

Subject card

Subject name and code	Seminar I - MICHALAK Marcin, PG_00204126						
Field of study	Criminology and Criminal Justice						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024	Academic year of realisation of subject			2026/2027		
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group					
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery			at the university		
Year of study	3	Language of instruction			English		
Semester of study	5	ECTS credits			7.0		
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form			credit		
Conducting unit	Department of European Law and Comparative Legal Studies -> Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Marcin Michalak				
	Teachers		dr Marcin Michalak				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	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		145.0	175
Subject objectives	The main objective of the seminar is to familiarise students with the basic assumptions, functions and limitations of the comparative law method and to prepare them to apply this method independently in the analysis of selected legal institutions, legislative solutions and practices operating in different legal systems, with particular emphasis on issues related to criminology, criminal law, criminal policy and criminal justice. The seminar aims to develop students' ability to identify similarities and differences between legal solutions adopted in different jurisdictions, as well as to critically assess the reasons for these differences, their practical consequences and their possible social, cultural, institutional and axiological significance. An important objective of the course is also to demonstrate that legal comparison does not consist merely in juxtaposing legal provisions, but requires consideration of the broader context in which a given institution operates, including its practical application, the structure of the legal system, legal tradition and social conditions. As part of the seminar, students will prepare their own comparative analyses of selected legal institutions or legal problems existing in more than one legal system. In particular, the course aims to develop students' ability to formulate a research problem, select the legal systems to be compared, identify appropriate sources, construct scholarly arguments and present conclusions in a structured, precise and critical manner. The seminar is also intended to prepare students to write a diploma thesis or another academic paper based on the comparative law method, in accordance with the principles of academic integrity, proper use of sources and accurate documentation of research results.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[CCJL3_KU02] The graduate is prepared to participate actively in groups, organizations and institutions related to broadly understood criminology and judiciary, and at the same time is able to communicate with people who are and are not specialists in criminology.	The student is prepared to participate in discussions and teamwork concerning selected issues in criminology, criminal law and criminal justice, and is able to communicate the results of comparative legal analysis both in a specialist manner and in a way understandable to non-experts.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK5] implementation of a problem task
	[CCJL3_KR04] He/she notices and formulates moral problems and ethical dilemmas related to his/her own and someone else's work, and looks for optimal solutions.	The student is able to identify and formulate moral problems and ethical dilemmas related to conducting criminological and comparative legal analyses, as well as to the functioning of criminal justice institutions, and to seek justified and responsible ways of addressing them.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[CCJL3_WK05] He/she knows the methods and tools, including techniques of obtaining data and information, appropriate in criminology and the related fields	The student knows the basic methods, tools and techniques for obtaining data and information relevant to criminology, criminal law, criminal justice and comparative law, in particular with regard to searching for academic literature, legislation, case law and materials concerning the functioning of selected institutions in different legal systems.	[SW3] text preparation/written work [SW5] implementation of a problem task
	[CCJL3_UW01] He/she can observe and interpret correctly phenomena that appear in the area of etiology and phenomenology of crime, universal for various societies, analyzes their connections with various areas of criminology	The student is able to observe and interpret selected phenomena related to the etiology and phenomenology of crime from a comparative perspective, and to analyse their significance for the functioning of criminal law, criminology and criminal justice institutions in different societies and legal systems.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[CCJL3_UW9] He/she can plan and organize individual work, can conduct simple empirical research independently	The student is able to independently plan and organise work on a comparative legal analysis concerning a selected issue in criminology, criminal law or criminal justice, and to cooperate in a team in identifying, analysing and solving basic research problems.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[CCJL3_UW07] When solving tasks, he/she is able to make the right choice of information sources, in particular, he/she has the skills in the field of collecting literature and jurisprudence in various areas of legal sciences and the ability to make a critical analysis of the collected information	The student is able to select, collect and critically analyse sources necessary for preparing a comparative legal analysis, in particular academic literature, legislation, case law and materials concerning the functioning of selected institutions of criminal law, criminology and criminal justice in different legal systems.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[CCJL3_UW06] He/she can use theoretical knowledge to see and analyze moral and legal dilemmas in professional work related to the functioning of the national and international justice	The student is able to use theoretical knowledge of criminology, criminal law, criminal justice and comparative law to identify and analyse selected legal and moral dilemmas related to the functioning of domestic and international criminal justice systems.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[CCJL3_KK06] The graduate can participate in the preparation of social, civic, legal and economic projects related to the field of study.	The student is able to participate in the preparation of an analytical project concerning a selected issue in criminology, criminal law or criminal justice, using the comparative law method to assess solutions adopted in different legal systems.	[SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

