



ERASMUS PROGRAMME AT THE LAW FACULTY OF THE RUPRECHT-KARLS-UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG

INFORMATION FOR ERASMUS INCOMING STUDENTS

LAW AND NON-GERMAN COURSES

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LAW COURSES IN ENGLISH

The Faculty of Law regularly offers courses in English language.

Please take note of the annotated course catalogue in [heiCO](#).

To see the courses of the Faculty of Law, click on “Courses” at the bottom right of the heiCO website and then enter Faculty of Law under “Organisation” and then select the Law Faculty in the menu. You can then select the desired “Language of instruction” English under “Filter”.

See also the annotated course catalogue, which is regularly published in printed form about two weeks before the start of lectures.

Depending on the semester, additional courses may be offered.

You can find the annotated course catalogue here:

<https://www.jura.uni-heidelberg.de/studium/lehrveranstaltungen.html>

It is available in printed form towards the end of the semester break at the entrance to the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Law in the “Juristisches Seminar”.

LEGAL LANGUAGE COURSES AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

The **Law Faculty** regularly offers the following **law and foreign language courses** in the respective foreign language.

Therefore please take note of the annotated course catalogue in [heiCO](#). To see the courses of the Faculty of Law. First click on “Courses” at the bottom right of the heiCO website, then enter Faculty of Law under “Organisation” and then select this faculty in the menu. You can subsequently select the desired “Language of instruction” under “Filter”.

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A printed version is available towards the end of the semester break at the entrance to the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Law in the “Juristisches Seminar”.

Information on **language courses in foreign languages** offered at the **Zentrales Sprachlabor (ZSL)** (Central Language Laboratory) can still be found in the [LSF](#) under the heading “Courses For Students of All Faculties” and there under the heading “heiSKILLS Competence- and Language Center”.

You can also have a look at the ZSL website:

<https://www.heiskills.uni-heidelberg.de/en/about-us/language-centre>

LEGAL LANGUAGE COURSES OF THE LAW FACULTY

INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH LAW

After each semester, an examination can be taken on the contents covered in the respective semester. A final examination can be taken after two semesters after attending the courses on french law (civil law and public law).

Introduction to French Law and Legal Language – Civil Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits
- Requirements: Good knowledge of French
- The course is generally offered in the winter semester.

During the winter semester, the introduction to French Civil Law course concentrates on the general part of the Civil Code (*droit civil*). The following topics will be addressed: Introduction to French Private Law; the judicial system, the sources of law system in France (hierarchy of norms; the French Constitution, the types of legislation, International and European Law); the civil procedure code in France (with a case study); subjective rights; the individualisation of people in private law; the civil union; separation and divorce. Fundamental decisions of the French Court of Cassation will be also discussed. An exercise on the French methodology of the "*fiche d'arrêt*" will be offered.

Introduction to French Law – Civil Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits
- Requirements: Good knowledge of French
- The course is generally offered in the summer semester.

During the summer semester, the introduction to French civil law focuses on the contract law (*droit des obligations*). The following topics will be addressed: Introduction to French law of obligations, introduction to French contract law; the forms of contract; the conclusion of a contract; the effects of a contract; the extinction of a contract and civil liability. Fundamental decisions of the Court of Cassation are also discussed, and an exercise on the process of a "*fiche d'arrêt*" is also offered

Introduction to French Law – Public Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits
- Requirements: Good knowledge of French
- The course is generally offered in the winter semester.

During the winter semester, the introduction to French public law concentrates on French Constitutional law.

The following topics will be discussed: Introduction to French public law; administrative jurisdictions or types of law in France; the sources of law system in France (hierarchy of norms, the French Constitution, the types of legislation, International and European Law...); executive branch I (*le Président de la République* and the government); the legislative branch (the French Parliament); the adoption of a law in France. Fundamental French decisions of the Council of State and the Constitutional Council will be also discussed.

Introduction to French Law – Public Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits
- Requirements: Good knowledge of French
- The course is generally offered in the summer semester.

