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Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education
«PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA
NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA»
(RUDN University)

Law Institute

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

COURSE SYLLABUS

History and Methodology of Legal Science

course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

40.04.01 Law

field of studies / speciality code and title

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

International Protection of Human Rights

higher education programme profile/specialisation title

2025

1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The main purpose is to increase postgraduates' theoretical knowledge of law to level of mastering of the methodology of legal science. Special emphasis is laid on the skills that are required to develop original academic arguments, use appropriate textual evidence to support these arguments, to use counter-arguments to temper and strengthen ideas, and develop a sophisticated and up-to-date academic writing style.

The course covers the history of legal science; methodological approaches, their formation, development and current status.

The course makes students aware of the correlation between objective and subjective factors in cognition of law; forming conceptions about criteria of scientific cognition.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course «History and Methodology of Legal Science» is aimed at the masters's students' formation of the following competencies (part of competencies):

Table 2.1. List of competences that students acquire through the course study

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GC-2.	Able to manage a project through all stages of its life cycle.	GC-2.1. Formulates on the basis of the problem posed a project task and a way of solving it through project management; GC-2.2. Develops a project concept within the framework of the identified problem: formulates the goal, objectives, justifies the relevance, significance, expected results and possible areas of application; GC-2.3. Within the scope of the tasks set, plans for the resources required, including their substitutability; GC-2.4. Develops a project implementation plan using planning tools; GC-2.5. Monitors the progress of the project, corrects deviations, makes additional changes to the project plan, clarifies the areas of responsibility of the project participants
GC-3.	Able to organise and lead a team, developing a team strategy to achieve a goal.	GC-3.1. Develops a cooperation strategy and on its base organises the selection of team members to achieve the objective; GC-3.2. Plans and adjusts the work of the team, taking into account the interests, behaviours and opinions of team members; GC-3.3. Resolves conflicts and contradictions in business communication on the basis of the interests of all parties; GC-3.4. Organises discussions on a given topic and discusses the results of the team's work, involving opponents to the ideas developed; GC-3.5. Plans team work, assigns tasks and delegates authority to team members.

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
GC-4.	GC-4. Able to use modern communication technologies in the official (national) language of the Russian Federation and foreign language(s) for academic and professional interaction.	GC-4.1. Establishes and develops professional contacts according to the needs of joint activities, including the exchange of information and the development of a common communication strategy;
		GC-4.3. Presents the results of academic and professional activities at various public events, including international events, choosing the most appropriate format;
GC-6	GC-6. Able to identify and implement priorities for his/her own activities and ways to improve them on the basis of self-assessment.	GC-6.1. Evaluates his/her resources and their limits (personal, situational, time) and uses them optimally for the successful performance of the assigned task;
		GC-6.2. Identifies priorities for professional development and ways to improve own performance based on self-assessment according to selected criteria; GC-6.3. Builds a flexible professional trajectory using continuing education tools, taking into account the accumulated professional experience and dynamically changing labour market requirements
GPC-1	GPC-1. Able to analyse non-standard situations of law enforcement practice and propose optimal solutions.	GPC-1.1. Possesses general and specific knowledge for identifying and solving non-standard situations (situations in which no uniform approaches to the application of law norms are formed) in law enforcement practice;
		GPC-1.2. Analyze non-standard situations in law enforcement practice, including identifying legal and other causes and/or conditions for their occurrence;
		GPC-1.3. Develops optimal solutions for non-standard situations of law enforcement practice, taking into account possible legal consequences, and prepares these solutions in the form prescribed by law.
GPC-7.	GPC-7. Able to apply information technology and use legal databases to solve professional problems, taking into account information security requirements.	GPC-7. Able to apply information technology and use legal databases to solve professional problems, taking into account information security requirements.

3.COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course «History and Methodology of Legal Science» refers to the core component of (B1) block of the higher educational programme curriculum.

* - Underline whatever applicable.

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*	Subsequent courses/modules*
GC-2	Able to manage a project through all stages of its life cycle.		Research work Educational Internship (Teaching) Externship and Pre-Degree Internship
GC-3.	Able to organise and lead a team, developing a team strategy to achieve a goal.		Externship and Pre-Degree Internship
GC-4.	Able to use modern communication technologies in the official (national) language of the Russian Federation and foreign language(s) for academic and professional interaction.	Foreign Language Russian Language	Foreign Language for Legal Purposes Russian Language for Legal Purposes Research work
GC-6	Able to identify and implement priorities for his/her own activities and ways to improve them on the basis of self-assessment.		Research work Educational Internship (Teaching) Externship and Pre-Degree Internship
GPC-1	Able to analyse non-standard situations of law enforcement practice and propose optimal solutions.	Philosophy of Law	Comparative Law Research International Law and Development Research work Educational Internship (Teaching) Externship and Pre-Degree Internship
GPC-7.	Able to apply information technology and use legal databases to solve professional problems, taking into account information security requirements.	European System of Human Rights	Research work Educational Internship (Teaching) Externship and Pre-Degree Internship

