

## Subject card

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                        |            |     |
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| Subject name and code                       | From Jesus Christ to O.J. Simpson - famous trials in the history - lecture, PG_00134594                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                        |            |     |
| Field of study                              | Criminology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                        |            |     |
| Date of commencement of studies             | October 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                          | Academic year of realisation of subject |                                     | 2026/2027              |            |     |
| Education level                             | Bachelor's studies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                          | Subject group                           |                                     | Optional subject group |            |     |
| Mode of study                               | full-time studies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                          | Mode of delivery                        |                                     | at the university      |            |     |
| Year of study                               | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                          | Language of instruction                 |                                     | Polish                 |            |     |
| Semester of study                           | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                          | ECTS credits                            |                                     | 2.0                    |            |     |
| Learning profile                            | academic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          | Assessment form                         |                                     | credit                 |            |     |
| Conducting unit                             | Department of History of Law -> Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                        |            |     |
| Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)    | Subject supervisor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                          | dr Jacek Waldoch                        |                                     |                        |            |     |
|                                             | Teachers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                        |            |     |
| Lesson types                                | Lesson type                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Lecture                                                  | Tutorial                                | Laboratory                          | Project                | Seminar    | SUM |
|                                             | Number of study hours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 20.0                                                     | 0.0                                     | 0.0                                 | 0.0                    | 0.0        | 20  |
|                                             | 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 20                                                       |                                         | 0.0                                 |                        | 30.0       | 50  |
| Subject objectives                          | <p>The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the most important and symbolic court trials in the history of the world - from ancient times to the present - and their impact on the development of law, legal culture and social awareness. The course aims to show how specific court proceedings reflected the civilizational, political and moral changes of their eras, as well as how they shaped standards of justice, human rights and mechanisms of judicial power.</p> <p>The course develops the ability to analyze trials in the context of their social, political and legal background, as well as critically evaluate the actions of the participants in the proceedings - judges, defendants, defense attorneys and public opinion.</p> |                                                          |                                         |                                     |                        |            |     |

| Learning outcomes | Course outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Subject outcome | Method of verification |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
|                   | [KRYML3_K01] Is aware of the level of his knowledge and skills, and understands the need for lifelong learning and the need to expand professional competence and qualifications, as well as to improve skills                                                                                                          |                 |                        |
|                   | [KRYML3_U02] Is able to analyse social phenomena, participate in debates, present and critically evaluate different viewpoints, and discuss them using specialised terminology. Is also able to identify and analyse moral and legal dilemmas in professional practice.                                                 |                 |                        |
|                   | [KRYML3_W03] Has advanced knowledge and understanding of facts, theories, methods, and complex relationships concerning selected phenomena related to prohibited acts, in particular key social and psychological phenomena relevant to criminology, as well as their social, psychological, and cultural determinants. |                 |                        |
|                   | [KRYML3_W02] Has advanced knowledge of terminology and key concepts in criminology, law, and related disciplines relevant to the field of study.                                                                                                                                                                        |                 |                        |