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[CCJL3_UK8] He/she can, in a basic scope, formulate statements using specialized terminology characteristic of criminology and related disciplines, present opinions in this area and discuss them	The student is able to formulate oral and written statements using basic terminology in the fields of criminology, criminal justice and comparative law, as well as to present and justify their own position on the legal institutions being compared.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work
[CCJL3_UW05] He/she is able to use theoretical knowledge to solve typical problems related to criminology and the functioning of the national and international justice	The student is able to use theoretical knowledge of criminology, criminal law, criminal justice and comparative law to analyse and solve typical problems related to the practical functioning of domestic and foreign justice institutions.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[CCJL3_KR05] He/she is aware of the existence of ethical dimension in the work of a criminologist, other work related to criminology and in institutions of the broadly understood justice system	The student is aware of the ethical dimension of research and analysis in criminology, criminal law and criminal justice, in particular with regard to the responsible use of sources, reliable presentation of analytical results, and consideration of the rights and interests of persons affected by the legal institutions under analysis.	[SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[CCJL3_KO8] He/she is ready to take up professional challenges, takes the trouble and is characterized by persistence in the implementation of individual and team activities in the field of criminology and related sciences.	The student is ready to undertake research tasks related to the analysis of issues in criminology, criminal law and criminal justice, and demonstrates independence, responsibility and perseverance in carrying out individual and team projects based on the comparative law method.	[SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[CCJL3_UU03] He/she is able to acquire knowledge independently, learn and develop his/her professional skills, using various sources (in the native and foreign language) and modern technologies	The student is able to independently obtain, select and analyse sources concerning selected institutions of criminal law, criminology and criminal justice in different legal systems, using literature, legislation, case law, databases and modern technologies, also in a foreign language.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[CCJL3_KK03] The graduate prepares responsibly for his/her work, is able to define priorities at work and plan work properly.	The student responsibly organises work on a comparative legal analysis, is able to determine research priorities, plan the successive stages of preparing a project or written paper, and complete assigned tasks in a timely manner.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task
[CCJL3_KK07] He/she is aware of the need to expand competences and professional qualifications, as well as improves skills, is able to set the directions of his/her own development and education independently	The student is aware of the need to independently develop knowledge and skills in the fields of criminology, criminal justice and comparative law, in particular through the selection of sources, analysis of different legal systems and improvement of their own research skills.	[SK3] text preparation/written work [SK5] implementation of a problem task [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[CCJL3_UW02] He/she can use his/her knowledge in the field of criminology and related scientific disciplines in order to formulate and interpret basic problems related to criminology, as well as the functioning of the national and international judiciary	The student is able to use basic knowledge of criminology, criminal law, criminal justice and comparative law to formulate and interpret research problems concerning the functioning of selected legal institutions in domestic and foreign legal systems.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report [SU3] text preparation/written work [SU5] implementation of a problem task

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	[CCJL3_KK01] He/she is aware of his/her level of knowledge and skills, as well as understands the need for lifelong learning.	The student is aware of the level of their own knowledge and skills in the fields of criminology, criminal justice and comparative law, understands the need for their continuous development, and is able to identify areas requiring further deepening within their research work.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
