
MASTER THESIS PAPER II SYLLABUS



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OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY
10.00-12.00
(PRIOR NOTICE NEEDED)



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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA
INTERNATIONAL AND BUSINESS LAW

SPRING 2025

LLM 620
6 CREDITS

Dear LL.M. Students,

You can find the necessary information about the course assignments and the deadlines below. Please do not hesitate to email both of us teaching the course in case of any challenges.

We do not have specific office hours for this course, therefore, if you would like to discuss anything related to your paper, you can schedule a meeting with us by sending an email. We can organize a meeting either offline or online depending on our schedules.

We will meet **on Mondays and Wednesdays at 17.00**. The format of the class meeting will be posted on the e-course beforehand.

Sincerely,

Kanykei Kasybekova

Course Instructor

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Master Thesis Paper II is a course offered in spring 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, preparation and passing the pre-defense** of master dissertation. By the end of the course, the student shall finish research and writing of the whole dissertation through identifying problematic issues and ready to defend the written work before the state attestation commission.

II. PROGRAM AND COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES


Master Thesis Paper II course is to contribute in achieving the LL.M. program learning outcomes where students are to acquire the competencies necessary after the graduation. The course learning outcomes were based on the program outcomes.

<u>LL.M. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (LL.M. PLO)</u>	<u>COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. be able to generalize and analyze information critically, which is the basis for independent learning and application of new knowledge and skills; 2. apply professional judgment, perform comparative quality legal analysis, conduct original, in depth legal research and solve legal problems using advanced methods and technologies, be able to develop new original ideas in the professional sphere; 3. 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 with regard to specific cases in various fields of law; 4. be able to conduct scientific research with the use of advanced databases and new technologies; 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 active civil position, take initiatives and implement projects aimed at advancing a welfare state. 	<p>Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze and synthesize legal data (LL.M. PLO 1-2); • construct legal arguments and perform advanced legal analysis (LL.M. PLO 2); • organize legal writing in a coherent, structured way (LL.M. PLO 1,2,4); • use different research databases such as HeinOnline, JSTOR, Kluwer Arbitration (LL.M. PLO 4); • work with primary v. secondary sources (LL.M. PLO 1-2); • work with citation style of blue book (LL.M. PLO 4). • submit a senior project paper and prepare to present and defend the senior project (LL.M. PLO 1-2).

III. TEACHING METHODS

The class will meet once a week, where there will be a regular session with all students or individual meetings. The details of the class format (either regular session or individual meeting) will be posted on the e-course. The meetings can be offline and online. If any reading material is assignment, students are expected to join the classes prepared and be ready to discuss the given materials as they may be randomly called to provide a response or comment. All of the information including the materials for reading are to be posted on the AUCA e-course system (Moodle). You may access the system at <http://ecourse.auca.kg/>.

The e-course will also contain assignment folders, where each student will be required to submit his/her written assignments. Students may be receiving the messages through the e-course system or via



AUCA email, therefore, students should be expected to check both e-course and AUCA emails at least two times a day.

IMPORTANT, lates submission of the assignment will lead to a severe penalty for that assignment, including “F” grade for that assignment.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY

- The class will meet once a week. **CLASS ATTENDANCE** is required (see also, section III. COVID-19 SYLLABUS STATEMENT). This means that students need to be present **DURING THE ENTIRE CLASS SESSION** (both offline/online) and be ready to answer questions, etc. The instructors will call on students randomly to discuss the given topic or to perform any other task (answer questions, engage in group work and other assignments). Some class meetings will be in the form of individual meetings. The schedule of the meetings will be agreed upon in class. If the student misses an individual meeting, he or she is considered to have missed a class session.

In case of online class session, if you need to leave the class session or simply get away from your computer with a Zoom session on, you should ask instructors for the permission to do so. If it turns out that the student is not responding to questions or is not confirming his/her presence during the online class session, this student will be marked as absent.

- Students must **CHECK THE E-COURSE and AUCA EMAIL** on a regular basis. All course announcements and materials will be posted in the e-course. Some announcements may be sent to the students’ AUCA emails. The classes will be both **OFFLINE**.

- 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 instructors. Students are expected to **PARTICIPATE** in class sessions. If the class session is online, it is expected that a video will be on if asked by the teachers, mute themselves if they are not speaking and be fully ready for classes (prepare a working space, observe a dress code, have access to computer and all necessary course materials, etc.). You must have a quiet and private workspace, where you will be able to complete class assignments or participate in class meetings without interruption.

- It is important to build a classroom climate that is welcoming and safe for everyone. Please display **RESPECT** for everyone in the class.

- **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**: The due dates and times for all assignments are strict. If the student misses the deadline, late work will be penalized. Extensions will generally not be granted. Please, notice that all assignments must be turned in an electronic copy. Electronic copies should be uploaded via the AUCA e-course system. You may access the system at <http://ecourse.auca.kg/>. Please, contact the instructors immediately if you have any difficulty accessing the e-course.

- Students must observe the **AUCA ACADEMIC HONESTY** policy and the **LAW DIVISION’S PLAGIARISM 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.

- The instructors reserve the **RIGHT TO REVISE OR ADJUST THE COURSE SYLLABUS** to best accommodate the pace and needs of the students.

