University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Maritime law - auditorium classes, PG_00137817		
Field of study	Law		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2028/2029
Education level	uniform Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	4	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	7	ECTS credits	3.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Department of Maritime Law -> Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	mgr Filip Walczak	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	0.0	45.0	75

Subject objectives

Acquiring knowledge of maritime law, including maritime navigation law and in-depth knowledge of legal institutions and procedures that apply to human activities in the marine environment using seagoing vessels, with particular emphasis on: the legal position of the captain of a seagoing vessel; investigating the causes and circumstances of maritime accidents; managing seagoing vessels and transporting cargo by sea.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[PRAWOJ5_UW03] is able to use complex theoretical approaches and apply them appropriately to the legal problem being solved	Is familiar with the terminology and concepts of law and related fields in the context of maritime law.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[PRAWOJ5_WG04] has a structured knowledge of the types of legal relationships and the regularities governing them	Has structured knowledge about legal relations within maritime law and about principles governing them.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[PRAWOJ5_UW04] can skilfully select and use professional methods and tools to obtain information on Polish and foreign law	Can skilfully select and use professional methods and tools to obtain information on Polish maritime law and the Law of the Sea.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[PRAWOJ5_KR08] is ready to take up professional challenges and is characterised by perseverance in the implementation of activities in the field of law and related sciences	Is ready to take up professional challenges related to maritime law and is characterised by perseverance in the implementation of activities in the field of maritime law.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[PRAWOJ5_KR06] prepares responsibly for work, is able to set priorities and organise work accordingly	Is able to set priorities and organise work accordingly in order to solve case studies related to maritime law.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

Subject contents	**1. Maritime law - introduction** 1.1. The concept of maritime law and international law of the sea 1.2. Sources of maritime law 1.3. The subject of maritime law regulation 1.4. Subjects of maritime law 1.5. The role and function of maritime law **2. Rights and obligations of the coastal state in maritime areas** 2.1. Polish maritime areas legal status 2.2. The structure of maritime administration in Poland 2.3. Competences of maritime administration bodies 2.4 Maritime, flag and port inspection 2.5 Recognized organizations – notion and duties **3. Seaworthiness of a sea vessel** 3.1. Sea ship concept 3.2. The concept of ship seaworthiness and cargoworthiness 3.3 Requirements of seaworthiness 3.4 Due diligence – Carver test 3.5 Ship casualties resulting from unseaworthiness **4. Legal position of the captain of a sea vessel** 4.1. Rights and obligations of the captain of a sea ship 4.2. Managing a seagoing ship: the captain as the superior of the ship's crew, the captain as a representative of the shipowner and persons interested in the cargo 4.3. Duties of the captain: case study 4.4. Public functions of the ship's captain 4.5. Public law duties of the ship’s captain **5. Legal standards of maritime safety** 5.1. Notion of maritime safety 5.2. Safety of life at sea – from Titanic to Costa Concordia (case studies) 5.3. Maritime safety standards – SOLAS Convention 5.4. Maritime safety standards – IMO Codes 5.5. Maritime safety standards in Polish national legislation **6. Enforcement of legal standards of maritime safety** 6.1. Infringements of standards of maritime safety 6.2. Flag state control 6.3. Port state control 6.4. Human factor and human error in maritime safety infringements – case study **7. Maritime safety culture** 7.1. Safety management of shipping – ISM Code 7.2 Technical management 7.3. Crew management 7.4. Commercial management 7.5. Constant development of ship management system (SMS) **8. Investigation of the causes and circumstances of marine accidents** 8.1. Definition of a marine casualty and marine incident 8.2. Casualty Investigation Code 8.3. Proceedings regarding a maritime accident before the Maritime Chambers 8.4. Investigation of the circumstances and causes of maritime accidents by the State Commission for the Investigation of Maritime Accidents – case studies 8.5. Influence of recommendations on maritime safety **9. Security of ships and port facilities (maritime security)** 9.1. Notion and scope of maritime security 9.2. Prevention and suppression of unlawful acts against maritime security: maritime piracy, maritime terrorism – case studies 9.3. International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code 9.4. Maritime security measures in Polish national legislation 9.5. Cyber risk management **10. Legal standards of prevention of pollution from ships** 10.1. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) 10.2. Reduction of emissions from ships in the context of climate change 10.3. Mandatory measures on improving the energy efficiency of ships 10.4. Oil spills with disastrous consequences for maritime environment – case study 10.5. Plastics in the ocean – case study **11. Maritime labour law** 11.1. Legal status of the captain and his crew 11.2. Conditions of work and life of seafarers at ships – Maritime Labour Convention 11.3. Recruitment of seafarers 11.4. Seafarer employment agreement

	11.5. MLC documentation and inspections, on-board complaint procedure and procedure for dealing with complaints **12. Transport of cargo by sea** 12.1. Cargo transport contract by sea: types of contracts (charter, booking), their legal nature and the rights and obligations of the parties 12.2. Bill of lading: paper form and electronic form 12.3. Standard of due diligence of a sea carrier in the performance of a contract for the carriage of cargo by sea - a case study 12.4. Liability of a sea carrier: Hague-Visby Rules, Hamburg Rules, Rotterdam Rules, Maritime Code 12.5. Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims **13. Ship chartering** 13.1. Legal character of ship chartering 13.2 Time charter 13.3. Charter by demise 13.4. Bareboat charter 13.5. Slot charter **14. Carriage of passenger and their luggage by sea** 14.1. Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea 14.2. Notions of passenger and carrier 14.3. Rights and duties of passengers at sea. Protection of rights of passengers – case study 14.4. Rights and duties of the carrier 14.5. Liability of carries for shipping incidents **15. Maritime insurance law** 15.1. Types of maritime insurances 15.2. Maritime insurance contract 15.3. General average – case study 15.4. Compulsory maritime insurances 15.5. Mutual insurances – P&I clubs
Prerequisites and co-requisites	None
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria: test; Passing threshold: 51.0%; Percentage of the final grade: 100.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature Prawo morskie. Komentarz. red. D. Pyć, C. Łuczywek, I. Zużewicz-Wiewiórowska, Wolters Kluwer, Warszawa 2022 Leksykon prawa morskiego. 100 podstawowych pojęć, red. D. Pyć, I. Zużewicz-Wiewiórowska, Warszawa 2020 Prawo morskie, t. 1, red. J. Łopuski, Bydgoszcz 1996 Prawo morskie, t. 2, cz. 1, Prawo żeglugi morskiej, red. J. Łopuski, Bydgoszcz 1998 Prawo morskie, t. 2, cz. 2, Prawo żeglugi morskiej, red. J. Łopuski, BydgoszczToruń 2000

	Supplementary literature	"Prawo Morskie", czasopismo naukowe Komisji Prawa Morskiego Polskiej Akademii Nauk - od 2000 roku dostępne w formie elektronicznej na stronie PAN: https://journals.pan.pl/pm Aikens R., Lord R., Bools M., Bolding M., Toh K.S., Bill of Lading, New York 2021 Argüello G., Marine Pollution, Shipping Waste and International Law, AbingdonNew York 2020 Koziński M.H., Morskie prawo publiczne, Gdynia 2015 Młynarczyk J., Prawo morskie, Gdańsk 2002 McConnell M.L., Devlin D., Doumbia-Henry C., The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006: A Legal Primer to an Emerging International Regime, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers Leiden-Boston, 2011 Nawrot J., Międzynarodowe prawo bezpieczeństwa morskiego, C.H. Beck, Warszawa 2019 Power V., EU Shipping Law, t. 12, Oxon 2019
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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