The introduction to French Public Law presents the fundamental notions of public law system based on legal codes, statutes and law cases. This lecture aims at studying the definition of public law, its different branches, its evolution and the institutions, which constitute it and act for it.

During the summer semester, the introduction to French public law focuses on administrative law (*droit administratif*). The following topics will be covered: introduction to French administrative law; the organization of the administration in France; regional and local authorities; public service; administrative police; administrative contracts and procedures.

INTRODUCTION TO ANGLO-AMERICAN LAW

After each semester, an examination can be taken on the contents covered in each semester. A final examination can be taken after two semesters after attending both courses on US-American law (civil law and public law).

Introduction to Anglo-American Law – Civil Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits

- Requirements: Good knowledge of English and some knowledge of the BGB.

The course is aimed at students in the middle of their studies. Regular reading of the materials before the course and their discussion in the course are required.

The contents in detail (subject to change):

Part I: Introduction to the Common and USA Law System, as well as Tort, Criminal and Contract Law

Part II: Personal & Real Property; Bailment; Wills and Trust

Introduction to Anglo-American Law and Legal Language – Public Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits

- Requirements: Students from the 3rd semester onwards; Good knowledge of English, basic knowledge of the US-American constitutional law („separation of powers“ und „federalism“); German constitutional law or a different constitutional system

The contents in detail (subject to change):

Part I: Separation of powers and federalism; Case Law

Part II: Individual Rights and Liberties; focus on Due Process and Equal Protection; Case Law

Part III: Individual Rights and Liberties; Focus on the Freedom of Speech and the Freedom of Religion; Case Law

FURTHER LEGAL LANGUAGE COURSES

Comparative Constitutional Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits

- Requirements: Classes are held in English, sufficient knowledge of the English language is required

This course introduces comparative constitutional law by providing an overview of the basic constitutional principles, ideas, processes, institutions, and rights, examining them from a comparative perspective. The course also intends to enhance the participants' problem-solving skills and deal with contemporary issues.

Introduction to Italian Civil Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits

- Requirements: Basic knowledge of the Italian language

1. historical introduction to Italian law. - 2. the Italian Constitution (Artt. 1-12): Analysis and commentary. - 3. hierarchy of norms in the Italian legal system. - 4. the doctrine of legal transactions. - 5 Legal professions in Italy. - 6. Roman law tradition and Italian law.

Introduction to Italian Company Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits

- Previous knowledge: Private law

The course focuses primarily on analysing Italian commercial law, with a particular emphasis on companies. At the beginning, the functioning of the Italian legal system is briefly introduced. The most important aspects of the areas of commercial law are then presented, focusing on companies. The second part of the course deals with Italian company law, focussing on partnerships. The third part analyses corporations, focusing on the functioning of their bodies and financial management. Practical cases are also dealt with during the course to enable participants to understand and interpret Italian judgements and decrees.

Introduction to Portuguese and Brazilian Law

- 1 SWS = 3 ECTS credits

- Basic knowledge of the Portuguese language is not required.

- The course is generally offered in the winter semester

The first part of the course issues of Brazilian and Portuguese private law will be discussed, in particular the basic concepts, legal institutions, the law of obligations, the law of property, family law and the law of succession of both legal systems. In the second part, the course will deal with Brazilian and Portuguese constitutional law, including state organization law, fundamental rights and current political events and developments in constitutional law. The corresponding terminology is covered in both parts.

Introduction to Spanish Civil Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits
- Requirements: Basic knowledge of the Spanish language

The course provides an overview of the basic concepts and terminology of Spanish civil law and other Spanish-language civil law systems. In the first part of the course, an introduction to the Ibero-American history of codification will be presented. In the second part, individual legal institutions and basic concepts of Spanish civil law will be covered with special attention to the most important differences between it and the German Civil Code (BGB).

Introduction to Turkish Private Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits
- Basic knowledge of the Turkish language is preferred but not required.
- The course is generally offered every semester as a block course at the beginning of the semester break.

