

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

INFORMATION SHEET OF THE SUBJECT

Code: XNMPb004	Name: Basics of Common Law		
Cover: Department of International Law and European Law			
Type of educational activity: Lecture, Practise Scope of educational activity (in hours): Weekly: 0/2 For term of study: LS 60/,24 Method of educational activity: Combined		Number of credits: 3	Recommended semester: ST
			Study grade: Bachelor
Recommended semester	Study programme		
1.year ST	Law (XDŠBc-PR) Law (XEŠBc-PR-23)		
2.year ST	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: Exam - preparation of a written (seminar) paper and its subsequent presentation.			
Finished: By exam.			
Learning outcomes: The subject "Basics of Common Law" will provide students with the opportunity to understand the logic, structure and institutions of the Anglo-American legal system, which is different from the Slovak continental legal system. Despite the differences between these legal systems, they significantly influence each other. The aforementioned trend has been strengthened by the harmonization of law within the unifying EU. Many continental jurisdictions are adopting the institutions of Anglo-American law (e.g. trust, etc.) and are significantly influenced by Anglo-American law in the area of contract law (e.g. in the area of international commercial relations, international contract law, etc.), as well as in other areas of law in which the Anglo-American legal system provides more effective and flexible solutions than the significantly more rigid continental system. For a lawyer who plans to come into contact with an international element in his profession, it is very appropriate to be able to navigate the concept of Common Law. Knowledge of this system will help not only in better maneuvering in business relations with foreign partners, or in more effective negotiations in international transactions, but can also open up new possibilities for using Common Law institutes in the conditions of continental law. Learning outcomes: After completing the course "Basics of Common Law", the student will: a) understand the basic principles and institutes of Common Law; b) acquire knowledge of Common Law instruments usable in the conditions of the continental legal system; c) become familiar with the Anglo-American legal perspective on several areas of law; d) acquire practical skills to navigate Common Law documents.			
Schedule of subject: 1. Introduction to the subject, familiarization with the issues. 2. General information about Common Law, its structure and philosophy, differences compared to the continental legal system. 3. Property law. 4. Contract law. 5. Public law. 6. Intellectual property law. 7. Criminal law. 8. Corporate law (companies). 9. Judicial proceedings in Common Law. 10. International law from the perspective of Common Law. 11. Other important institutes. 12. Repetition.			
Recommended reading: Basic recommended literature: KUKLÍK, J. – SELTENREICH, R. Dejiny anglo-amerického práva práva. Praha: Linde, 2007. BOHÁČEK, M. Základy anglo-amerického obchodního práva. Praha: Oeconomica, 2003. PROCHÁZKA, R. Case law v systéme common law. Trnava: Právnická fakulta Trnavskej univerzity, 2012. VAN GERVEN, W. – LEVER, J. – LAROCHE, P. Cases, materials and text on national, supranational and international tort law. 1st ed. Oxford – Portland (Oregon): Hart Publishing, 2000. EDLIN, D. E. Common law theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007. BEALE, H. Cases, materials and text on contract law. 2nd ed. Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2010.			
Language requirements: Slovak			
Notes:			
Student's workload: 75 hours			

Combined study (C, K): 24 hours
Study of materials in Moodle and preparation for the exam: 51 hours

Course evaluation:

Assessed students in total: 41

A	B	C	D	E	FX
61%	10%	2%	2%	0%	24%

Lecturers:

JUDr. Marek Šmid, LL.M., examiner, instructor

Date of last change: 01.09.2026

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