

Course unit title	Code
The language of international and EU law	

Lecturer(s)	Department where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinating: dr. Aleksej Burov Other(s): Prof. dr. Inesa Šeškauskienė dr. Agnė Veršelytė dr. Julius Zaleskis	Department of Translation Studies, VU Faculty of Philology Department of German Philology, VU Faculty of Philology Department of Public Law, VU Faculty of Law

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
Second	compulsory

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
contact (lectures and seminars)	Semester 1 or 3	English, German and Lithuanian

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: skills in English or German not lower than C1 according to CEFRL	Additional requirements (if any):

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	135	48	87

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed

The course aims at developing the competence of a researcher of legal language (EN/DE) by assisting the students in understanding the legal norms of international and EU law, apply them in an interdisciplinary context, work with legal texts of different genres dealing with international and EU law in EN/DE. Moreover, the course also aims at developing the competence of a translator from EN/DE to LT and from LT to EN/DE.

The students will also learn how to work and study autonomously, apply the knowledge in practice, think critically, solve problems and make decisions in different situations, develop skills of ethical competence and skills of interpersonal communication.

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
- To understand the key norms of international and EU law and their nature and quickly locate relevant normative texts in different sources;	Workshops (including student questions and discussion), literature analysis	Examination in writing (open-ended questions)
- To define the legal systems of different countries (of Lithuania, Germany, Great Britain/EU/USA), their regulation of public relations, to identify similarities and differences between them.	Workshops (including student questions and discussion), literature analysis	Generalizing group discussion, examination in writing (open-ended questions)
- To clarify the key notions and phenomena of international and EU law, also the language of international and EU law, to appropriately use terms defining them in one's professional field in DE/EN and LT.	Workshops (including student questions and discussion), literature analysis; seminars: practical tasks (search for equivalents, maps of concepts, compiling bilingual glossaries, text composition)	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback); examination in writing (open-ended questions and practical tasks)
- To process, analyse and compare legal notions and terms of international and EU law in DE/EN and LT, to apply the methodology of research as it is applied for the purposes of researching languages for specific purposes, also in lexicography, terminology and other linguistic disciplines.	Seminars: information search, selection and grouping, group discussion, individual or group projects, literature analysis, compiling corpora and working with them, compiling bilingual glossaries	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback); examination in writing (open-ended questions and practical tasks)
- To analyse and evaluate the language of international and EU law (DE/EN) from different perspectives (morphological, syntactic, lexicological, pragmatic, text linguistic, etc.) and to identify most prominent features; to compare different linguistic phenomena in the language of international and EU law in DE/EN and LT; to identify their cross-linguistic similarities and differences.	Seminars: practical tasks (morphological, syntactic and pragmatic analysis of legal texts), group discussion	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback), generalizing discussion results; examination in writing (practical tasks)
- To understand, analyse, compare and evaluate	Seminars: practical tasks (text	Assessment of homework task

texts of different genres dealing with international and EU law in EN/DE and LT, highlighting features of genres/texts determined by socio-cultural context.	analysis, translation)	presentations (feedback)
- To summarise, write, edit legal texts of different genres in EN/DE and LT dealing with international and EU law taking into consideration genre specificity and the nature of a legal text and approaching the text from the point of view of a researcher of the language of the law.	Seminars: practical tasks (text analysis, translation), text composition and editing	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback); examination in writing (open-ended questions and practical tasks)
- To translate orally and in writing international and EU law texts of different genres from DE/EN to LT and from LT to EN/DE, considering the nature of source and target languages; to ensure the high quality of translation, to apply different strategies: to search for documents or terms with the help of various translation instruments and sources (terminology databases, corpora, electronic dictionaries, etc.); to critically evaluate the reliability of the sources and select the one which suits best for the purpose.	Seminars: information search and selection, translation tasks, group work, discussions	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback), generalizing discussion results; examination in writing (translation tasks)
- To raise aims and predict how the task could be best performed, to select appropriate sources and adequate methodology;	Planning individual work, task completion	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback)
- To collect, critically evaluate and systematise research data, to retrieve information from different sources with the help of modern IT, library and other resources, to seek alternative sources to gain insufficient information	Seminars: search for literature and other sources, their selection and analysis, group work, individual or group projects	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback); examination in writing (open-ended questions and practical tasks)
- To manage one's time, to keep track of deadlines, to update and amend one's activity plan depending on the emerging circumstances.	Planning individual work, task completion	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback)
- To analyse phenomena, to identify component parts and their relationships and draw relevant conclusions; to compare and critically evaluate information or phenomena, to judge about their advantages and disadvantages.	Workshops and lectures, reading scientific literature, information search, selection and analysis, seminars: group discussions, practical tasks (search for equivalents, comparing notions across languages etc.)	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback); examination in writing (open-ended questions and practical tasks)
- To ask 'why' questions and participate in a meaningful discussion, to take the initiative to include other members of the group when dealing with a problem.	Problem-based teaching, seminars: work in groups, individual or group projects, case study, discussion	Assessment of homework task presentations (feedback)
- To evaluate one's own and other people's behaviour and its consequences from the ethical point of view; when dealing with practical issues, to motivate one's judgements by ethical norms, even in complex and ambiguous situations.	Seminars: discussions, case study	discussion, generalizing the analysis of the case study (feedback)

