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ФИО: Ястребов Олег Александрович
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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA
named after Patrice Lumumba**

LAW INSTITUTE

educational division (faculty/institute/academy) as higher education programme developer

COURSE SYLLABUS

LEGAL RESEARCH AND REASONING

course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

40.03.01 JURISPRUDENCE

field of studies / speciality code and title

The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme of higher education:

BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The course is designed to help students learn how to make professional writing decisions, how to construct proof of a conclusion of law, and how to develop their own processes of writing.

Course objectives: upon completion of course, students will be able to:

1. Determine the value of various authorities and how they interrelate. Utilize primary and secondary authority under appropriate circumstances.
2. Use hard copy digests and online resources to research law.
3. Read and analyze cases to determine issues, holdings, facts, legal reasoning, and disposition.
4. Create accurate, word-processed case briefs according to various formats.
5. Perform constitutional and statutory research. Identify how the legislative process affects legal research.
6. Utilize secondary authority to understand, analyze, and tie together primary authority and to find additional primary authority to support a legal issue.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course is designed for students to acquire following competences (competences in part):

Table 2.1. List of target competencies (parts of competencies)

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GPC-1	GPC-1. Can analyze the main patterns of formation, implementation and development of law.	GPC-1.1. Knows the basics of the history of law, its nature and patterns; GPC-1.2. Uses legal methodology in order to analyze the main patterns of formation, implementation and development of law; GPC-1.3. Formulates and explains their position to complete professional tasks using relevant legal information.
GPC-5	GPC-5. Can use their speaking and writing skills in a cohesive, well-reasoned and logical way with a uniform and correct use of professional legal terminology.	GPC-5.1. Has mastered the main methods of formal logic and tactical methods of legal argumentation to express their oral and written position on a specific legal problem; GPC-5.2. Uses their speaking and writing skills in a cohesive, well-reasoned and logical way to set out the facts and circumstances, states their legal position; GPC-5.3. Correctly uses legal terminology in professional communication.

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course refers to the variable component of (B1) block of the higher educational programme curriculum.

Within the higher education programme students also master other (modules) and / or internships that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as results of the course study.

Table 3.1. The list of the higher education programme components/disciplines that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as the course study results

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules, internships*	Subsequent courses/modules, internships*
GPC-1	GPC-1. Can analyze the main patterns of formation, implementation and development of law.	Theory of State and Law	Civil Law Civil and Arbitration Procedure Legal Argumentation Roman Law Comparative Constitutional Law and Justice Comparative Administrative Law and Justice Comparative Criminal Law Philosophy of Law: Fundamental Course Interdisciplinary Course Paper History of Russian State and Law History of State and Law of Foreign Countries International Public Law Labor Law International Private Law Commercial Law and Corporations Comparative Civil and Commercial Law Comparative Criminal Procedure Comparative Civil Procedure Comparative Financial and Tax Law Civil Liberties and Human Rights History of Political and Legal Doctrines Fundamentals of Medicine Law Communications and Internet Law and Policy Law and Neuroscience Technological (Investigative and Prosecutorial) Internship Technological (Judicial) Internship PRE-GRADUATION INTERNSHIP
GPC-5	GPC-5. Can use their speaking and writing skills in a cohesive, well-reasoned and logical way with a uniform and correct use of professional legal terminology.	Foreign Language for Legal Purposes Russian Language for Legal Purposes (for foreign students) Theory of State and Law	History of State and Law of Foreign Countries History of Russian State and Law Foundations of Rhetoric and Communication Civil Law Civil and Arbitration Procedure Criminal Procedure and Forensic Science Legal Argumentation Roman Law Comparing Legal Techniques Philosophy of Law: Fundamental Course Logic for Lawyers Language and Law Legal Documents in English

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules, internships*	Subsequent courses/modules, internships*
			Interdisciplinary Course Paper International Public Law Labor Law International Private Law Commercial Law and Corporations Workshop "Procedural Documents in Civil Cases" Workshop "Procedural Documents in Administrative Cases" Workshop "Procedural Documents in Criminal Cases" Workshop "Procedural Documents in International Disputes" Workshop "Procedural Documents in Constitutional Procedure" Workshop "Negotiations and Contracts" Technological (Investigative and Prosecutorial) Internship Technological (Judicial) Internship PRE-GRADUATION INTERNSHIP

* To be filled in according to the competence matrix of the higher education programme.

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total workload of the course is 3 credits (108 academic hours).

Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the periods of higher education programme mastering (**full-time training**) *

Type of academic activities		Total academic hours	Semesters/training modules
			1/1
<i>Classroom learning, academic hours</i>		36	36
including:			
Lectures (LC)		18	18
Lab work (LW)		-	-
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		18	18
<i>Self-studies</i>		70	70
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam/passing/failing grade)</i>		2	2
Course workload	academic hours	108	108
	Credits	3	3

