to define AI in a way that allows for liability attribution and ethical governance.	
	Topic 3.2. Application of AI in legal practice in Russia and foreign countries.	In legal practice, AI is used for document automation, due diligence, legal research, and predictive analytics of court decisions. Russian courts have experimented with AI to suggest legal norms and calculate claims, while foreign examples include US firms using ROSS Intelligence and Chinese courts using AI for case splitting. Adoption varies, with AI handling repetitive tasks but still requiring human oversight for complex legal judgment.	LC, S
	Topic 3.3. Predicted justice, the robot lawyer and the prospects for the development of AI in the judicial system.	Predicted justice refers to using AI algorithms to forecast court outcomes based on past decisions, raising questions about judicial impartiality and transparency. The concept of a "robot lawyer" involves AI providing legal advice or even acting as a mediator or judge in simple disputes. Prospects for AI in the judicial system include enhancing efficiency and reducing backlogs, but concerns remain over due process, algorithmic bias, and the right to a human judge.	LC, S
	Topic 3.4. Technical solutions in the field of AI and their impact on the legal profession.	Technical AI solutions impacting the legal profession include natural language processing (NLP) for contract analysis, machine learning for case outcome prediction, and chatbot-based legal assistance. These tools automate tasks	LC, S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
		<p>once reserved for junior lawyers, such as document review and legal research. Consequently, legal professionals must shift their focus toward strategic advice, ethical judgment, and technology management rather than routine processing.</p>	
<p>Legal regulation and application of Blockchain technology in legal activities</p>	<p>Topic 4.1. Doctrinal and legal definitions of blockchain.</p>	<p>Doctrinally, blockchain is defined as a decentralized, distributed ledger that records transactions in an immutable, chronologically linked chain of blocks. Legal definitions vary, with some jurisdictions classifying it as a reliable information system or a type of database. The key legal challenges arise from its pseudonymous nature, data immutability conflicting with the right to erasure (e.g., GDPR), and cross-border operational characteristics.</p>	<p>LC, S</p>
	<p>Topic 4.2. Legal regulation of smart contracts.</p>	<p>Smart contracts are legally defined as executable code that automatically enforces the terms of an agreement when predetermined conditions are met. Their legal regulation is evolving, with some countries (e.g., Arizona, Tennessee) explicitly recognizing their validity, while others treat them under traditional contract law. Key issues include dispute resolution, the role of oracles, and the legal classification of code errors as potential grounds for voidability.</p>	<p>LC, S</p>

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
	Topic 4.3. Legal regulation of ICO.	Legal regulation of Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs) focuses on whether crypto-tokens constitute securities, thereby triggering registration and disclosure requirements under financial laws. Russia has adopted a nuanced approach, distinguishing between utility tokens and digital financial assets, while the SEC in the US applies the Howey test to determine if an ICO is an investment contract. Regulatory goals include investor protection, anti-money laundering (AML) compliance, and preventing fraudulent token sales.	LC, S
	Topic 4.4. Digital Notaries.	A digital notary is an institution or system that allows notarial acts—such as certifying electronic documents, verifying digital signatures, and timestamping—to be performed remotely and electronically. Legal regulation establishes the procedures for identity verification using enhanced qualified electronic signatures and biometry. Digital notaries increase security and efficiency by creating tamper-proof evidence of electronic transactions and their exact timing.	LC, S
	Topic 4.5. The procedure for regulating the EDS and its protection	The regulation of Electronic Digital Signatures (EDS) establishes three levels: simple, enhanced, and qualified EDS, with the latter having equivalent legal force to a handwritten signature. Legal procedures govern key generation, storage, certificate issuance by authorized certification	LC, S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
		<p>authorities, and protection measures such as revocation mechanisms. Protection of EDS involves criminal and administrative liability for unlawful use, as well as mandatory security standards for private key storage.</p>	
<p>Legal regulation and application of VR/AR, L2B/L2C technology in legal activities</p>	<p>Topic 5.1. Doctrinal and legal definitions of VR/AR, L2B, L2C.</p>	<p>Doctrinally, VR (virtual reality) immerses users in a fully digital environment, while AR (augmented reality) overlays digital information onto the physical world—both raising new legal questions about virtual property and user conduct. L2B (legal-to-business) and L2C (legal-to-customer) refer to online platforms delivering legal services to corporate and individual clients respectively. These definitions help distinguish between B2B legal tech solutions and direct-to-consumer legal portals.</p>	<p>LC, S</p>
	<p>Topic 5.2. Major L2B/L2C platforms used in legal practice.</p>	<p>Major L2B platforms include LegalZoom for business formations, Clio for practice management, and various e-discovery tools, while L2C platforms often include online legal advice chatbots, document automation for individuals (e.g., wills, leases), and dispute resolution portals. These platforms streamline client intake, provide fixed-fee services, and use AI to triage legal questions. In Russia, examples include Pravoved, which connect users with lawyers via digital interfaces.</p>	<p>LC, S</p>

