



Syllabus

Critical Thinking

Higher education degree – bachelor

Field of knowledge: 29 International and Public Relations

Specialty: 293 International Law

Educational and professional program “International Law”

Year of study: 2, Semester: IV

Number of credits ECTS: 5

Language of teaching: English:

Head of the course

PhD, Associate Professor **Olha Kovalchuk**

Contact Information

o.kovalchuk@wunu.edu.ua

Description of the discipline

This course is designed to enhance the reasoning skills essential for students pursuing a career in International Law. Critical thinking is a fundamental competency for legal professionals operating in the complex, multilateral environment of international relations and jurisprudence. Throughout the semester, students will develop and refine their ability to analyze complex legal arguments and identify logical fallacies, evaluate evidence and sources in international legal contexts, construct sound, well-reasoned arguments for use in international tribunals and negotiations, apply critical thinking frameworks to real-world international legal cases and scenarios, recognize and mitigate cognitive biases in legal decision-making processes, and develop strategies for effective problem-solving in cross-cultural legal environments. The course will cover various critical thinking models and their application to international law, including formal and informal logic, argument analysis and construction, evidence evaluation in international contexts, cross-cultural reasoning and communication, and ethical decision-making in

global legal practices. Through a combination of lectures, case studies, debates, and practical exercises, students will hone their critical thinking skills within the specific demands of international law. This course aims to prepare students for the rigorous analytical requirements of their future careers in international legal practice, diplomacy, and global governance. By the end of this course, students will be equipped with the cognitive tools necessary to navigate the complexities of international law, enabling them to become more effective legal practitioners in the global arena.

Course Structure

Hours (lect. / pract.cl)	Topic	Learning outcomes	Tasks
3 / 3	1. Fundamentals of Critical Thinking in Legal Practice	Apply core critical thinking principles to analyze, evaluate, and construct legal arguments, enhancing their ability to reason effectively within the context of international law and practice.	Multiple Choice Tests
3 / 3	2. Basic Principles and Methods of Critical Thinking	Be able to identify, analyze, and apply fundamental critical thinking techniques to enhance their reasoning and problem-solving skills in various legal contexts.	Fill-in-the-blanks
4 / 4	3. Analysis and Evaluation of Information Sources in Legal Practice	Skillfully assess the credibility, relevance, and reliability of diverse information sources to support sound legal reasoning and decision-making in international law scenarios.	Fill-in-the-blanks
3 / 3	4. Identifying and Evaluating Arguments in Legal Texts	Be able to dissect complex legal documents, recognize various types of arguments, and critically assess their validity and strength within the context of international law.	Short Answer Questions
3 / 3	5. Logical Fallacies and Their Recognition in Legal Documents	Identify and explain common logical fallacies in legal reasoning, enabling them to construct stronger arguments and critically evaluate legal documents in international law practice.	Fill-in-the-blanks
3 / 3	6. Critical Analysis of Court Decisions	Be able to comprehensively examine judicial rulings, dissect legal reasoning, and critically evaluate the implications of court decisions within the broader context of international law and precedent.	True/False Questions
4 / 4	7. Application of Critical Thinking in the Legislative Process	Be able to analyze and apply critical thinking skills to evaluate legislative proposals, identify logical fallacies, assess evidence-based arguments, and develop well-reasoned solutions to complex policy challenges within the legislative process.	Short Answer Questions
4 / 4	8. Critical Thinking in the Interpretation of Laws and Regulations	Demonstrate the ability to apply critical thinking techniques to interpret laws and regulations accurately, examining multiple perspectives, contextual factors, and potential implications to arrive at sound legal conclusions.	Fill-in-the-blanks

3 / 3	9. Self-criticism and Reflection in Legal Practice	Be able to develop and utilize self-reflective practices to critically evaluate one's legal reasoning, assumptions, and biases, fostering continuous professional growth and improvement in legal analysis and decision-making	True/False Questions
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Bibliography:

1. Boone A., Hadley G. Книга Critical Thinking. Taylor & Francis, 2022. 358 p.
2. Moore B. N., Parker R. Critical Thinking. 13th Edition. McGraw Hill, 2020.
3. Haber J. Critical Thinking. MIT Press, 2020 p. 232 p.
4. The Foundation for Critical Thinking.
https://www.criticalthinking.org/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw_sq2BhCUARIsAIVqmQt_0b_wE2tWanpy7G8B94YnJb2ISx2qZFM2aqn_sMQiDgRnM46E2HEaAn91EALw_wcB.
5. Cohen M. Critical Thinking Skills For Dummies. Audiobook. 2019.
https://audiobookstore.com/audiobooks/critical-thinking-skills-for-dummies.aspx?campaign=dynamic_ads_international&source=google&medium=ppc&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw_sq2BhCUARIsAIVqmQuJ2NaHX5Yd6vO0gb1tD1uSRpcquR6SL0v4YG5etjZj_k-fe5Yd2Nb4aAmMdEALw_wcB/.
6. Dobelli R. Are you thinking clearly? The art of thinking clearly.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kNGZmQePuM>.

Evaluation policy

- **Policy on deadlines and rescheduling:** Rescheduling of modules takes place with the permission of the dean's office if there are good reasons (for example, sick leave).
- **Academic Integrity Policy:** Copying during tests and exams is prohibited (including using mobile devices).
- **Attendance Policy:** Attendance is a mandatory component of assessment. For objective reasons (for example, illness, international internship, and other reasons), training can take place online with the permission of the university administration.

Evaluation

The final score for the course is calculated as follows:

Module 1		Module 2		Module 3	Module 4
20%	20%	20%	20%	5%	15%
Current assessment	Module assessment 1	Current assessment	Module assessment 2	Trening	Student-self study
The overall grade is the arithmetic mean of all grades received in practical classes (Practical class 1-6)	1. Analysis of statements - 50 points 2. Comparison of texts - 50 points (topic 1-5)	The overall grade is the arithmetic mean of all grades received in practical classes (Practical class 7-15)	1. Criticism of arguments - 50 points 2. Argumentation of legal position - 50 points (topic 6-9)	Overall score: the sum of points for all criteria for the completed task	Overall score: the sum of points for all requirements for the completed task

Student evaluation scale

University Scale	The National Scale	Scale ECTS
90–100	fine	A (excellent)
85-89	well	B (very good)
75–84		C (good)
65–74	satisfactorily	D (satisfactorily)
60-64		E (enough)
35–59	unsatisfactorily	FX (unsatisfactory with the possibility of reassembly)
1–34		F (unsatisfactorily with the mandatory repeated course)