V. GRADING

There are no mid-term or final examinations in this course. Students will be graded based upon their written work, presentations, and oral performance during the semester. This is a graded course and the grading scale is the following:

A	94-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-93%	C+	77-79%	D	63-66%
B+	87-89%	C	73-76%	D-	60-62%
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%	F	below 60

The course includes the following assignments:

Grade Component	%
Class discussion/individual meetings	20%
Assignment 1 (Draft Chapter 3)	10%
Assignment 2 (Final Chapter 3 with input of legal arguments)	10%
Assignment 3 (Draft of full paper)	15%
Assignment 4 (Final paper - Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 & Chapter 3, Introduction, Conclusion and Bibliography)	15%
Presentation rehearsal	10%
Pre-Defense	20%
	100

It is expected that each draft of the Chapter is to include substantial development of the issues set for the respective Chapter. Each subsequent draft has to have **1500 [quality] words without footnotes** more compared to the previously submitted draft.

VI. COURSE CONTENT

Week	Topics
I 1/13	Jan. 13 – discussion of the upcoming semester activities <i>When the individual meeting is not scheduled, make sure to meet with your Supervisor</i>



1/15	<p>Jan 15 – meet with your supervisors on the updated drafts</p> <p>Homework: Progress on dissertation writing, discussion of the drafts (updates on the Master Thesis)</p>
2-4	<p>2-days before the IM (midnight, 23.59): Assignment 1 (Draft Chapter 3)</p> <p>Jan. 20, Jan.22, Jan.27, Jan 29 – individual meetings with the course professors</p> <p>Feb 3, Feb 5 - no classes – writing process & meeting with supervisors</p>
5-7	<p>2-days before the IM: Assignment 2 (Final Chapter 3 with input of legal arguments)</p> <p>Feb.10, Feb.12, Feb.17, Feb.19 – individual meetings with the course professors</p> <p>Feb.24, Feb.26 – no classes – writing process & meeting with supervisors</p> <p>Homework: Further development of the paper</p> <p>Continue progressing the paper focusing on a drafting on chapter 3, working with supervisor</p>
8-11	<p>February 28, 23.59: Assignment 3 (Draft of full paper)</p> <p>Mar.3, Mar.5, Mar.10, Mar.12 – individual meetings with the course professor (on paper and presentation)</p> <p>Spring break [Mar.17-22]</p> <p>March 24 and March 26 – Presentation Rehearsals (in front of the co-colleagues) – max.15 min</p>
12-17	<p>March 31 & April 2 & April 7 and April 9 – PRE-DEFENSE</p> <p>April 14 – no class – continue writing the paper and meeting with supervisor</p>
4/3	
4/10	<p>April 15, 23.59: Assignment 4 (Final paper - Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 & Chapter 3, Introduction, Conclusion and Bibliography)</p>
4/17	
4/24	<p>April 16, 21, 23, 28 – – individual meetings with the course professors</p>
5/08	<p>April 30 – SUBMISSION OF THE MASTER THESIS</p>
5/15	<p>May 5 (day-off), May 07 - follow up classes</p>

VII. COURSE MATERIALS

You will be required to read handouts that will be distributed in class. In addition, you may refer to the following list of recommended materials for further reading:





- Martha Davis, Kaaron Joann Davis, and Marion Dunagan. *Scientific Papers and Presentations*. Vol. 3rd ed. Amsterdam: Academic Press, 2012. (https://search-ebSCOhost-com.ldb.auca.kg:6443/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xww&AN=465006&site=eds-live&ebv=EB&ppid=pp_Cover)
- Eugene Volokh, “Academic Legal Writing: Law Review Articles, Student Notes, Seminar papers, and Getting on Law Review”, New York, 2010; • Eugene Volokh, “Academic Legal Writing: Law Review Articles, Student Notes, Seminar papers, and Getting on Law Review”, New York, 2010 (https://search-ebSCOhost-com.ldb.auca.kg:6443/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xww&AN=1228098&site=eds-live&ebv=EK&ppid=Page-__-32);
- Lorrie Blair. *Writing a Graduate Thesis or Dissertation*. Teaching Writing. Rotterdam: Brill, 2016 (https://search-ebSCOhost-com.ldb.auca.kg:6443/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xww&AN=1171828&site=eds-live&ebv=EB&ppid=pp_23)
- Elizabeth Fajans, Mary R. Falk, “Scholarly Writing for Law Students. St. Paul, 2005;
- Christina L. Kunz, *The Process of Legal Research*”, New York, 2004;
- Richard C. Wydick, “Plain English for Lawyers”, Durham, North Carolina, 1998;
- Lisa Webley, “Legal Writing”, New York, 2007;
- 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,” 4th ed., LexisNexis, NJ (2004);
 - Diana V. Pratt, “Legal Writing: A Systematic Approach,” 3d ed., WestGroup, St. Paul, Minnesota (1999);
 - Linda Edwards, “Legal Writing. Process, Analysis, and Organization,” 3d ed., Aspen Law and Business, New York (2002);
 - Ian Mcleod, “Legal Method,” 7th ed., Palgrave, New York (2009);
 - Nadia Nedzel, *Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing*, Aspen Publishers, New York (2004).

