



SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY 'NEOFIT RILSKI'
FACULTY OF LAW AND HISTORY
Department 'Public Law Sciences'

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INFORMATION PACKAGE

SCIENTIFIC FIELD: **3. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL SCIENCES**

PROFESSIONAL FIELD: **3.6. LAW**

DOCTORAL PROGRAM:

EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE: **DOCTOR**
LEVEL ACCORDING TO THE NQF: **8**

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION: **RESEARCHER**

DURATION OF STUDY: **3 (three) or 4 (four) years**

FORM OF STUDY: **FULL-TIME / INDEPENDENT / PART-TIME**

The educational and research training of doctoral students under the doctoral programme “Constitutional Law” aims primarily at developing scholars capable of generating

onal Law may study in the traditional modes of study – full-time, part-time, or by individual

Constitutional Law and approved in the individual work plans. In addition to the compulsory courses — “Constitutional Law”, “Methodology and Methods of Legal Research”, “English”, and “Project Preparation and Management” — doctoral students may choose among the following courses: “General Theory of the State”, “Electoral Law and Electoral Systems”, “Parliamentary Law”, “Comparative Constitutional Law”, “Organisation of the Judiciary and Human Rights Protection Institutions”, and “Research Ethics”.

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Doctoral students in Constitutional Law study in depth the compulsory courses “Constitutional Law”, “Methodology and Methods of Legal Research”, “English”, and “Project Preparation and Management”. Preparation in these courses includes individual

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During their studies, doctoral students in Constitutional Law may choose one of the following courses: “General Theory of the State”, “Electoral Law and Electoral Systems”, “Parliamentary Law”, “Comparative Constitutional Law”, “Organisation of the Judiciary and Human Rights Protection Institutions”, and “Research Ethics”. The preparation in

reported to the Council of the Department of Public Law Studies and is included in the reporting documents on the implementation of the doctoral student's individual work plan.

The training is fully consistent with the applicable legislation and the Internal Rules for Academic Staff Development at South-West University "Neofit Rilski".

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research activity – drafting and publishing studies, articles or scholarly a

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Doctoral students in the doctoral programme "Constitutional Law" may also carry out coursework, drafting reviews of master's theses, etc. In the course of these activities, doctoral

is familiarisation with the procedures for the defence of the dissertation before a scientific jury under the doctoral programme "Constitutional Law" and preparation for the defence.

Constitutional Law

ECTS credits: 10

Total workload: 90 academic hours/210 self-preparation

Form of assessment: examination **Course status:** compulsory

Exam type: written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers: prof. Georgi Bliznashki, Doctor of Science, Department of Public Law Sciences, Faculty of Law and History

assoc. prof. Borislav Tsekov, PhD, Department of Public Law Sciences, Faculty of Law and History

ch. assist. Vesela Mircheva, PhD, Department of Public Law Sciences, Faculty of Law and History

assist. Stoyan Vasev, Department of Public Law Sciences, Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

Constitutional law is the basis for all branches of law, giving the fundamental principles of the entire legal system. The course clarifies the constitutional foundations of both the political and economic system of the Republic of Bulgaria. The basic principles for the organization and functioning of public authority and civil society are studied, on the basis of which it is implemented directly and representatively, the modern state is organized, and Bulgaria develops as a constitutional state governed by the rule of law in a pluralistic democracy. In this regard, the forms of direct democracy, the legal regime of political parties, the constitutional foundations of civil society and economic life, the system of state authorities, as well as the constitutional principles for their organization and activity are examined in detail. Emphasis is also placed on the constitutional status of citizens, and in addition to the legal institute of Bulgarian citizenship, the basic rights and freedoms of man and citizen are studied in detail, as well as the constitutional obligations of citizens and the guarantees for their implementation. The higher political institutions, their functions and powers, their acts, the organization and the order of their activity, as well as the relations and interactions between them are analyzed.

Methods and methodology of legal research

ECTS credits: 5

Total workload: 45 academic hours/105 self-preparation

Form of assessment: examination **Course status:** compulsory

Type of exam: written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: assoc. prof. Manol Stanin, PhD,

Department of Civil Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Annotation

The curriculum is developed by presenting the fundamentals of the academic discipline, the methods and methodology of scientific research, as well as information provision in scientific research. The discipline aims to offer doctoral students opportunities for more in-depth, targeted, and well-structured scientific research. The stages of scientific research are presented and better organization of the work process is supported.

Project Preparation and Management

ECTS credits: 5 **Total workload:** 15 academic hours/135 self-preparation
Form of Assessment: examination **Course status:** compulsory
Type of Exam: written
Methodological Guidance:
Department of Civil Law Sciences,
Faculty of Law and History
Lecturer: assoc. prof. Ivan Todorov, PhD,
Department of Finance and Accounting,
Faculty of Economics

Annotation

The course in Project Preparation and Management introduces doctoral students to the main aspects of project development, which form the basis for the organization and management of projects when applying for European Union programs. Doctoral students gain in-depth knowledge of effective project development, the management process involved in their creation and implementation, and the preparation of a project budget.

English Language

ECTS credits: 5 **Total workload:** 60 academic hours/90 self-preparation
Form of assessment: examination **Course status:** compulsory
Type of exam: written
Methodological guidance:
Department: "Public Law Sciences"
Faculty of Law and History
Lecturers: assoc. prof. Dafina Kostadinova, PhD, Department of German and Romance Studies, Faculty of Philology,
assoc. prof. Ivanka Sakareva, PhD, Department of German and Romance Studies, Faculty of Philology,
assoc. prof. Yana Chankova, PhD, Department of German and Romance Studies, Faculty of Philology

Annotation

The training is based on an integrative approach, in which the acquisition of new knowledge and skills by doctoral students is based on the development of four basic types of skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Special emphasis is placed on building speaking and listening skills, as well as on mastering the basic principles of academic writing in English and the skills of preparing presentations, CVs, abstracts, and articles in English.

