

ANNEX 2 – COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course title	Comparative Law			
Course code	LAW-220			
Course type	Elective			
Level	Undergraduate			
Year / Semester	2 nd /C			
Teacher's name	Petros Konstantinidis			
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	3 hours per week	Laboratories / week
Course purpose and objectives	<p>The main objectives of the course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarizing students with various legal families and systems, their historical, social, and cultural backgrounds. • Presenting the specific characteristics of different legal systems and classifying various national legal orders. • Understanding the interpretation and application of different legal systems. • Highlighting methods and criteria for comparing different legal systems and the ability to develop a comparative method. • Identifying the influence of globalization on national legal systems and identifying points of legal uniformity. • Presentation of the unifying effect of the legal orders of the Member States of the EU due to European law. • Developing students' critical thinking on contemporary issues in comparative law, e.g., towards a global interpretation of fundamental rights. • Identifying various interpretive approaches from different legal systems on specific legal issues. • Presenting points of interaction between different legal systems. • Highlighting modern technological means as factors influencing national legal orders. 			
Learning outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the course, students are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and apply the comparative method. • Know the main legal families and identify their basic characteristics. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the particular elements of national legal systems and classify them into different legal families. • Understand the impact of European law on national legal orders and identify the harmonizing trends of EU case law. • Explain the impact of globalization on national legal systems. • Analyse the production and application of law in various legal systems. • Evaluate phenomena of harmonization and unification of legal systems. • Develop a critical perspective on contemporary issues in comparative law, particularly in matters of interpretation and application of fundamental rights. • Understand the role of the digital age and cross-border transactions as factors of convergence of national legal systems. • Critically assess various legal systems and be able to position oneself with a critical mindset. • Identify elements of erosion of the traditional separation between public and private law due to globalization trends in legal unification. 		
Prerequisites	None	Required	None
Course content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction. Object and purpose of comparative law. • Comparative law as a scientific branch of law and the comparative method. The process of comparison. Micro-comparison - Macro-comparison. • Typology and classification of legal systems. The families of legal systems. • Characteristics of European continental (civil) laws. The cases of France and Germany. Characteristics of the Greek legal system. • The English legal system. Common law and Equity. The legal system of the United States compared to the legal system of England. • Comparative overview: Anglo-Saxon legal systems compared to the legal systems of European continental countries. • Scandinavian legal systems. • Mixed legal systems. The cases of Cyprus, Israel, and South Africa. • Other cases: Indigenous African laws - The importance of customary law. Islamic law - Religion as a fundamental axis. The legal system of China - The influence of philosophical theories. • The case of the EU as a legal order and its impact on national legal orders. • Comparative constitutional law. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary issues in comparative law. Towards a unified or globalized law? Is legal harmonization feasible? The role of technology in the convergence of national legal orders. • Legal translation and comparative law.
Teaching methodology	<p>Lectures with the aid of powerpoints and encouragement of active participation and dialogue, assignments, and presentations.</p> <p>Presentation and analysis of judicial decisions. Case studies/examples. Translation of legal texts.</p>
Bibliography	<p>E. Moustaira, Comparative Law, 2nd edition (Nomiki Bibliothiki 2021).</p> <p>E. Moustaira, Legal Influences within the Framework of Comparative Law (Sakkoulas 2013).</p> <p>M. Reimann/ R. Zimmermann, The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law, 2nd ed. (OUP 2019).</p> <p>J. M. Smits/ J. Husa/ C. Valcke/ Madalena Narciso (ed.), Elgar Encyclopedia of Comparative Law (Edward Elgar 2023).</p> <p>M. Adams/J. Bomhoff (ed.), Practice and Theory in Comparative Law (Cambridge University Press, 2015).</p> <p>P. Glenn, Legal Traditions of the World, 4th ed. (OUP, 2011)</p> <p>K. Zweigert/ H. Koetz, An Introduction to Comparative Law, 3rd ed. (transl. Tony Weir, OUP 1998).</p> <p>X. Deligianni-Dimitrakou, Introduction to Comparative Law (Sakkoulas 1997).</p> <p>S. Skytioti, Comparative Law & Language (Ant. N. Sakkoulas 2022).</p> <p>Mark Tushnet/ W. Nelson Cromwell, Comparative Constitutional Law (Edward Elgar 2017).</p> <p>K. Dzehtsiarou/ Th. Konstadinides/ T. Lock/ N. O'Meara (ed.), Human Rights Law in Europe, The Influence, Overlaps and Contradictions of the EU and the ECHR (Routledge 2014).</p>
Assessment	<p>Assignment/Presentation: 30%</p> <p>Participation: 20%</p> <p>Final Examination: 50%</p>
Language	Greek