

<b>Title of the Course</b>	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL LAW</b>		
Amount in credit points/ECTS)	3/ 4,5	Amount (in hours)	3/ 4,5
Grounding	History of Latvia and Law, State and Law Theory		
Science Sector	Legal Science		
Science Subsector	State Law		
<b>Summary of academic hours</b>		<b>Amount (academic hours)</b>	
Distance learning		60	
Contact hours / video lessons		16	
Exercises, self – assessment questions and tests		12	
Individual work/ discussions in distance		30	
Exams/tests		2	
<b>1. level professional study programme</b>	Law		
<b>Author(s) of the course</b>	Dr. iur. Janis Pleps		
<b>Lecturer(s) of the course</b>	Mg. iur. Nikolajs Ozolins		
<b>Goal of the course:</b>	To ensure students with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies regarding constitutional rights. To promote the understanding about constitutional rights in Latvia and related legislative acts, as well as to introduce with sources of the rights and practical application during legal issues.		
<b>Requirements for obtaining credit points (structure of course evaluation):</b>	<p><u>The final evaluation is calculated:</u>                      Moodle discussion/task – 30%                      Exam – 70%  <i>For obtaining final evaluation, both activities should hold successful evaluation – not below 4 points.</i>  <i>Final evaluation is the average grade in 10-point system, in proportion of percentage distributed amongst both activities</i></p>		
<b>Study Results</b>			
<p>1. <i>Knowledge:</i></p> <p>1.1. Know and understand the essence and meaning of constitutional rights;</p> <p>1.2. Know the actualities of the case law of the Constitutional Court;</p> <p>1.3. Know about the structure and concepts of the Republic of Latvia Satversme.</p> <p>2. <i>Skills:</i></p> <p>2.1. Able to show the understanding of correlations regarding the meanings and regularities of constitutional rights;</p> <p>2.2. Able to argue about the topical issues and problems of the constitutional law;</p> <p>2.3. Able to find a solution to an existing problem situation regarding constitutional rights by applying legislative acts, court practice and doctrine.</p> <p>3. <i>Competency:</i></p> <p>3.1. Able to find the necessary information independently, to analyse it and to select the most important in order to obtain theoretical ideas about the said topic in constitutional rights area;</p> <p>3.2. Able to analyse the situation in the practice of the Constitutional Court, based on the publically obtainable information and by using research methods, as well as to identify problems independently;</p> <p>3.3. Able to find a solution for a specific problem from the practice of the Constitutional Court by</p>			
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preparing legally correct solution, based on legislative acts, court practice and judicature.

**Content of the Course**

No.	Subjects	Contact hours/ video audio lessons	Distance learning	Exercises, self- assessment questions and tests	Individual work/ discussions in distance	Exams/tests
1.	Constitutional rights. Meaning and understanding of the constitution	12	8	2	4	2
2.	State policy framework		8	2	4	
3.	The fundamental rights of a person		4	2	4	
4.	Rights to vote		8	1	2	
5.	Saeima (Parliament)		8	3	4	
6.	The Cabinet of Ministers		8	2	4	
7.	President		8	2	4	
8.	Judicial power		8	2	4	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		12	60	16	30	2
<b>120</b>						

**Mastering the course and successfully passing examination, student is capable of** (*knowledge, skills and competencies*)

Study Results:	Evaluation Criteria		
	(40-69%)	(70-89%)	(90-100%)
<b>Knowledge</b>			
Know and understand the constitution and concepts of Latvian state polity	Have overall knowledge, but cannot describe each question on the state polity and its impact more broadly and to justify the opinion	Have good overall knowledge, are able to describe each question on state polity more broadly, but cannot justify the opinion	Have excellent overall knowledge, are able to describe each question on state polity more broadly, can justify the opinion
Know the topicalities of the Constitutional Court practice	Have overall knowledge about the topicalities, however cannot give more detailed comments	Have good knowledge about the topicalities, are able to give broader comments, but cannot	Follow the changes in the legislative acts, topicalities in Latvia and in the world. Are able to

