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**Enter the course title here** Master Thesis Paper I

**Enter the course code**  Law 531

**Enter the number of credits** 6 credits

**Enter information on when the course is offered** Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Elida Nogoibaeva and Kamila Mateeva

**Class Schedule**: Friday at 2:10

**Office Hours**: By appointment

**Contact Information**: nogoibaeva\_e@auca.kg and kami.mateeva@gmail.com

1. **GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

Master Thesis Paper I is a course offered in Fall semester of the second year of studies at LLM program. It is to promote further the skills necessary for high-level legal research, analysis, and writing. These are the areas of expertise that every lawyer will need to succeed in the profession.

The goal of the course is to focus students on development of their master dissertations writing and research, to keep track of students’ progress and preparation for the pre-defense of master dissertation. By the end of the course, the student shall finish research and writing of two chapters of the paper and identify problematic issues that the student make in his/her hypothesis.

1. **PROGRAM AND COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**LL.M. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Graduates of the LL.M. program should have the following competencies:

1) be able to generalize and analyze information critically which is the basis for independent learning and application of new knowledge and skills;

2) be fluent in a foreign language at the level of professional communication, have strong oral and written communication skills and be advanced computer users;

3) apply professional judgment, perform quality legal analysis, conduct legal research and solve legal problems using advanced methods and technologies, be able to develop new original ideas in the professional sphere;

4) draft and interpret normative legal acts, carry out legal expertise of drafts of normative legal acts, serve as experts and consultants, provide qualified legal opinions in various fields of law;

5) teach legal disciplines at a high theoretical and methodological level with reliance on international best practice, use of online resources and application of the latest forms and methods of teaching;

6) demonstrate leadership qualities, active citizenship, take initiatives and implement projects aimed at advancing a welfare state.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Please, list your course learning outcomes and indicate which learning outcomes of the LL.M. Program they help achieve. Each course should have 5-6 learning outcomes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to: | LL.M. Program Learning Outcomes |
| * analyze and synthesize legal data
 | 1,3 |
| * construct legal arguments and perform advanced legal analysis;
 | 3 |
| * organize legal writing in a coherent, structured way;
 | 2 |
| * use different research databases such as LexisNexis;
 | 1,2,3 |
| * work with primary v. secondary sources
 | 1,3 |
| * work with citation style of blue book
 | 2 |

1. **TEACHING METHODS**

The class will meet once a week and/or individual meetings. Students are expected to come to classes prepared and be ready to discuss the given materials. Upon the instructor's request each student will be required to submit his/her written assignments. Non-submission of the assignment on time will lead to an F grade for that assignment.

1. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY**
2. Students are expected to BE ON TIME for classes. If a student is late, he/she will be marked as absent for the whole class, unless excused by the instructor.
3. ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is required. If a student misses more he/she may lose points of the assignment that shall take place in class.
4. Students are required to attend INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS. The schedule of the meetings will be agreed upon through communications. If the student misses an individual meeting, he or she is considered to have missed a class period.
5. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: Due dates and times for all assignments are strict. If the student misses the deadline, late work will not be accepted. Extensions are not granted.

Please, notice that all assignments must be turned in hard copy AND in an electronic copy. Electronic copies should be uploaded via the AUCA e-course system. You may access the system at http://e-course.auca.kg/. Please, contact the instructor immediately if you have any difficulty accessing the e-course.

1. Students must observe the AUCA ACADEMIC HONESTY policy and the LAW DIVISION PLAGI RISM POLICY. All types of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) are strictly prohibited. If a student fails to observe this requirement, the instructor shall assign an "F" grade for the work or for the whole course, depending on the type of assignment and gravity of the academic dishonesty.
2. CELL PHONES and any other electronic devices should be either turned off or kept on silent during class.

**Please, note that this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class, and the updated version of the syllabus will be available in the e-course. It is students’ duty to stay informed of any adjustments made.**

1. **GRADING**
2. EXAMINATION

There are no mid-term or final examinations in this course. Students will be graded based upon their written work and oral performance during the semester.

1. GRADING

The final grade is pass or no pass and will be determined based on the following components:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade Component | % |
| Presentation # 1 (10%)Presentation # 2 (10%) Presentation # 3 (10%) | 30% |
| Assignment 1 (Final chapter 1 and draft of chapter 2) | 15% |
| Assignment 2 (Draft of Chapter 2 with input of legal arguments) | 15% |
| Assignment 3 (Final full draft of Chapter 1 and 2) | 20% |
| Supervisor grade  | 20% |
|  |  |

The course has pass/no pass grade. To receive pass grade, you need to receive 77 points of the course.

1. **COURSE CONTENT**

The instructor reserves the right to introduce changes to the syllabus. Any changes will be announced during class or via email. It is your responsibility to stay informed of adjustments made!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week | Topics |
| 1-2 | * Introduction / discussion of course policy and expectations
* General Overview of the further activities

Homework:- **Meet with Supervisor** and Revise your paper and input changes based on comment your supervisor made to you. Polish your Chapter 1 to make it final to submit.-Start/continue working on the Chapter 2 of the paper.  |
| 3-4 | * September 21 Presentation of paper # 1 (you need to present literature review, theoretical concept of your thesis including terms and concepts you research (it may include history), and research problems that you raise in your paper).
* Discussion: - problems with research and writing that students are facing now

 -Structure, content, finding research problems * ***Supervisors are invited*** to attend the presentation of their students
* Feedback for presentation in class

**Homework:**Further development of the paper Continue progressing the paper focusing on a drafting on chapter 2**, working with supervisor** |
| 5-8 | * October 5 DEADLINE for ASSIGNMENT #1
* October 26 Presentation of paper # 2 (focus on presentation of your thesis and legal arguments of the paper)
* ***Supervisors are invited*** to attend the presentation of their students

**Homework:*** Continue progressing the paper **working with supervisors**
* Start working and preparing the Pre-defense presentation
 |
| 9-12 | * November 16 DEADLINE for ASSIGNMENT # 2
* November 23 Presentation # 3
* ***Supervisors are invited***
* Feedback for presentation in class. How to construct and build legal arguments into the paper + finding legal problems of the paper to discuss within individual meeting

**Homework:** * Continue progressing the paper, follow up with supervisors and input legal arguments into chapter 2

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| 13-15 | December 14 DEADLINE for ASSIGNMENT # 3 **Homework:*** Finalizing paper
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1. **COURSE MATERIALS**

Course materials will be taken in following recommended collections and other secondary sources:

* Elizabeth Fajans, Mary R. Falk, "Scholarly Writing for Law Students. St. Paul, 2005
* Michael Murray, "Legal Research Methods," Foundation Press, New York (2009);
* John Dernbach, "A Practical Guide to Legal Writing and Legal Method," Aspen Publishers, New York (2007);
* Nancy L. Schultz & Louis J. Sirico, "Legal Writing and Other Lawyering Skills," 4 ed., LexisNexis, NJ (2004);
* Diana V. Pratt, "Legal Writing: A Systematic Approach," 3 ed., WestGroup, St. Paul, Minnesota (1999);
* Linda Edwards, "Legal Writing. Process, Analysis, and Organization," 3d ed., Aspen Law and Business, New York (2002);
* Nadia Nedzel, Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing, Aspen Publishers, New York (2004).