

Subject card

Subject name and code	Elective Lecture - Legal Cultures, PG_00138632						
Field of study	Law						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	uniform Master's studies		Subject group		Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	part-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		1.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Magdalena Glanc-Żabiłowicz				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
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	15		0.0		10.0	25
Subject objectives	The course aims to familiarize students with the fundamental legal cultures operating around the world, their historical development, and contemporary significance. It also develops skills in comparing different legal systems, identifying their characteristics, and analyzing the impact of social, cultural, and historical conditions on the shape of law. Furthermore, students gain knowledge that allows them to better understand the functioning of law in an international environment and the challenges arising from diverse legal traditions.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
	[PRAWOJ5_K02] thinks critically and is prepared to solve specific legal problems				[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK3] text preparation/written work		
	[PRAWOJ5_U06] is able to use theoretical knowledge to analyse and interpret complex legal problems, generate solutions to them and predict the consequences of planned actions				[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work		
	[PRAWOJ5_W03] has an in-depth knowledge of the legal system, its evolution and the interrelationship between Polish law, European Union law and international law				[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report [SW3] text preparation/written work		
	[PRAWOJ5_W02] has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the historical development of various legal systems and institutions				[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report [SW3] text preparation/written work		

Subject contents	The concept of legal culture – definitions, functions, and significance in legal studies. The origins and development of the world's major legal cultures. The continental legal tradition (civil law) – sources, characteristics, and contemporary trends in development. The Anglo-Saxon legal tradition (common law) – precedent, the role of courts, and adjudicative practice. Legal cultures based on religious and customary law – selected examples. The influence of historical, social, political, and cultural factors on the development of legal systems. Legal culture and society's legal awareness and trust in judicial institutions. The processes of harmonization and unification of law in Europe and the impact of international law on legal cultures. Law and cultural values – human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in various legal traditions. Challenges of contemporary legal cultures in the era of globalization, migration, and the development of new technologies. A comparative analysis of selected legal systems and case studies. The importance of the diversity of legal cultures for international cooperation and legal practice.											
Prerequisites and co-requisites												
Assessment methods and criteria	<table><tr><td>Subject passing criteria</td><td>Passing threshold</td><td>Percentage of the final grade</td></tr><tr><td>project</td><td>51.0%</td><td>100.0%</td></tr></table>	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade	project	51.0%	100.0%					
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Recommended reading	<table><tr><td>Basic literature</td><td colspan="2"> 1. René David, John E.C. Brierley, <i>Major Legal Systems in the World Today. An Introduction to the Comparative Study of Law</i>, 3rd ed., Free Press, New York 1985. 2. Konrad Zweigert, Hein Kötz, <i>An Introduction to Comparative Law</i>, 3rd ed., Oxford University Press, Oxford 1998. 3. H. Patrick Glenn, <i>Legal Traditions of the World. Sustainable Diversity in Law</i>, 5th ed., Oxford University Press, Oxford 2014. 4. Mathias Siems, <i>Comparative Law</i>, 3rd ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2022. 5. Jerzy Zajadło (red.), <i>Leksykon współczesnej teorii i filozofii prawa. 100 podstawowych pojęć</i>, C.H. Beck, Warszawa (kolejne wydania). </td></tr><tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td colspan="2">brak</td></tr><tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr></table>	Basic literature	1. René David, John E.C. Brierley, <i>Major Legal Systems in the World Today. An Introduction to the Comparative Study of Law</i>, 3rd ed., Free Press, New York 1985. 2. Konrad Zweigert, Hein Kötz, <i>An Introduction to Comparative Law</i>, 3rd ed., Oxford University Press, Oxford 1998. 3. H. Patrick Glenn, <i>Legal Traditions of the World. Sustainable Diversity in Law</i>, 5th ed., Oxford University Press, Oxford 2014. 4. Mathias Siems, <i>Comparative Law</i>, 3rd ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2022. 5. Jerzy Zajadło (red.), <i>Leksykon współczesnej teorii i filozofii prawa. 100 podstawowych pojęć</i>, C.H. Beck, Warszawa (kolejne wydania).		Supplementary literature	brak		eResources addresses				
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Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The concept of legal culture and its importance for the functioning of states and societies. Legal traditions of the world – classification and characteristics. The legal culture of the continental legal system (civil law). The legal culture of the common law system. Religious law systems – Islamic law, canon law, Jewish law. Customary law as an element of the legal culture of selected societies. The influence of history, religion, and tradition on the development of legal systems. The legal culture of European countries and European integration. The legal culture of the United States and its influence on contemporary law. Asian legal cultures – China, Japan, and selected countries in the region. Legal culture and human rights. Legal awareness in society and its importance for law enforcement. The role of the legal profession in shaping legal culture. Legal ethics as an element of legal culture. Mediation and alternative dispute resolution in various legal cultures. Globalization and its impact on contemporary legal cultures. The impact of new technologies and artificial intelligence on legal culture. A comparative analysis of selected legal institutions in various legal cultures.											
Work placement	Not applicable											

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