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
Chapter 1. Introduction to legal analysis.	Introduction to legal analysis. Why lawyers analyze legal issues. Analyzing legal issues. The legal system. What is a legal issue. Identifying legal issues. Analyzing legal issues. Rule-based reasoning. The inner structure of a rule. Organizing the application of a rule. Where rules come from (sources of law).	LC / S
Chapter 2. An introduction to judicial decisions and statutes.	Reading cases and writing case briefs. What is a case? Why lawyers and law students read cases. Understanding cases. The parts of a case: an annotated case. Case briefs. Writing a useful case brief: finding your own briefing style. A sample case brief. Statutes (normative legal acts). Statutory codes. Determining a statute's meaning. How to identify and analyze statutory issues. Identifying the facts.	LC / S
Chapter 3. Introduction to legal writing.	The art of legal writing. The language as a professional tool. Your writing and your career. Predictive writing and persuasive writing. The art forms of legal writing. The process of writing. Writing in four stages: analyzing, organizing, the first draft, overcoming writer's block, rewriting. Some general advice about writing.	LC / S
Chapter 4. Office memoranda.	Office memoranda. Office memorandum format. Writing an office memorandum. Initially obtaining the facts: client interviewing. Lawyers and clients. How to interview. How to begin. How to learn what the client knows. How to conclude. Predictive writing. How to predict. How to test your writing for predictiveness.	LC / S
Chapter 5. General writing skills.	Introduction to legal proofs. The structure of a legal proof. The logical framework of the legal proof. Using the deductive syllogism in legal proofs. Validating the analysis: rule support and Case comparison. An annotated legal proof. Selecting authority. The hierarchy of authority. How use statutes and precedents. Authority to fill a gap in local law. The use and abuse of analogy in law. Working with precedent. Eight skills for working with precedent. Formulating a variety of rules from the same precedent. Analogizing and distinguishing. Eliciting policy from precedent.	LC / S

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Academic activities types
	<p>Working with statutes. Ten tools of statutory interpretation. How to compile statutory analysis (before writing). How to present statutory analysis in writing.</p> <p>Working with facts. What is a fact? Identifying determinative facts. Building inferences from facts. Identifying hidden and unsupportable factual assumptions.</p> <p>Citation. Citation manuals. When to cite. Citing cases. Citing statutes. Miscellaneous matters.</p>	
Chapter 6. Legal argument construction and reasoning with rules.	<p>Legal education and the introduction of skills of argument. Critical thinking. The definition of argument. The nature of problems and rules.</p> <p>Constructing arguments. Logic. Types of legal reasoning: deduction and induction. Abductive reasoning.</p> <p>The legal syllogism. The semantic notion of logical validity. The defeasibility of reasoning with rules. Defeasibility and modus ponens.</p> <p>Reformulating the rule. Rules as means to draw conclusions. Similarity of structure. Adapting the premises.</p> <p>The two step-models of reasoning with principles and rules. The validity of rules, principles and goals.</p> <p>The exclusion of rules.</p> <p>The scope limitations of rules. Conflict rules. Rules, goals and principles. Reasons against application of a rule. The difference between legal rules and legal principles. Analogous application of a rule. E contrario 'application' of a rule.</p>	LC / S

* - to be filled in only for **full**-time training: LC - lectures; LW - lab work; S - seminars.

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom equipment and technology support requirements

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
Lecture	A lecture hall for lecture-type classes, equipped with a set of specialised furniture; board (screen) and technical means of multimedia presentations.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Lab work	A classroom for laboratory work, individual	Multimedia projector,

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
	consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and machinery.	laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Seminars	A classroom for conducting seminars, group and individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and technical means for multimedia presentations.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Computer Lab	A classroom for conducting classes, group and individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment, equipped with personal computers (in the amount of 30 pcs), a board (screen) and technical means of multimedia presentations.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Self-studies	A classroom for independent work of students (can be used for seminars and consultations), equipped with a set of specialised furniture and computers with access to the electronic information and educational environment.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome
Courtroom	A classroom for court hearing simulation equipped with a set of specialized furniture; a set of devices including portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection. Software: Office 365 (MS Office, MS Teams), Chrome

* It is necessary to specify a classroom for self-study of students

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main reading (sources):

1. Deborah E. Bouchoux, Esq. (2016). *Legal Research and Writing for Paralegals*: New York: Wolters Kluwer. eISBN: 978-1-4548-8169-8
2. William H. Putman (2010). *LEGAL RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND WRITING*. Delmar 5 Maxwell Drive Clifton Park, NY 12065-2919. ISBN-13: 978-1-4283-0442-0

Additional (optional) reading (sources):

1. Frederick Schauer (2009). *Thinking Like a Lawyer: A New Introduction to Legal Reasoning*: HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS. ISBN: 0674032705
2. Giorgio Bongiovanni, Gerald Postema, Antonino Rotolo, Giovanni Sartor, Chiara Valentini, Douglas Walton (2018). *Handbook of Legal Reasoning and Argumentation*: Springer Netherlands. ISBN: 978-90-481-9451-3, 978-90-481-9452-0

Internet-(based) sources:

1. Electronic libraries with access for RUDN students

- RUDN Electronic Library System (RUDN ELS) <http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web>
- EL "University Library Online" <http://www.biblioclub.ru>
- EL "Yurayt" <http://www.biblio-online.ru>
- EL "Student Consultant" www.studentlibrary.ru
- EL "Lan" <http://e.lanbook.com/>
- EL "Trinity Bridge"

2. Databases and search engines:

- electronic foundation of legal and normative-technical documentation <http://docs.cntd.ru/>
- Yandex search engine <https://www.yandex.ru/>
- Google search engine <https://www.google.ru/>
- Scopus abstract database <http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus>

*Training toolkit for self- studies to master the course *:*

* The training toolkit for self- studies to master the course is placed on the course page in the university telecommunication training and information system under the set procedure.

8. ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT AND GRADING SYSTEM* FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES LEVEL UPON COURSE COMPLETION

The assessment toolkit and the grading system* to evaluate the competences formation level (competences in part) upon the course study completion are specified in the Appendix to the course syllabus.

* The assessment toolkit and the grading system are formed on the basis of the requirements of the relevant local normative act of RUDN University (regulations / order).

DEVELOPERS:

Associate Professor of the
Department of
Theory of Law and State

position, department



signature

Sergey B. Zinkovskiy

name and surname

HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

Head of the Department of
Theory of Law and State

position, department



signature

Andrei A. Klishas

name and surname

**HEAD OF HIGHER
EDUCATION
PROGRAMMME:**

Director of the Law Institute

position, department



signature

Sergey B. Zinkovskiy

name and surname