		justify wider comments about the topicalities and understand their impact	provide with logical and reasonable opinion about what is happening
Know the regulatory enactments, principles, methods and stages of drawing up documents and legislation of the state institutions	Have superficial knowledge about regulatory enactments for drawing up documents, writing principles, methods and stages	Have partial knowledge about regulatory enactments for drawing up documents, writing principles, methods and stages	Have knowledge about regulatory enactments for drawing up documents, writing principles, methods and stages
<b>Skills</b>			
Are able to demonstrate understanding about the most important concepts and correlations of constitutional rights	Lack of understanding about the most important concept and correlations	Understand the most important concepts, however have difficulties with seeing correlations	Understand the most important concepts and correlations from history of rights
Able to, based on arguments, to discuss about the topical issues and problems of constitutional law	Lack skills of discussion about the topicalities and problems, cannot defend their opinion, cannot identify the existing problems in the rights subject	Able to discuss over the topicalities and problems, however have difficulties to justify the opinion	Able to, based on arguments, to discuss about the topicalities and problems, to formulate and justify opinion with comments from the constitution
Able to find a solution for the problem regarding the constitution by applying legislative acts, practice of the Constitutional Court and doctrine	The problem-situation has been evaluated, given overall solution without wider reasoning, references or partial references to court practice and/or doctrine	Problem-situation has been evaluated, supporting legislative acts have been chosen, regulatory norms, applied, court practice and/or doctrine used, however full explanation of the chosen legislative acts and application consequences has not been provided	Problem-situation has been evaluated, supporting legislative acts have been chosen, regulatory norms, applied, full explanation of the chosen legislative acts and application consequences has been provided, arguments supported by court practice and doctrine
Able to analyse legal transaction documents and the law enforcement act, using Section 8 of the Satversme	document developed / verified, but only partially used legal terms, the contents of the document are inaccurate (contains many imperfections)	document developed / verified, legal terms used, the contents of the document are inaccurate (contains only minor imperfections)	document developed / verified precisely and correctly (contains legal terminology)
Are able to summarise work shortly and precisely, to present the results in different ways, to argument and explain legal conclusions	Have difficulties with summarising work results and presenting it to others, can argument and explain legal conclusions only superficially	Able to summarise work results, however have difficulties to present them in a manner understandable to others, able to argument and present the legal conclusions in a manner understandable to others	Able to present the result of the work shortly, precisely, in a manner understandable to others, are able to argument and justify legal conclusions by using commentaries from Satversme

<b>Competencies</b>			
Are able to find the necessary information independently, to analyse it and select the most important in order to obtain the understanding about the specific part of Satversme	There are difficulties to find the necessary information independently, to select the most important and to analyse it	Able to select the necessary information, however have difficulties with selecting the most relevant and to analyse it	Are able to find all the necessary information and to select the most relevant and to analyse it
Able to analyse the competence of the state authority in the constitutional law sector, basing on the publicly available information and by using research methods, as well as to identify problems independently.	Understanding of the situation to be analysed is not complete, difficulties using research methods as well as identifying problems	Able to analyse the situation independently by using research methods, able to identify problems, however lack deepened understanding of the situation and problems	Able to analyse the situation independently by using research methods, able to identify problems
Able to find a solution to a specific problem regarding constitutional law by preparing legally correct solution in the area of human rights, based on legislative acts, court practice, judicature and commentaries of Satversme	Have difficulties to identify problem solutions, have overall understanding, however lack of sequential preparation of the solution, application of court practice and judicature	Able to offer a solution to the identified problem, however have difficulties with preparing a legally correct solution. Good justification with legislative acts, court practice, however there are some elements missing	Able to offer a solution to the identified problem, able to prepare a solution based on legislative acts, court practice and judicature

**Acknowledgement of the obtained study results**

<b>Study Results</b>	<b>1.1.-1.3.</b>	<b>2.1.-2.3.</b>	<b>3.1.-3.3.</b>
<b>Evaluation Method</b>			
Moodle discussions/tasks	X	X	X
Exam	X	X	X

**Core literature**

1.	Satversme of the Republic of Latvia. / Law of the Republic of Latvia. Adopted at the meeting of Satversme of the Republic of Latvia 15.02.1922.; entered into force 07.11.1922.; as amended by 15.06.2018. // Latvijas Vestnesis, 01.07.1993., No.43.
2.	Commentaries of Satversme of the Republic of Latvia. Chapter III. President; Chapter IV Cabinet of Ministers”. Autor collective Balodis R. red. Riga:Latvijas Vestnesis -2017.
3.	Law System in Latvia, SIA “ Biznesa augstskola Turība” Collective monography. 2017.442.p.
4.	Commentaries of Satversme of the Republic of Latvia: Introduction, Chapter I, General Provisions. Author collective prof. R.Baloza zinātniska vadība. – Riga: Latvijas Vestnesis, 2014.
5.	How is Democracy in Latvia: Audit of Democracy. 2005-2014 - Riga: LU Akadēmiskais apgads, 2014. <a href="https://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf">https://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf</a>

**Additional Literature**

1.	Par Latvijas valsts konstitucionalajiem pamatiem un neaizskaramo Satversmes kodolu. Opinion and materials of Konstitucionālo tiesību komisija. – Rīga: Latvijas Vestnesis, 2012 – 256 p.
2.	Pleps J, Pastars E., Plakane I. Constitutional Rights. Updated and revised edition – Rīga: Latvijas Vestnesis, 2014.
3.	Pleps J. Satversmes iztulkosana. – Rīga: Latvijas Vestnesis, 2012.
4.	Commentaries of Satversme of the Republic of Latvia. Chapter VIII. Human fundamental rights. Author collective prof. R.Baloza zinātniska vadība. – Rīga: Latvijas Vestnesis, 2011. – 864 p.
5.	Indrikovs Z. Foreign Constitutional Rights. – Rīga: LPA, 1999.
6.	Rodina A. (2009.) Constitutional Complaints theory and practice in Latvia. Rīga: Latvijas Vestnesis,

**Recommended Periodicals**

1.	<a href="http://www.satv.tiesa.gov.lv">www.satv.tiesa.gov.lv</a>
2.	<a href="http://www.lvportals.lv">www.lvportals.lv</a>
3.	<a href="http://www.saeima.lv">www.saeima.lv</a>