



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: Theory of State and Law. Political and Legal Doctrines

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**

Annotation

The educational and scientific training of doctoral students in the field of legal theory aims primarily at developing scholars capable of conducting in-depth analyses of fundamental legal phenomena and concepts, assessing their practical application, and contributing to the improvement of the legal regulation of social relations.

One of the main objectives of the training process is related to the practical relevance and application of the doctoral students' research work. The program gradually develops the doctoral students' ability to study the interdependence between legal phenomena and social relations, to navigate current academic information and judicial practice, and to conduct comparative analyses of foreign legal systems and legislations.

Doctoral students in "Theory of State and Law. Political and Legal Doctrines" are trained in the traditional forms: full-time, part-time, and individual (independent) study.

The preparation of doctoral students is carried out through the mandatory, elective, and optional courses stipulated in the curriculum of the doctoral program in "Theory of State and Law. Political and Legal Doctrines" and approved in their individual study plans. In addition to the compulsory subjects — "General Theory of Law", "Methodology and Methods of Legal Research", "Ethics of Scientific Research", "English Language", and "Project Preparation and Management." — doctoral students may choose among „Theory of Legislative Activity“, „Theory of Judicial Activity“, „Philosophy of Law“, „Political Science“, or „General Doctrine of the State“.

The training of doctoral students includes the following activities:

1. Research activities, including participation in research projects;
2. Attendance and participation in academic courses (lectures, seminars, etc.);
3. Teaching and expert activities, as well as participation in scientific forums (national and/or international);
4. Engagement in administrative activities and the academic life of the hosting department;
5. Examinations as specified in the individual study plan;
6. Preparation and defense of a doctoral dissertation.

In the process of training, doctoral students in "Theory of State and Law. Political and Legal Doctrines" in accordance with the National Qualification Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria

1. Develop independent creative thinking and the ability to conduct autonomous scientific research, formulate scientific theses, and generate new scientific ideas;
2. Master the methodology of scientific research and its application through the prism of specific scientific and practical problems;
3. Build competence for a detailed understanding of the techniques used in scientific research;
4. Acquire skills for working with the scientific apparatus;
5. Develop the ability to identify, extract, and analyze scientific and practical problems;
6. Acquire the ability to form informed judgments on complex issues concerning fundamental legal concepts and phenomena, even in the absence of complete data, and to present their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to both specialists and non-specialists;
7. Develop skills for applying a scientific approach and using scientific tools in their research work;
8. Cultivate the ability to expand and update existing knowledge in the field of the theory of law, as well as its interactions with other branches of legal science;
9. Develop the ability to present their ideas and conclusions in a well-reasoned, clear, and persuasive manner before both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

SECTION I.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

I. Compulsory Academic Disciplines

Doctoral students are required to study in depth the following compulsory academic disciplines: “General Theory of Law”, “Methodology and Methods of Legal Research”, “Ethics of Scientific Research”, “English Language”, and “Project Preparation and Management.”

The training of doctoral students includes independent study, attendance at lectures and seminars, and other academic activities. Completion of each discipline concludes with an examination before a committee that includes the scientific supervisor, in accordance with the individual study plan. The exam grade is reported to the Council of the Department of Public Law Studies and is included in the progress reports on the implementation of the doctoral student’s individual study plan.

II. Elective Academic Disciplines

During their studies, doctoral students may choose one of the following elective disciplines: „Theory of Legislative Activity“, „Theory of Judicial Activity“, „Philosophy of Law“, „Political Science“, or „General Doctrine of the State“.

The training includes independent preparation, attendance at lectures and seminars, and other activities. Completion is through an examination before a committee with the participation of the scientific supervisor, in accordance with the individual study plan. The exam grade is reported to the Council of the Department of Public Law Studies and included in the doctoral student’s progress documentation.

Teaching and Assessment Methods, and Language of Instruction

The training is fully in compliance with current legislation and the Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at South-West University “Neofit Rilski.”

