

Name of university, Name of faculty: Trnava University
Faculty of Law

INFORMATION SHEET OF THE SUBJECT

Code: XNPPb100		Name: Interpretation of Private Law Norms	
Cover: Department of labor law and social security law			
Type of educational activity: Lecture, Practise		Number of credits: 4	Recommended semester: ST
Scope of educational activity (in hours): Weekly: 2/1 For term of study: LS 60,30/,36			Study grade: Bachelor
Method of educational activity: Combined			
Recommended semester	Study programme		
2.year ST	Law (XDŠBc-PR)		
Underlie subjects:			
Conditions for passing the course: Method of evaluation: Completion by taking an examination			
Continuous evaluation: Final evaluation: Final evaluation: the course ends with an exam - a written test during the exam period as a check of the acquired knowledge, skills and abilities of the student. The student has 30 minutes to complete the test. The test consists of a combination of open-ended theoretical questions, questions consisting in the selection of one or more correct answers, questions aimed at identifying the interpretation methods used in the text and finally solving a task - a case study in which the student chooses one of several possible interpretation methods and justifies their selection. Maximum score: 20 points. Evaluation: A: 20 – 18.5 points; B: 18 – 16.5 points; C: 16 – 14.5 points; D: 14 – 13 points; E: 12 points; FX: 11.5 points and less. Finished: By exam.			
Learning outcomes: By completing the course, the students will gain in-depth knowledge of legal methodology and individual methods of interpretation, thanks to which they will gain the ability to better understand the process of interpretation of legal norms in legal practice. By practicing individual methods of interpretation on the examples of legal norms in the field of private law, they will learn not to perceive methods in isolation, but gain the ability to use them in context and in their mutual relations and in case of collision of two or more methods, each leading to a different interpretive result, the student is able to determine the basic criteria for choosing the right method of interpretation. Thanks to individual study of court decisions, articles and glosses on decisions, the students will gain preconditions for a better grasp of the application of interpretive methods in relation to real and living legal problems, be able to analyze problematic aspects of the legislative text and realize the place and role of interpretive methods in legal practice. The aim of the course is to teach the student not only theoretical knowledge in the field of legal methodology, but through practical examples to stimulate their critical thinking, the ability to separate the essential from irrelevant for the purposes of the legal assessment and to abstract from the legal text parts related to the interpretation process, and work independently with sources of legal information. Subsequently, they will learn to present their thoughts in writing and orally and will acquire the ability to defend their conclusions.			
Schedule of subject: 1. Legal methodology - goals of legal methodology, basic concepts, essence of legal argumentation, peculiarity of interpretation of private law norms. 2. Sources of private law - the place and role of legal principles, rules and court decisions in the process of interpretation. Rudiments of judiciary ethics. 3. Grammatical interpretation, problem of interpretation of vague legal concepts, general clauses. 4. Systematic interpretation. 5. Historical interpretation and doctrine. 6. Theological interpretation. 7. Argumentation by legal principles, interpretive assumption of a rational legislator. 8. Logical arguments and logical interpretation. 9. The position of the private-law principles in the process of interpretation of the norms of civil, commercial and labour law. 10. The relationship between interpretation methods and arguments, conflicting results of interpretation and their elimination. 11. Completing the law - the concept, nature, concept and types of gaps in the law. 12. Analogies - legis and iuris, teleological reduction.			
Recommended reading: Basic recommended literature: PROCHÁZKA, R. - KÁČER, M.: Teória práva. 2nd ed. Bratislava: C.H. Beck, 2019. MELZER, F.: Metodologie nalézání práva. Úvod do právní argumentace. 2nd ed. Praha: C.H. Beck, 2011 (selected chapters). MOSNÝ, P. - LACLAVÍKOVÁ, M. - SISKOVIČ, Š.: Metodológia vedeckej práce (pre potreby právnického štúdia). Trnava: Wolters Kluwer, 2018. Other recommended literature: WINTR, J.: Metody a zásady interpretace práva. 2nd ed. Praha: Auditorium, 2019.			
Language requirements: Slovak			
Notes: Student's workload: 100 hours Combined study (Lectures, Seminars, Consultations): 36 hours Preparation for seminars and study of documents in Moodle (professional and scientific papers, court decisions, glosses on court decisions).			

preparation for the final evaluation (individual study): 64 hours

Course evaluation:

Assessed students in total: 58

A	B	C	D	E	FX
29%	26%	17%	3%	5%	19%

Lecturers:

doc. JUDr. Veronika Zoričáková, PhD., lecturer, examiner, instructor

Date of last change: 01.09.2026

Approved by: prof. PhDr. JUDr. Tomáš Gábriš, PhD., LL.M., MA