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Self-study work: time and assignments		
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. The notion of international law. Definition, key features of international law. International public law. International private law. Sources of international law.	2		2				4	8	Reading assignment, information search (search for the terms, their definitions, equivalents in another language), compilation of a bilingual glossary,

									grammar, transformation, translation tasks
2. International and regional organisations as subjects of international law. The language of legal acts regulating their activities: terminology, frequent collocations and their translation.	2		2				4	8	Text comprehension tasks, grammar, transformation, translation tasks, group projects, discussion
3. The language of international treaties. The language of international bilateral bilingual treaties: structure, terms, collocations, translation peculiarities. The language of international multilateral treaties The notion of EU law, its definition and distinctive features. European institutional law. EU material law.	4		6				10	16	Text comprehension tasks, grammar, transformation, translation tasks information search (equivalents), discussion, translation tasks
4. Main EU institutions and the language of legal acts regulating their activities: terms, frequent collocations and their translation.	2		4				6	8	Text comprehension tasks, information search (equivalents of terms), discussion, translation tasks
5. Sources of the EU law. The language of specific EU legal acts: structure, terms, collocations, translation equivalents. EU founding treaties, directives, regulations, decisions and other legal acts.	4		8				12	12	Text comprehension tasks, grammar, transformation, translation tasks, compilation of a corpus and working with it with the help of the <i>AntConc</i> software (search and cross-linguistic comparison of collocations and other lexical bundles and fixed phrases used in court decisions and orders)
6. The usage of legal terms in different contexts. Replacing legal terms by other legal terms. Legal terminology and its meaning. Peculiarities of legal translation from EN/DE to LT and from LT to EN/DE.	2		6				8	15	Text comprehension tasks, information search (equivalents of terms) discussion, translation tasks
Exam			4				4	20	
Total	16		32				48	87	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
<p>The final evaluation is cumulative and based on the evaluation of the legal part and the language part.</p> <p>Within each of these parts the lecturer and the students may negotiate and agree upon smaller constituents of the evaluation scheme such as specific homework tasks, quizzes, etc. The scheme shall be introduced during the first class.</p>	50 % + 50 %	At the end of the course	<p>10 (excellent). Excellent, exceptional knowledge and abilities. 95-100% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>9 (very good). Very good knowledge and abilities. 85-94 % of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>8 (good). Knowledge and abilities are above average. 75-84 % of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>7 (average). Average knowledge and abilities; there are a few not essential mistakes. 65-74 % of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>6 (satisfactory). Knowledge and abilities are below average; there are mistakes. 55-64 % of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>5 (weak). Knowledge and abilities meet the minimum requirements. 51-54 % of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements are not met.</p>

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Herdegen, Matthias	2011	<i>Völkerrecht</i>		Bonn: C.H.Beck

		<i>The Charter of the United Nations/ Jungtinių Tautų Chartija</i>		http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/
		<i>Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms/ Žmogaus teisių ir pagrindinių laisvių apsaugos konvencija</i>		http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=basictexts&c=
		<i>The Court of Justice of the European Union/ Europos Sąjungos Teisingumo Teismas</i>		http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice/index_en.htm
		Europos Komisijos vertimo vadovas		www.vsk.flf.vu.lt/.../Komisijos_vertimo_vadovas_20071001.doc
		Europos Komisijos vertimo vadovo priedas Nr. 5		http://ec.europa.eu/translation/lithuanian/guidelines/documents/standard_phrases_lt.pdf
		<i>European Court of Human Rights/Žmogaus teisių teismas</i>		http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home&c=
Shaw, Malcolm N.	2008	<i>International law</i>	Sixth edition	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Vadapalas, Vilemas	2006	<i>Tarptautinė teisė</i>		Vilnius: Eugrimas
		<i>UN International Court of Justice/ JT Tarptautinis Teisingumo Teismas</i>		http://www.icj-cij.org/court/index.php?p1=1
Optional reading				
Borchardt, Klaus-Dieter	2010	<i>Das ABC des Rechts der Europäischen Union</i>		Brüssel: Mediathek der Europäischen Kommission
Borchardt, Klaus-Dieter	2010	<i>The ABC of the European Union Law</i>		http://europa.eu/documentation/legislation/pdf/oa8107147_en.pdf
		EU directives		http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/documents/harmonised-standards-legislation/list-references/
Malinauskaitė, Virgita	2013	ES teisinių tekstų vertimo ypatumai	Juristas Nr. 12	http://www.arslibri.lt/sites/default/files/35_37_Malinauskaite.pdf
Šarčević, Susan	2000	Legal Translation and Translation Theory: A Receiver-oriented Approach		www.tradulex.com/Actes2000/sarcevic.pdf
Tiersma, P.M. and L.M.Solan	2012	<i>The Oxford Handbook of Language and Law</i>		Oxford University Press