University of Gdańsk

Subject card

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| Subject name and code | WPiA - Death Penalty. History, Philosophy, Law., PG_00179128 | | |
| Field of study | Criminology | | |
| Date of commencement of studies | October 2025 | Academic year of realisation of subject | 2025/2026 |
| Education level | Bachelor's studies | Subject group | |
| Mode of study | full-time studies | Mode of delivery | e-learning |
| Year of study | 1 | Language of instruction | Polish<br>Polish |
| Semester of study | 1 | ECTS credits | 2.0 |
| Learning profile | academic | Assessment form | credit |
| Conducting unit | Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector | | |
| Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers) | Subject supervisor | dr Tomasz Snarski | |
| | Teachers | dr Tomasz Snarski | |

**Lesson types**

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

E-learning hours included: 30.0

eNauczanie source addresses:
Moodle ID: 12951 WPiA - Kara śmierci. Historia, filozofia, prawo. (PG_00179128)
https://mdl.ug.edu.pl/course/view.php?id=12951

**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 | 20.0 | 50 |

**Subject objectives**

Students should be encouraged to absorb and comprehend the theoretical underpinnings and philosophical framework of criminal justice. the capacity to identify and talk about the primary concerns surrounding the idea of criminal punishment and the death penalty. to comprehend and absorb the death penalty conceptual grid, fundamental knowledge about the death penalty's global applicability, and international human rights laws pertaining to the death penalty. to develop one's own position on the death penalty with logical support and to be able to conduct a philosophical and legal discussion on the topic. to increase understanding of fundamental ideas in the philosophy and doctrines of criminology, penology, and criminal law. to equip students with the ability to critically and independently think about the fundamental ideas of criminal law. to enhance pupils' comprehension of the conflict between retentionism and abolitionism.

**Learning outcomes**

| Course outcome | Subject outcome | Method of verification |
|---|---|---|
| | Students will integrate theoretical frameworks from penal law, its philosophical underpinnings, and historical context to analyze issues in criminal punishment, including capital punishment.<br>Students will possess the ability to apply knowledge of penal law to the analysis and interpretation of complex legal, moral, philosophical and social issues.<br>Students will understand contemporary discourse about capital punishment, within the context of human rights and ethical standards. | [SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion<br>[SU3] text preparation/written work<br>[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report<br>[SK5] implementation of a problem task<br>[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work |

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| Subject contents | 1) The concept of criminal punishment 2) The concept of the death penalty 3) The history of the death penalty 4) The validity of the death penalty 5) Abolitionism, retentionism and moderate positions 6) The death penalty and human rights 7) Criminal theories towards the death penalty 8) Concepts of justice and the death penalty 9) The death penalty in Poland 10) Attitudes of selected religions towards the death penalty. Ethical evaluation of the death penalty | |
| Prerequisites and co-requisites | no | |
| Assessment methods and criteria | Subject passing criteria: essay; Passing threshold: 51.0%; Percentage of the final grade: 100.0% | |
| Recommended reading | Basic literature | 1. J. Warylewski, Kara. Podstawy historyczne i filozoficzne, Gdańsk 2007<br>2. J.A. Świdziński, Kara śmierci. W obronie życia ludzkiego, Kraków 2009<br>3. B. Bartusiak, Kara śmierci w świetle sporu o racjonalizację kary, Warszawa 2011<br>4. M. H. Kramer, The Ethics of Capital Punishment, Oxford 2011<br>5. R. J. Sider (red.), The Early Church on Killing, Michigan 2012 6. E. Feser, J. M. Bessete, By Man Shall His Blood Be Shed, San Francisco 2006<br>7. E. Christian Brugger, Capital Punishment and Roman Catholic Moral Tradition, Notre Dame, Indiana 2014<br>8. A. Sarat, When The State Kills. Capital Punishment and American Condition, New Jersey 2001<br>9. M. Cieślak, Problem kary śmierci (artykuł dyskusyjny), "Państwo i Prawo" 1966, z. 12<br>10. W. Osiatyński, Prawa człowieka i ich granice, Kraków 2011 11. P. Bartula, Kara śmierci. Powracający dylemat, Kraków 2007<br>11. T. Snarski, Kościół katolicki wobec kary śmierci. Między prawem a filozofią i teologią, Warszawa 2021<br>12. Universality of Punishment, A. Incampo, W. Żełaniec (red.), Bari 2015. |
| | Supplementary literature | no |
| | eResources addresses | |
| Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed | The question of the death penalty's moral acceptability<br>Human rights protection and the death penalty<br>Concerns about the death penalty from a philosophical and legal standpoint<br>The death penalty's history and execution techniques | |
| Work placement | Not applicable | |

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