University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	WPiA - Death Penalty. History, Philosophy, Law., PG_00179128		
Field of study	Criminology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	e-learning
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Tomasz Snarski	
	Teachers	dr Tomasz Snarski	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 30.0

eNauczanie source addresses:
Moodle ID: 12951 WPiA - Kara śmierci. Historia, filozofia, prawo. (PG_00179128)
https://mdl.ug.edu.pl/course/view.php?id=12951

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	0.0	20.0	50

Subject objectives

Students should be encouraged to absorb and comprehend the theoretical underpinnings and philosophical framework of criminal justice. the capacity to identify and talk about the primary concerns surrounding the idea of criminal punishment and the death penalty. to comprehend and absorb the death penalty conceptual grid, fundamental knowledge about the death penalty's global applicability, and international human rights laws pertaining to the death penalty. to develop one's own position on the death penalty with logical support and to be able to conduct a philosophical and legal discussion on the topic. to increase understanding of fundamental ideas in the philosophy and doctrines of criminology, penology, and criminal law. to equip students with the ability to critically and independently think about the fundamental ideas of criminal law. to enhance pupils' comprehension of the conflict between retentionism and abolitionism.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	Students will integrate theoretical frameworks from penal law, its philosophical underpinnings, and historical context to analyze issues in criminal punishment, including capital punishment. Students will possess the ability to apply knowledge of penal law to the analysis and interpretation of complex legal, moral, philosophical and social issues. Students will understand contemporary discourse about capital punishment, within the context of human rights and ethical standards.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK5] implementation of a problem task [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

Subject contents	1) The concept of criminal punishment 2) The concept of the death penalty 3) The history of the death penalty 4) The validity of the death penalty 5) Abolitionism, retentionism and moderate positions 6) The death penalty and human rights 7) Criminal theories towards the death penalty 8) Concepts of justice and the death penalty 9) The death penalty in Poland 10) Attitudes of selected religions towards the death penalty. Ethical evaluation of the death penalty	
Prerequisites and co-requisites	no	
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria: essay Passing threshold: 51.0% Percentage of the final grade: 100.0%	
Recommended reading	Basic literature	1. J. Warylewski, Kara. Podstawy historyczne i filozoficzne, Gdańsk 2007 2. J.A. Świdziński, Kara śmierci. W obronie życia ludzkiego, Kraków 2009 3. B. Bartusiak, Kara śmierci w świetle sporu o racjonalizację kary, Warszawa 2011 4. M. H. Kramer, The Ethics of Capital Punishment, Oxford 2011 5. R. J. Sider (red.), The Early Church on Killing, Michigan 2012 6. E. Feser, J. M. Bessete, By Man Shall His Blood Be Shed, San Francisco 2006 7. E. Christian Brugger, Capital Punishment and Roman Catholic Moral Tradition, Notre Dame, Indiana 2014 8. A. Sarat, When The State Kills. Capital Punishment and American Condition, New Jersey 2001 9. M. Cieślak, Problem kary śmierci (artykuł dyskusyjny), "Państwo i Prawo" 1966, z. 12 10. W. Osiatyński, Prawa człowieka i ich granice, Kraków 2011 11. P. Bartula, Kara śmierci. Powracający dylemat, Kraków 2007 11. T. Snarski, Kościół katolicki wobec kary śmierci. Między prawem a filozofią i teologią, Warszawa 2021 12. Universality of Punishment, A. Incampo, W. Żełaniec (red.), Bari 2015.
	Supplementary literature	no
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The question of the death penalty's moral acceptability Human rights protection and the death penalty Concerns about the death penalty from a philosophical and legal standpoint The death penalty's history and execution techniques	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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