Teaching is conducted through lectures and independent work by doctoral students. The lecturer provides explanations regarding the subject matter of the course, the relevant legal framework, required literature, and any questions arising during the process of independent study.

The language of instruction is Bulgarian.

SECTION II.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

In the course of their scientific training and the development of their dissertation, doctoral students in "Theory of State and Law. Political and Legal Doctrines" shall:

1. participate in seminars and discussions on didactic issues;
2. prepare reports (on the topic of their dissertation and beyond, but within the field of the doctoral program) for scientific events, discussions, conferences, and round tables;
3. participate in the development and implementation of scientific projects;
4. participate in the meetings of the Department of Public Law Sciences when discussing theoretical and practical issues;
5. conduct research work in preparation for the dissertation;
6. familiarize themselves with new trends and changes in European Union law and the dynamics of changes in domestic legislation, as well as with the case law of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Supreme Administrative Court of the Republic of Bulgaria;
7. analyze the need for and possibilities of changes in domestic legislation;

1. The main research activities that are part of the preparation of the dissertation are:

- formulating the research problem and developing and presenting a scientific thesis;

- conducting a bibliographic review and systematizing the sources;
- describing and systematizing previous research in the field of the dissertation topic;
- setting research goals and objectives. Selecting an approach for conducting the research and the methodology to be used;
- developing a justification for the selected methods and methodologies for conducting the research;
- developing a conceptual draft of the dissertation;
- discussing the dissertation draft – two stages;
- presenting the research concept and tools;
- research activity – preparation and publication of a study, article, or scientific communication;
- participation in scientific research projects;

2. Doctoral students in "Theory of State and Law. Political and Legal Doctrines" may also carry out teaching and pedagogical activities.

3. The final part of the doctoral students' scientific training is the introduction to the procedures for defending the dissertation before a scientific jury and preparation for the defense.

General Theory of Law

ECTS credits: 10

Hours: 90 lecture / 210 self-study

Form of assessment: Exam

Course type: Compulsory

Type of exam: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manol Stanin

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Department of Civil Law Sciences

Annotation:

The course is designed to present to doctoral students the general characteristics of law that derive from its very nature. It encompasses the legal reality in its entirety and reveals the essence of the fundamental legal concepts.

The General Theory of Law provides the level of knowledge and the concepts that apply to law as a whole. Therefore, it is one of the fundamental legal disciplines. It is an academic subject that coincides with the science of the General Theory of Law, which has its own specific object of study.

The course includes topics that uncover the nature of law as a significant social phenomenon and examine in depth the essence of the basic legal concepts and the relationships between them. The curriculum also covers topics presenting the characteristics of the components of both the dynamic and static aspects of legal reality.

Ethics of Scientific Research

ECTS credits: 4

Contact hours: 45 lectures / 75 seminars

Form of assessment: Examination

Course status: Compulsory

Type of exam: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: Department of Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Department of Civil Law **Sciences**

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.

Methods and Methodology of legal research

ECTS credits: 5

Contact hours: 45 lectures / 105 seminars

Form of assessment: Examination

Course status: Compulsory

Type of exam: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: Department of Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Department of Civil Law Sciences

Annotation

The curriculum is developed by presenting the fundamentals of the academic discipline, the methodology 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

English Language

ECTS credits: 5

Hours: 60 lectures / 90 seminars

Form of assessment: exam

Status of the discipline: compulsory

Semester: I

Type of exam: written

Methodological guidance:

Department: "Public Law Sciences"

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Dafina Kostadinova, Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Sakareva, Assoc. Prof. Yana Chankova,

Faculty of Philology, **Department** of German and Romance Studies

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

Project Preparation and Management

ECTS credits: 5

Academic Hours: 15 (lectures) / 135 (self-study)

Form of Assessment: Examination

Course Status: Compulsory

Type of Examination: Written

Methodological Guidance:

Department: Civil Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Todorov

Department: 'Finance and Accounting'

Faculty: 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.