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

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1)The total workload of the course is 2 credits (72 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	2	3	4
<i>Contact academic hours</i>		54	54			
Lectures (LC)		18	18			
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		18	18			
<i>Self-studies</i>		18	18			
<i>Evaluation and assessment (exam/passing/failing grade)</i>		18	18			
Course workload	academic hours	72	72			
	credits	2	2			

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course Module Title	Brief Description of the Module Content
1. Law and Legal Science	1.1. Subject and system, aim and tasks of the course “History and methodology of legal science”. Formation of knowledge and research skills in the scope of the course.
	1.2. Law as a normative and regulative system of the society. Typology of legal understanding, its significance in the lawyer’s professional activity.
	1.3. Legal science as a knowledge system of law. Legal science as a social institute. Legal science as an activity aimed at formatting new knowledge.
	1.4. Methodology of legal science. Scientific approaches and research methods in legal studies.
	1.5. Criteria of scientific knowledge.
2. Law as an object of research	2.1. Law and legal reality. Variety of existing forms of law. Variety of approaches to law.
	2.2. Doctrinal, dogmatic and practical jurisprudence as subject areas.
	2.3. Legal terms, concepts, categories. Legal principles. Legal constructions.
3. History of Legal Science	3.1. Formation, development and contemporary status of legal science
	3.2. Formation and development of law and legal science in the general context of social evolution.
	3.3. Legal science in the general context of modern scientific knowledge.
	3.4. Problems of the development of Russian legal studies.
4. Sources of law and sources of law cognition	4.1. Development of scientific views of “sources of law” and “sources of legal studies”.
	4.2. Evolutionary development of sources of law in legal families and legal systems.
	4.3. National legal and international legal systems
5. Contemporary scientific approaches in legal science	5.1. Correlation between scientific approaches and research methods in legal studies.
	5.2. From the formational approach to the civilizational approach.
	5.3. Scientific approaches in legal science

* - 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.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi
Lab work	A classroom for laboratory work, individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and machinery.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi
Seminar	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.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi, specialized software: Trados
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.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi
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.	A set of specialized furniture; technical means: Monoblock Multimedia projector Screen for projector Marker board WiFi

* The premises for students' self-studies are subject to **MANDATORY** mention

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main readings:

1. История и методология юридической науки [Istoriya i metodologiya yuridicheskoy nauki] = History and Methodology of Legal Science. / Ed. Marina V. Nemytina. Moscow: RUDN University, 2022.
2. Rasskazov, Leonid. (2021). History and methodology of legal science. 10.29039/02064-7.

Additional readings:

1. Smits J. M. The Mind and Method of the Legal Academic. Maastricht University, Netherlands. 2012.
2. Mike McConville, Wing Hong Chui, Research Methods for Law. Edinburg University Press, 2007.
3. Sean Coyle, George Pavlakos. Jurisprudence or Legal Science. Oxford and Portland, Oregon. 2005.
4. P. Ishwara Bhat, Idea and Methods of Legal Research. Oxford University Press. 2019.
5. Zakhartsev S.I., Salnikov V.P. The Philosophy of Law and Legal Science. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 2018.
6. Mark Van Hoecke, Methodologies of Legal Research: Which Kind of Method for What Kind of Discipline. Blumsbury, Oxford and Portland, 2011.

Internet sources

1. Electronic libraries (EL) of RUDN University and other institutions, to which university students have access on the basis of concluded agreements:

- 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"

- Academic Writing – URL: http://www.hectorortiz.cl/articulos/academic_writing_2008.swf

- Academese. – URL: <http://grammar.about.com/od/ab/g/Academese.htm>
- Documentation. – URL: <http://grammar.about.com/od/d/g/Documentation.htm>
- Plagiarism. – URL: <http://grammar.about.com/od/pq/g/plagiarismterm.htm>

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:

Full Professor of Department of
Public Policy and History of State
and Law

position, department

M.V. Nemytina

signature

name and surname

HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

Head of Department of Public
Policy and History of State and
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name of department

V.M. Platonov

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HEAD OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

Associate professor of the
Department of International Law

Position, Name of the Department

S.M. Kopylov

Signature

Full name