
MASTER THESIS PAPER II SYLLABUS



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OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY
12.00-14.00
(PRIOR NOTICE NEEDED)



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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA
INTERNATIONAL AND BUSINESS LAW

SPRING 2024

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 Wednesdays at 15.35**. The format of the class meeting will be posted on the e-course beforehand.

Sincerely,

Elida K. Nogoibaeva

Kanykei Kasybekova

Course Instructors

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.	Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to: <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 (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. COMMON COVID-19 SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

Potential for Reversion to Fully Online Instruction

Changing public health circumstances for COVID-19 may cause this course to move to fully online instruction at some point during the semester. Instructor will communicate with students about moving to fully online instruction if the situation develops.

IV. 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. 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, non-submission of the assignment on time will lead to a severe penalty for that assignment, including “F” grade for that assignment.

V. 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 not be accepted. 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.

VI. 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%	C+ 74-76%	D 54-59%
A- 90-93%	C 68-73%	D- 50-53%
B+ 86-89%	C- 64-67%	F below 50%
B 80-85%	D+ 60-63%	
B- 77-79%	D 54-59%	

The course includes the following assignments:

Grade Component	%
Class participation/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)	20%
Assignment 4 (Final paper - Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 & Chapter 3, Introduction, Conclusion and Bibliography)	20%
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** more compared to the previously submitted draft.

VII. COURSE CONTENT

Week	Topics
I 1/16	Jan. 16 – discussion of the upcoming semester activities Homework: Progress on dissertation writing, discussion of the drafts (updates on the Master Thesis)
2-4 1/24 1/31 2/7	Jan.24 – no class – writing process & meeting with supervisors January 29, 23.59: Assignment 1 (Draft Chapter 3) Jan.31 and Feb.7 – individual meetings with the course professors
5-7 2/14 2/21 2/28	Feb.14 – no class – writing process & meeting with supervisors February 19, 23.59: Assignment 2 (Final Chapter 3 with input of legal arguments) Feb.21 and Feb.28 – individual meetings with the course professors The schedule will be posted on the e-course Homework: Further development of the paper Continue progressing the paper focusing on a drafting on chapter 3, working with supervisor
8-11 3/06 3/13 3/20 (SB)	Mar.6 – no class – writing process & meeting with supervisors March 11, 23.59: Assignment 3 (Draft of full paper) Mar.13 and Mar.27 – individual meetings with the course professors Spring break [Mar.20]



3/27	
12-17	April 3 – no class – writing process & meeting with supervisors
4/3	April 8, 23.59: Assignment 4 (Final paper - Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 & Chapter 3, Introduction, Conclusion and Bibliography)
4/10	
4/17	April 10, 17, 24 – PRE-DEFENSE
4/24	April 30 – SUBMISSION OF THE MASTER THESIS
5/08	May-08 & 15: optional meetings & follow up classes
5/15	

VIII. 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).

