

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Introduction to Private Law and Legal Methodology
- **Code:** LLB1
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 1st
- **Teaching Period:** Winter Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

An introduction to the basic doctrines and principles of private law, concerning especially the concepts of right, natural and legal person, juridical acts as well as the main methodological approaches for the implementation and interpretation of legal norms.

3. Keywords

Norm, right, duty, legal personality, juridical acts, property

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Remembering

- key legal principles and rules of private law.
- Define foundational legal concepts, such as legal right and legal personhood.

2. Understanding

- the structure and functions of the basic legal institutions of private law.
- legal texts using appropriate methods of interpretation.
- the relationship between legal norms and broader social, economic, or political contexts.

3. Applying

- legal rules and doctrines to hypothetical factual scenarios.
- appropriate legal terminology and citation conventions in written and oral communication.
- legal reasoning to support a position in moot court or simulated legal argument.

4. Analysing

- Distinguish between competing legal arguments and identify underlying assumptions.
- Compare and contrast differing legal systems, doctrines, or schools of jurisprudential thought.
- Break down complex legal problems into component parts to identify relevant issues.
- Examine the internal consistency of legal reasoning in statutes, judgments, or scholarly texts.

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Adapt to new situations
- Make decisions
- Work in an international context
- Work in an interdisciplinary team

- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity and multiculturalism
- Respect the natural environment
- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. law as a science, branches of law, concepts of justice & fairness, positive law
2. Legal norm, common law & civil law (jurisprudence -codifications), legal reasoning and subsumption, analogy, interpretation of legal norms
3. Legal relationship (origins, forms, content), Right, Duty
4. Categories and properties of legal rights
5. Acquisition, loss and exercise of rights
6. Property
7. Natural Persons
8. Legal Persons
9. Declaration of will
10. Juridical Acts

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Case law workshops.
- Student presentations and structured debate.
- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic [integrity policy](#). Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Use in Teaching:** (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Mentimeter)
- **Use in Communication:** (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)
- **Digital Resources:** (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- Books/E-books

Babusiaux, U. (2017). *Messages from antiquity: Roman law and current legal debates* [E-book]. Böhlau Verlag.

<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=d5801db8-c817-39e2-82cf-98f6b46cfff5>

Basedow, J. (2012). *The Max Planck encyclopedia of European private law*. Oxford University Press.

Calster, G. van. (2021). *European private international law : commercial litigation in the EU* / (Third edition.). Hart Publishing, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing.

Civil Courts and the European Polity : The Constitutional Role of Private Law Adjudication in Europe (e-book). (2023). In C. Mak & B. Kas (Eds.), *Civil Courts and the European Polity*. Hart Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781509941704>

From Theory to Practice in Private International Law (e-book). (2024). In J. (et al) Borg-Barthet (Ed.), *From Theory to Practice in Private International Law*. Hart Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781509956678>

The Future of European Private Law (e-book). (2023). In A. (et al) Janssen (Ed.), *The Future of European Private Law*. Nomos. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781509973866>

General principles of European private international law /. (2016). Wolters Kluwer : Kluwer Law International B.V.

Gray, J. T. . (2021). *Party autonomy in EU private international law : choice of court and choice of law in family matters and succession* /. Intersentia

A guide to global private international law /. (2022). Hart Publishing

Heidemann, M. (Ed.). (2024). *The Transformation of Private Law – Principles of Contract and Tort as European and International Law* (Vol. 2) (e-book). Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-28497-7>

Hirsch Ballin, Ernst. (2020). *Advanced introduction to legal research methods* (e-book). Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/advanced-introduction-to-legal-research-methods-9781788977180.html>

Kestemont, L. (2018). *Handbook on Legal Methodology: From Objective to Method*. In *Handbook on Legal Methodology*. Intersentia. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781839702389>

Kramer, X. Ellen., & Carballo Piñeiro, Laura. (2024). *Research Methods in Private International Law : a Handbook on Regulation, Research and Teaching* /. Edward Elgar Publishing

Lucy, W. (2007). *Philosophy of private law*. Oxford University Press.

Ribeiro, G. de Almeida. (2019). *The decline of private law : a philosophical history of liberal legalism* /. Hart Publishing

Svantesson, D. J. B. . (2021). *Private international law and the internet (e-book)*. Wolters Kluwer, Kluwer Law International.

Voyiakis, E. (2017). *Private law and the value of choice*. Hart Publishing.

- Databases

Westlaw UK Academic	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Beck-online PREMIUM	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Dalloz.fr	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/

Cambridge Core (Law)	https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law
EBSCO	https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true
ProQuest Central	https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0
Springer link	https://link.springer.com/
Taylor & Francis e-books	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SC_LW
Taylor & Francis e-journals	https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law
The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist&cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&aty=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85