Philosophy of Law

ECTS credits: 4

Contact hours: 30 lectures / 15 seminars

Form of assessment: Examination

Course status: Elective

Type of exam: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: Department of Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Department of Civil Law Sciences

Annotation:

The course is designed to provide doctoral students with knowledge about the qualities of law as determined by phenomena that exist independently of law but are reflected within it. These include evaluative phenomena such as freedom, justice, morality, natural rights, coercion, interest, purpose, evaluation, and legal consciousness. These elements are incorporated into law in a synthesized form and thus participate in shaping the essence of every legal system. By applying this meta-juridical approach, the philosophy of law provides knowledge about the criteria of law necessary for the study of its various branches. The discipline also offers understanding of the relationship between the qualities of law revealed by it and other phenomena whose nature is conditioned by law—such as the relationship between law and society, and between law and the rule-of-law state. Furthermore, the philosophy of law examines the legal mechanisms through which such phenomena are manifested. Therefore, its subject includes the relationships between law and politics, law and the state, and law and state power. The philosophy of law also studies how the development of law is influenced by extra-legal phenomena. Philosophical knowledge of law facilitates the study of legal issues arising from the intrinsic nature of law—issues that are also addressed by other legal sciences, including the general theory of law.

Theory of Juridical Activity

ECTS credits: 4

Total hours: 30 lectures / 15 seminars

Form of assessment: Examination

Course type: Elective

Exam format: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manol Stanin

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Department of Civil Law Sciences

Annotation:

The course examines the theoretical and philosophical aspects of judicial activity. During the learning process, students are expected to reflect on key issues related to the history of adjudication, the concept of truth and its justification, justice, evidence and reasoning, as well as the role of traditional and non-traditional formal logic in the process of judicial decision-making. The course also aims to connect these issues with the role of the judge, who is entrusted with a crucial part of state authority—the power to resolve a conflict that has taken the form of a legal dispute.

Political Science

ECTS credits: 4

Contact hours: 30 lectures / 15 seminars

Form of assessment: Exam

Course type: Elective

Type of exam: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Studies

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Popov, PhD

Department of Public Administration and National Security

Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

The Political Science course aims to provide doctoral students with an in-depth understanding of the interaction between law and political processes. It examines the main theoretical and institutional aspects of power, the state, and political regimes, emphasizing their role in the establishment of the legal order. The program develops analytical skills for studying political factors that influence the formation and implementation of legal norms. Special attention is devoted to the principles of democracy, legitimacy, and the rule of law in the context of contemporary social changes. The training encourages an interdisciplinary approach and the application of political science methods in research related to the theory of law. Graduates acquire analytical and research competencies necessary for successful professional realization.

Theory of Law-Making Activity

ECTS credits: 4

Contact hours: 30 lectures / 15 seminars

Form of assessment: Exam

Course type: Elective

Type of exam: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Studies

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Department of Civil Law Sciences

Annotation

The course is designed to provide doctoral students with knowledge of the pre-parliamentary and parliamentary phases of the law-making process, with a focus on the former. During the training, students become familiar with the specifics of the processes involved in the formation of the sources of law, the peculiarities of the pre-drafting stage, and the decision-making phase in law-making activity. Graduates acquire analytical and research competencies necessary for successful professional realization.

General Theory of the State

ECTS credits: 4

Contact hours: 30 lectures / 15 seminars

Form of assessment: Exam

Course type: Elective

Type of exam: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department of Public Law Studies

Faculty of Law and History

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Borislav Tzekov, PhD

Annotation

The course General Theory of the State aims to reveal the historical genesis of the state and trace the development of ideas about it, emphasizing its constitutive elements. Special attention is paid to the characteristics of the liberal and modern state. The concept of the form of the state is defined, and its different types are examined.