Subject contents	1. Introduction to the seminar: course objectives, organisation of work, rules for preparing the written paper, requirements concerning participation, presentations and written assignments. 2. Fundamentals of the comparative law method: the concept, functions and aims of comparative law; legal comparison as a research method; the importance of the comparative law method in criminology, criminal law and the analysis of the functioning of criminal justice systems. 3. Selection of the subject of comparison: identifying legal institutions, criminological problems and organisational solutions existing in more than one legal system; defining the scope and purpose of comparative analysis. 4. Selection of the legal systems to be compared: criteria for choosing states or legal systems; the relevance of legal tradition, social, institutional and cultural context; limitations of a simple juxtaposition of legal provisions. 5. Sources in comparative legal research: using academic literature, legislation, case law, institutional documents, reports, statistical data and databases; assessing the reliability, relevance and currency of sources. 6. Structure of comparative analysis: formulating a research problem, research questions and analytical assumptions; constructing legal and academic argumentation; presenting similarities, differences and conclusions resulting from comparison. 7. Analysis of selected legal institutions and solutions functioning in the fields of criminology, criminal law, criminal policy and criminal justice from a comparative perspective; consideration of the similarities, differences, functions and practical significance of the analysed institutions in different legal systems. 8. Analysis of selected criminological and socio-legal problems from a comparative perspective; consideration of their determinants, manifestations, methods of regulation and institutional responses in different legal and social systems. 9. Ethical dimension of criminological and comparative legal research: academic integrity, responsible use of sources, avoiding simplifications and stereotypes in the description of other legal systems, and respecting the rights and interests of persons affected by the legal institutions under analysis. 10. Preparation and discussion of students' individual written papers: selection of the topic, justification for the choice of legal systems to be compared, identification of sources, presentation of the preliminary structure of the paper and planning further work. 11. Student presentations on selected legal institutions or legal problems analysed through the comparative law method; discussion of the adopted method, selection of sources, argumentation and conclusions. 12. Consultation and improvement of the written papers being prepared: analysis of methodological problems, refinement of research questions, organisation of the structure of the text, verification of argumentation and documentation of sources. 13. Summary of the seminar: discussion of students' work, key difficulties connected with the application of the comparative law method, and the significance of comparative law for research in criminology, criminal law and criminal justice.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Individual written paper prepared using the comparative law method, concerning a selected legal institution or issue in the field of criminology, criminal law or criminal justice.	51.0%	51.0%
	Presentation of the concept of the individual written paper, including the topic, research problem, selection of the legal systems to be compared, preliminary structure of the paper and basic sources. Duration: approximately 10–15 minutes.	51.0%	30.0%
	Active participation in the seminar, including participation in discussions, analysis of assigned materials and completion of ongoing seminar tasks.	51.0%	19.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Siems, Comparative Law, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2018. Pakes, Comparative Criminal Justice, Routledge, London, 2024. Nelken, Comparative Criminal Justice: Beyond Ethnocentrism and Relativism, European Journal of Criminology, 6(4), 291–311, 2009. Tonry, Is cross-national and comparative research on the criminal justice system useful?, European Journal of Criminology, 12(4), 505–516, 2015. Karstedt, Comparing cultures, comparing crime: Challenges, prospects and problems for a global criminology, Crime, Law and Social Change, 36(3), 285–308, 2001.
	Supplementary literature	It will be provided during the course in relation to individual topics.
	eResources addresses	Basic https://katalog-bug.ug.edu.pl/permalink/48FAR_UGD/1se2i2g/cdi_webofscience_primary_000274820200001 - Nelken, Comparative Criminal Justice: Beyond Ethnocentrism and Relativism, European Journal of Criminology, 6(4), 291–311, 2009. https://katalog-bug.ug.edu.pl/permalink/48FAR_UGD/1se2i2g/cdi_webofscience_primary_000357800600008CitationCount - Tonry, Is cross-national and comparative research on the criminal justice system useful?, European Journal of Criminology, 12(4), 505–516, 2015. https://katalog-bug.ug.edu.pl/permalink/48FAR_UGD/1se2i2g/cdi_webofscience_primary_000172694300001 - Karstedt, Comparing cultures, comparing crime: Challenges, prospects and problems for a global criminology, Crime, Law and Social Change, 36(3), 285–308, 2001.
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. What is the comparative law method and what are its basic functions in research on criminology, criminal law and criminal justice? 2. How should legal systems be selected for the comparative analysis of a specific legal institution or criminological problem? 3. What is the significance of social, cultural, institutional and axiological context for comparative analysis? 4. What sources may be used in comparative legal analysis and how can their reliability, currency and relevance be assessed? 5. How should a research problem and research questions be formulated in a written paper based on the comparative law method? 6. How can similarities and differences between legal institutions functioning in different legal systems be analysed? 7. How can legal and institutional solutions concerning selected issues in criminology, criminal policy or criminal justice be compared? 8. How can simplifications, stereotypes and unjustified assessments be avoided when describing foreign legal systems? 9. What ethical problems may arise in criminological and comparative legal research? 10. Preparation of the concept of an individual written paper: selection of the topic, formulation of the research problem, selection of legal systems, identification of sources and proposal of the paper's structure. 11. Presentation of the preliminary assumptions of the written paper and participation in a discussion concerning the adopted method, selection of sources and structure of argumentation. 12. Preparation of a section of the written paper containing a comparative analysis of a selected legal institution or criminological problem.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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