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| Subject contents                | Introduction: Trial as a Social and Cultural Phenomenon<br>The Function of the Trial in History<br>Trial as a Tool of Justice, Repression, and Spectacle<br>The Trial of Jesus of Nazareth<br>Religious, Political, and Legal Context<br>The Role of the Sanhedrin, Pontius Pilate, and Roman Law<br>The Legacy of the Trial in the Legal Culture of the West<br>The Trial of Socrates<br>Athenian Democracy and Freedom of Speech and Philosophy<br>The Accusation of Impiety and the Demoralization of Youth<br>The Defense of the Philosopher as a Manifesto of Civic Attitude<br>The Trial of Joan of Arc<br>The Clash of Faith, Politics, and Church Law<br>The Role of the Inquisition and the Trials for Heresy<br>Rehabilitation and Its Significance for Collective Consciousness<br>The Trial of Galileo<br>Science and the Doctrine of the Church<br>Mechanisms of Censorship and Thought Control<br>Significance for Freedom of Scientific Research<br>Witch Trials (e.g. Salem, Würzburg)<br>Social Hysteria and construction of the other<br>Evidence law and forced confessions<br>Mechanisms of social exclusion and fear<br>The trial of Alfred Dreyfus<br>Anti-Semitism, nationalism and manipulation of evidence<br>The power of public opinion and the role of the media (Zolas Jaccuse!)<br>Consequences for the justice system<br>The Nuremberg trials<br>International justice and the settlement of war crimes<br>New legal categories: crimes against humanity<br>Controversies: revenge or justice?<br>The Eichmann trial in Jerusalem<br>The concept of the banality of evil (Hannah Arendt)<br>Law and collective memory<br>The problem of jurisdiction and legality<br>The trial of Nelson Mandela (Rivonia Trial)<br>The fight against apartheid and the legal mechanisms of oppression<br>The defense speech as a manifesto of freedom<br>The role of the court in non-democratic systems<br>The case of O.J. Simpson<br>The Trial as a Media Spectacle<br>Racism, Prejudice, and Public Opinion<br>The Crisis of Trust in the Justice System<br>Summary: The Trial as a Mirror of the Era<br>What Do Historical Trials Teach Us About the Nature of Law and Justice?<br>Can a Trial Be Fair in a Divided Society? |                   |                               |
| Prerequisites and co-requisites |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                   |                               |
| Assessment methods and criteria | Subject passing criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Passing threshold | Percentage of the final grade |
|                                 | quality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 51.0%             | 100.0%                        |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recommended reading                                            | Basic literature         | <p><b>Douglas Linder</b>, <i>The Trial of Socrates</i> University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School (wybrane fragmenty dostępne online)</p> <p><b>Maxwell Anderson</b>, <i>Judyta i Holofernes. Proces Joanny d'Arc</i> dramat ukazujący proces w ujęciu literackim i psychologicznym</p> <p><b>Norman Mailer</b>, <i>Evangelia według Syna</i> kontekst procesu Jezusa Chrystusa z perspektywy kulturowej</p> <p><b>Hannah Arendt</b>, <i>Eichmann w Jerozolimie. Rzec o banalności zła</i>, Znak, Kraków klasyczna analiza polityczno-psychologiczna</p> <p><b>Marcin Zaborski</b>, <i>Zabić, nie zabić. Historia procesu O.J. Simpsona</i>, Wydawnictwo Czarne reportaż historyczno-sądowy</p> <p><b>Marek Andrzejewski</b>, <i>Procesy pokazowe. Między sprawiedliwością a propagandą</i>, Scholar, Warszawa</p> <p><b>Peter Burke</b>, <i>Historia i teoria sądów publicznych</i> analiza funkcji procesów sądowych jako spektakli społecznych</p> |
|                                                                | Supplementary literature | <p><b>Tomasz Kozłowski</b>, <i>Nieznany nurt. Historia procesów politycznych w PRL, IPN</i></p> <p><b>Philippe Charlier</b>, <i>Ciała nie kłamią. Sekrety zbrodni i słynnych śledztw w dziejach</i>, Znak</p> <p><b>Paweł Wiliński</b>, <i>Prawo do rzetelnego procesu sądowego w Konwencji Praw Człowieka</i></p> <p><b>Mirosław Wyrzykowski (red.)</b>, <i>Granice władzy sądenia</i>, Wolters Kluwer</p> <p><b>Robert Ferguson</b>, <i>Inferno: An Anatomy of American Punishment</i>, Harvard University Press</p> <p>Wybrane artykuły z portalu <b>Famous Trials</b> (<a href="https://famous-trials.com">https://famous-trials.com</a>), red. Douglas O. Linder</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                | eResources addresses     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Example issues/<br>example questions/<br>tasks being completed | -                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Work placement                                                 | Not applicable           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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