The aim of the course is to familiarise the participants with the main features of the Turkish legal system and legal terminology. After an introduction to the Turkish legal system, the basic concepts and legal institutions of civil law will be discussed. The focus of this course is, besides family, inheritance and property law, on the general part of the new Turkish law of obligations. Turkish company law is also dealt with on the basis of the new Commercial Code. Knowledge of Turkish law is not only of theoretical importance, but there are also many opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills acquired directly in practice. Students who have successfully completed the course are in a position to advise third parties in the field of Turkish law. In addition, the programme offers the opportunity to prepare students who wish to participate in the Erasmus programme with a partner university in Turkey for such study abroad.

Introduction to Turkish Labour Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits

Further Legal Language Courses |

- Previous knowledge: Basic knowledge of the Turkish language is not required.

The course is generally offered as a block seminar at the beginning of each semester break.

At the first day of the lecture, there will be an introduction to the Turkish language and Turkish legal terminology. On the second day, general information about the Turkish legal system and how it works will be provided. In addition, the principles that apply in the labour legislation in the Turkish labour law will be explained. The third day will deal with the basic concepts of labour law and the drafting of employment contracts. The fourth day will be dedicated to the topic "Legal status of foreign employees in Turkey". On the fifth day, working conditions and the termination of employment contracts will be presented.

Introduction to Arab Law

- 2 SWS = 6 ECTS credits
- The course is generally offered every semester as a block course at the end of the lecture period.
- No previous knowledge required

The lecture will provide an introduction to the Arabic language and Arabic legal terminology. The modern legal codes of the Arab countries and current developments are discussed, but also the historical background in order to present a clear picture of the special features of Arab law. The following questions will be answered through legal comparison: What are the similarities and differences between Arab countries? To what extent is the law there influenced by Islam? What are the points of conflict with the West? What are the future prospects of Arab law in the increasingly globalised world? The following topics will be covered: Introduction to the Arabic language; the legislation of Arab countries and Islamic law; constitutional law, fundamental rights and freedoms; international law; family law; inheritance law; the recognised religious law of non-Muslim religious communities; criminal law.

Note: Further introductions to foreign legal systems and their legal language may take place. For this, please take note of the annotated course catalogue in [heiCO](#).

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GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG (FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS)

The following institutions of Heidelberg University offer **German language courses** for foreign and ERASMUS students:

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER COURSE

The "International Summer Course" is held annually in August. Within the International Summer Course, various courses with different content focuses and levels are offered for the German language. Core language classes are held in the morning; in the afternoon, participants can take part in a variety of complimentary classes related to their course level. Additionally, there will be workshops, lectures and a variety of cultural and social events. German students assist with spare time activities.

The course fee is 880,- € (as of 2025). For further information, please see: <https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/international-affairs/international-summer-school>

INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE (MAX-WEBER-HOUSE)

The International Study Center (Max Weber House) regularly organizes **German language courses**.

For further information, please see: <https://www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de/en>

Course programme: <https://www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de/en/courses>

Preparatory German Courses for Exchange Students

4 week intensive course = 8 ECTS credits

- for the summer semester in March/April
- for the winter semester in September

Further information is available at: <https://www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de/en/vdk>

German Language Courses for Exchange and Master's students

4 or 8 SWS (hours per week) = 6 or 12 ECTS credits

- in the winter semester: middle of October - begin of February
- in the summer semester: middle of April - end of July

Further information is available at: <https://www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de/en/sbk>

German for Law Students

4 SWS (hours per week) = 8 ECTS credits

Further information is available at: <https://www.isz.uni-heidelberg.de/en/sbk>

CENTRAL LANGUAGE LABORATORY (ZSL)

The Central Language Laboratory (ZSL) offers various language courses at different levels for foreign languages. Regularly, a course lasts 4 SWS (basic and intermediate level = 4 ECTS credits; advanced level = 5 ECTS credits).

For further information, please see: <https://www.heiskills.uni-heidelberg.de/en/about-us/language-centre>