

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

INFORMATION SHEET OF THE SUBJECT

Code: XNRPb103

Name: Canon Law I

Cover: Institute for Legal Aspects of Religious Freedom

Type of educational activity: Lecture, Practise

Scope of educational activity (in hours):

Weekly: 2/1

For term of study: ZS 46,23/,36

Number of credits: 4

Recommended semester: WT

Study grade:
Bachelor

Method of educational activity: Combined

Recommended semester

Study programme

1.year WT

Law (XDŠBc-PR)
Law (XEŠBc-PR-23)

Underlie subjects:

Conditions for passing the course:

Method of evaluation: Completion by taking an examination

Continuous evaluation:

Final evaluation: The condition for completing the course is a successful completion of the exam. It will consist of a written test (100 % of the total course evaluation). The test consists of 10 questions, each providing 3 possible answers, which must be marked with YES / NO according to their validity.

Scale: A 30–29; B 28–26; C 25–23; D 22–20; E 19–18; FX 17–0 points.

Final examination: an exam (a written test).

Finished: By exam.

Learning outcomes:

After completing the course, the student will be able to name, reproduce and describe the concepts, definitions and basic institutes of both the theory of canon law, as well as the constitutional and monastic laws of the Catholic Church. They are able to connect canon law and its existential basis, which is theology. The student will be able to explain and analyze the relationship between canon and secular laws. In addition, the student will be able to describe and characterize the various branches of canon law, identify their specific features, analyze their sources and the nature of relevant standards. In addition to the legal-theoretical issues of canon law, special emphasis will also be placed on the area of constitutional law of the Catholic Church. After completing the course, the student will be able not only to analyze the hierarchical establishment of the Church at the universal and local levels based on current legislation, but will also be able to argue the theological and historical contexts of individual institutes. The student will also gain an overview of the rights and obligations that canon law confers on believers, taking into account their lay, religious or clerical status. Using critical analytical thinking, the student is then able to argue in this area with legal arguments while drawing synthetic conclusions and de lege ferenda considerations, given that the Church and its law must respond to the challenges of the period.

Schedule of subject:

1. Introduction to canon law - concept, subject, principles and specifics of canon law, its relation to secular law.
2. Theory of canon law - canon-law norm, division of norms of canon law.
3. Branches of canon law - a brief overview of code and non-code law.
4. The first book of the Code of Canon Law I - sources of canon law, normative legal acts with special emphasis on ecclesiastical laws, legal customs, normative treaties, administrative acts, case studies.
5. The first book of the Code of Canon Law II - governing power in the Catholic Church.
6. The first book of the Code of Canon Law III - ecclesiastical offices, concept and acquisition of ecclesiastical office, methods of entrustment to ecclesiastical office, loss of ecclesiastical office.
7. The second book of the Code of Canon Law I - God's people, duties and rights of believers, lay people, clergy, monks and consecrated persons and their formation.
8. The second book of the Code of Canon Law II - hierarchical structure of the Catholic Church at the universal level, the highest authority of the Church, the Pope and the College of Bishops, cardinals, the Roman Curia, Papal legates.
9. The second book of the Code of Canon Law III - hierarchical establishment of the Catholic Church at the particular level, diocese and quasi-diocese, ecclesiastical province.
10. The second book of the Code of Canon Law IV - personnel structure at the particular level, bishop, conference of bishops, structure of the Catholic Church in Slovakia.
11. The second book of the Code of Canon Law IV - parish and its management, lay people in the parish.

Recommended reading:

Basic recommended literature:

Students will be able to use notes of the teacher's lectures to prepare for classes. The teacher's lectures are always made available to them in the form of completely prepared presentations with audio commentary and case studies. This measure is necessary especially given that Czech-Slovak textbooks of canon law are either relatively outdated or no longer available.

Other recommended literature:

HRDINA, A. Kanonické právo. Dějiny pramenu, teorie, platné právo. Plzeň: Vydavatelství a nakladatelství Aleš Čeněk, 2011. 367 p. ISBN 978-80-7380-152-6.

HRDINA, A. - SZABO, M. Teorie kanonického práva. Praha: Karolinum, 2018. 459 p. ISBN 978-80-246-3919-2.

NEMEC, M. Základy kánonického práva. 2nd revised and amended ed. Bratislava - Trnava: Iura Edition, 2006. 249 p. ISBN 80-8078-130-3.

TRETERA, J. R. - HORÁK, Z. Cirkevní právo. Praha: Leges, 2016. 424 p. ISBN 978-80-7502-192-2.

Language requirements: Slovak

Notes:

Student's workload: 100 hours

Combined study (Lectures, Seminars, Consultations): 36 hours

Study for seminars, final exam and study of documents in Moodle: 64 hours

Course evaluation:

Assessed students in total: 275

A	B	C	D	E	FX
38%	21%	16%	10%	4%	11%

Lecturers:

doc. JUDr. Štefan Zeman, PhD., lecturer, examiner, instructor

Date of last change: 01.09.2026

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