General Doctrine of the State

ECTS credits: 4 **Total workload:** 45 academic hours/75 self-preparation
Form of assessment: examination **Course status:** elective

Type of exam: written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Sciences,
Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: prof. Georgi Bliznashki, Doctor of Science,
Department of Public Law Sciences,
Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

The course "General Doctrine of the State" introduces students to the basic theories of the origin and justification of the state. It presents a general characteristic of the ancient city-state, of the medieval empire and of the modern state, tracing the evolution of the ideas of the state from classical antiquity to the beginning of the New Age. Analyzes the principles of the relationship between civil society and the political state. It examines the constitutive elements of the state - a population organized as a nation, public authority and territory. It emphasizes the political-civic concept and the ethno-cultural concept of the nation, as well as the modern concept of a nation. It considers sovereignty as a basic quality of a public authority, clarifying the essence of the national and the people's sovereignty. It traces the historical preconditions for the emergence of the theory of the founding authority of the nation and its distinction from the established authorities. Clarifies the value consensus of society and the state in different historical epochs. Analyzes the liberal legal state, as well as the modern democratic, legal and social state. It presents the functions of the modern state and explores the authoritarian and totalitarian tendencies in its development. Considers the concept of a state form, as well as the types of state forms. It traces the relationship between the state and the law, as well as between the state and international relations.

Electoral law and electoral systems

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 academic hours/75 self-preparation

Form of assessment: examination

Course status: elective

Type of exam: written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Sciences,
Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: ch. assist. Vesela Mircheva, PhD,
Department of Public Law Sciences,
Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

The discipline studies the basic principles of electoral law, their historical and legal genesis and mechanisms for implementation. The main varieties of electoral systems are studied as methods for forming representative bodies, namely - majoritarian, proportional and mixed electoral systems. Their various modifications are examined, based on different methodologies for determining election results and distributing mandates. The electoral process is analyzed as a system of conditions and procedures related to the preparation and conduct of elections. A brief analysis of the Bulgarian electoral legislation is also presented, highlighting the normative and practical problems of the electoral process.

Parliamentary Law

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 academic hours/75 self-preparation

Form of assessment: examination

Course status: elective

Type of exam: written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: prof. Georgi Bliznashki, Doctor of Science,

Department of Public Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

Parliamentary law is a sub-branch of Constitutional law that studies the exercise of legislative power in the Republic of Bulgaria. The constitutional and legal status of the legislative body – the National Assembly, its organization and procedure for activity are analyzed. The legal status of the members of parliament, parliamentary groups and parliamentary committees are studied. The functions and powers of the parliament are examined in detail, with an emphasis on its legislative activity and the acts adopted by it. The pre-parliamentary and parliamentary legislative process, as well as their phases, are studied. The forms and means of parliamentary control are studied, as well as the procedures for their implementation. The competences of the National Assembly to amend and supplement the Constitution are studied, and in this regard the legal institute of the Grand National Assembly is also analyzed.

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 academic hours/75 self-preparation

Form of assessment: examination

Course status: elective

Type of exam: written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: assoc. prof. Borislav Tsekov, PhD,

Department of Civil Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

The academic discipline “Comparative Constitutional Law” aims to reveal the public power in modern states are studied, as well as the concept of “form of state government” and the concept of “form of state structure”. The constitution, organization and activities of the national representative body in the modern state – the parliament, the

Organization of Justice and Human Rights Institutions

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 academic hours/75 self-preparation

Form of assessment: examination

Course status: elective

Type of exam: written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: ch. assist. Ralitsa Voinova, PhD,

Department of Public Law Sciences,

Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

The course "Organization of Justice and Human Rights Institutions" aims to provide knowledge about the structure and functioning of justice in the Republic of Bulgaria, about the types of human rights institutions and the entities carrying out human rights activities at the national and supranational level. In this regard, doctoral students are introduced in detail to the legal framework of the structure and organization of the activities of the judiciary in Bulgaria, as well as the legal status of the institutions whose activities are directly or indirectly related to the implementation of justice. The internal organizational structure and competence of the bodies of the judiciary are examined - court, prosecutor's office, investigation, as well as of legal entities closely related to their activities - the bar, registry office, bailiffs, notary. The difference in the powers of the bodies of the judiciary and the institutions, respectively entities exercising certain human rights functions is clarified. The human rights protection activities of several supranational institutions are presented – the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the EU, the International Criminal Court in The Hague, the European Public Prosecutor's Office, the European Ombudsman. The legislative framework, functions and competences of the specialized institutions for the protection of specific types of rights in the Republic of Bulgaria are analyzed – the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, the Commission for Personal Data Protection, the Commission for Consumer Protection, the Commission for Competition Protection. The academic discipline is of fundamental importance for the specialized legal training of doctoral students, whose future professional realization is immanently related to the activities of judicial and human rights institutions.

Ethics of Scientific Research

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 academic hours/75 self-preparation

Form of assessment: examination

Course status: elective

Type of exam: written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Sciences

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: assoc. prof. Manol Stanin, PhD,

Department of Civil Law Sciences

Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

The course examines ethical issues in relation to the development of research activities in contemporary society. It emphasizes the importance of ethical rules in scientific research, focusing on how research activities contribute to social development. The aim of the course is to enable doctoral students to recognize the significance of ethical norms in conducting

scientific research, to analyze and explore ways of solving practical problems through scientific and ethical means. The training also focuses on the ethical elements embedded in national and supranational legal frameworks currently in force.