

Subject: Basic Principles of Constitutional Law

Lecturer: Michał Zieliński, Ph. D.

The lecture is to cover those aspects of the constitutional law, which constitute the foundations of modern states' and societies functioning. Its goal is not to focus on particular constitutional state system, but on elements, which are widespread in modern liberal-democratic world and not characteristic for certain country or region. Among them are: rule of law, division of powers, legalism, social market economy, including their origin.

Learning Outcomes

- introduce basic concepts and terminology of constitutional law,
- introduce historical background of constitutional law, the genesis of its most fundamental legal rules and their development throughout the history,
- introduce the most widespread constitutional basic principles and explain its meaning,
- introduce the legal institutions and mechanisms expanding the basic principles and regulations of those in certain existing countries,
- introduce of the role of constitutional courts in clarifying the understanding of the basic rules of constitutional law,

By the end of the course students should have:

- a good understanding of what the constitutional law and what its basic principles are, and the importance of the latter not only for constitutional law itself, but for other branches of law as well,
- a wide knowledge about the most important rulings of constitutional courts and their general approach towards interpreting them

Workload

The course will have a form of a lecture with students being engaged in a discussion regarding the keypoints of the particular class subject, especially when it comes to analyzing and assessing case studies. Students will generally need to devote about 20 hours on average per semester to this course. Forms of study: seminars, discussion sessions, case study.

Requisite and Incompatibility

General knowledge in the scope of history of the world (18th century in particular), the basics of theory and philosophy of law and constitutional law.

Obligatory Reading

- A. V. Dicey, Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution, 1915
- B. Banaszak, Outline of Polish Constitutional Law, 2005

Preliminary Reading

The preliminary reading required for this course will be sent via e-mail from the teacher at least one week prior to every class. The reading covers certain parts of the books from the obligatory reading list, as well as acts of law, constitutions of contemporary states in particular.

Examination

Oral exam is to be performed, with each student answering firstly a question regarding the information, and then describing a case study of his or her choice.