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
	Topic 5.3. Virtual court and issues of VR/AR application in legal practice.	<p>A virtual court uses VR technology to create immersive 3D courtrooms where participants (judges, lawyers, witnesses) can appear remotely via avatars, conduct hearings, and examine digital evidence. Issues in VR/AR application include maintaining decorum, ensuring identity verification, authenticating and presenting virtual evidence, and cybersecurity risks. Additional legal challenges involve the admissibility of VR-recorded testimony and ensuring equal access to necessary hardware and high-bandwidth internet.</p>	LC, S
Legal regulation of IT security	Topic 6.1. International standards of information exchange. The threat concept. Information security in the context of global networks functioning in Russia	<p>International standards for information exchange, such as ISO/IEC 27001 and the GDPR, establish baseline requirements for data security and cross-border data flows. The concept of information threats includes cyberattacks, data breaches, espionage, and disinformation campaigns that can undermine national security. In Russia, the functioning of global networks is regulated under frameworks like the "Sovereign Internet" law (No. 90-FZ), which requires routing control and data localization.</p>	LC, S
	Topic 6.2. The goal and tasks in the field of information security at the state level	<p>At the state level, the primary goal of information security is to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of state information resources and critical infrastructure. Key tasks include preventing cyberattacks on government</p>	LC, S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
		<p>systems, protecting citizens' personal data, countering foreign intelligence activities, and developing national encryption standards. These objectives are typically outlined in state doctrines, such as Russia's Information Security Doctrine, and national cybersecurity strategies.</p>	
	<p>Topic 6.3. Legal regulation in the field of information protection.</p>	<p>Legal regulation of information protection in Russia is governed by several federal laws: the Personal Data Law (No. 152-FZ), the Information Law (No. 149-FZ), and the Law on State Secrets (No. 5485-1). These laws establish mandatory security measures, data localization requirements, notification obligations for data breaches, and licensing for information security activities. International frameworks, such as the GDPR, also influence Russian law when processing data of EU citizens.</p>	<p>LC, S</p>
	<p>Topic 6.4. State and trade secrets.</p>	<p>State secrets are defined as information protected by the state in the interests of national defense, foreign policy, or security, with access restricted through a classified clearance system. Trade secrets (commercial secrets) refer to confidential business information (e.g., manufacturing processes, customer lists) that provides a competitive advantage and is protected under the Trade Secrets Law (No. 98-FZ). Legal regulation establishes liability for unauthorized disclosure of both types of</p>	<p>LC, S</p>

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
		secrets, but state secrets entail much stricter criminal penalties.	
	Topic 6.5. The order of regulation of work with personal data.	The regulation of work with personal data in Russia is primarily governed by Federal Law No. 152-FZ "On Personal Data," which requires operators to obtain consent for data processing, ensure security, and notify Roskomnadzor. Key procedures include mandatory data localization on servers physically located in Russia, cross-border transfer restrictions, and breach reporting within 24 hours. Rights of data subjects include access, rectification, deletion, and the right to object to automated decision-making based solely on their data.	LC, S

* - filled in **only for full-time** education: LC - lectures; LW - laboratory 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.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi
Lab work	A classroom for laboratory work, individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and machinery.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi
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.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi, specialized software: Trados
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.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi
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.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi

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

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main readings:

1. Corrales M., Fenwick M., Haapio H. (ed.). Legal Tech, Smart Contracts and Blockchain. – Singapore : Springer, 2019.
2. Compagnucci, M. C. (2019). Correction to: Legal Tech and the New Sharing Economy (Vol. 223, p. 254). Springer Nature.
3. Jung C., Wendt D. H. Legal Protection Insurance and Legal Technology: The Legal Framework for Offering Legal Technology with a Particular Focus on the German Market. – Springer Nature, 2023.
4. Yastrebov O.A., Atabekov A.R. Legal Status of Artificial Intelligence Across Countries: Legislation on the Move. European Research Studies Journal Volume XXI, Issue 4, 2018.

Additional readings:

1. Marco Iansiti, Karim R. Lakhani The Truth About Blockchain HBR <https://hbr.org/2017/01/the-truth-about-blockchain>
2. Bazarova, Dildora. (2021). LEGAL TECH: LAW AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. 10.13140/RG.2.2.13463.29602.
3. Schafer, Burkhard. (2022). Legal Tech and Computational Legal Theory. 10.1007/978-3-030-90513-2_15.
4. Kilian, Wolfgang. (2022). Legal Tech: Artificial Intelligence and Legal Decision making. Computer Law Review International. 23. 127-128. 10.9785/cr-2022-230407.

Internet-(based) sources:

1. Electronic libraries with access for RUDN students
 - RUDN Electronic library system <http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web>
 - Electronic library system «University Library online» <http://www.biblioclub.ru>
 - Electronic Library «URAIT» <http://www.biblio-online.ru>
 - Electronic library system «Student. Consultant» www.studentlibrary.ru
 - Electronic library system «Lan» <http://e.lanbook.com/>
 - Electronic library system "Troitskyi most"
2. Databases and search engines:
 - Electronic Legal and Regulatory Documentation Fund <http://docs.cntd.ru/>
 - Search system Yandex <https://www.yandex.ru/>
 - Search system Google <https://www.google.ru/>
 - SCOPUS <http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus/>

*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).

DEVELOPERS:

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A.R. Atabekov

Position, Name of the Department

Signature

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HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

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