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| Subject name: | Legal informatics |
| Subject coordinator: | dr. Aczél-Partos Adrienn |
| Responsible department: | Legal Informatics Education Group |
| Category of the subject: | required |
| Position of the subject in the curriculum: | 1/2. |
| Required preliminary studies): | - |
| Language of the subject: | hungarian |
| Brief subject description: | <p>The primary objective of the course is to equip students with the foundational knowledge of legal informatics that is essential for both academic legal studies and professional legal practice. A central focus is the proficient, user-level engagement with Hungarian and international legal databases—particularly legislation retrieval systems—and the practical application of effective legal search techniques. The course introduces students to the use of artificial intelligence in legal research and document drafting, with a special emphasis on experimenting with large language models and developing the critical thinking skills necessary for their responsible and analytical use. In addition, the course fosters the development of digital literacy, information-seeking and evaluation skills, and verbal and visual communication competencies, particularly through individual presentations and practical assignments.</p> |
| Theoretical knowledge to be acquired: | <p>A brief theoretical introduction is provided to key concepts, including the nature of legal information, its reliability, authenticity, and source-critical aspects, as well as its role in various phases of legal work—especially legal interpretation, application, and enforcement. The course also offers an overview of selected topics in legal theory, including the types and hierarchy of legal sources, the structural composition of legal texts (e.g., titles, preambles, normative content, closing provisions, temporal and validity-related clauses), and the logical structure of legal norms. This theoretical foundation supports the effective and critical use of legal databases and helps students navigate the complex landscape of legal texts independently.</p> |
| Practical knowledge to be acquired: | <p>1. Discussion of student presentations. Approaching legal information. The nature and characteristics of legal information retrieval. Possible methods of legal research.</p> <p>2–3. Historical overview, structure, and functionalities of the “Új Jogtár” (New Legal Database). Practical exercises involving searches in the “Hungarian Legal Materials” section of the database. Familiarization with publicly accessible legal information platforms, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://net.jogtar.hu/ • https://magyarkozlony.hu/ • https://www.njt.hu/ (National Legislation Database – NJT) <p>4. Exploration of the “Municipal Legislation” section of the database. Navigation of selected municipal websites. Retrieval of local government regulations via the NJT database.</p> |

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| | <p>5. Introduction to the EU law section of the database. Conducting search tasks with concrete examples. Parallel exploration of the official EU portal (https://europa.eu/) and legal search exercises. Overview and practical use of the EUR-Lex (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/) and N-Lex (https://n-lex.europa.eu/) databases.</p> <p>6. Examination of the legislative process and related database functions. Searching for bills, parliamentary debates, and justifications within the Jogtár database and the official website of the Hungarian National Assembly (https://www.parlament.hu/).</p> <p>7–8. Overview of the “Legal Application” section in Jogtár. Systematic review of judicial decisions by court hierarchy. Interpretation of court decisions with the aid of artificial intelligence tools.</p> <p>Familiarization with the following legal databases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court of Hungary (https://kuria-birosag.hu/) • Judicial Decision Repository (https://birosag.hu/birosagi-hatarozatok-gyujtemenye) • Constitutional Court of Hungary (https://alkotmanybirosag.hu/) <p>Overview of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and prosecutorial databases. Engagement with English- and German-language legal content.</p> <p>Utilization of the “Legal Translations” section of the NJT and the Hungarian Legal Terminology Database (https://jogi-terminologia.im.gov.hu/).</p> <p>9. Exploration of the <i>Corpus Juris Hungarici</i> (“A Thousand Years of Hungarian Legislation”). Legal research using thematic blogs, IJOTEN (Legal Information System for Higher Education), and open-access legal content online. Bibliographic database overview. Familiarization with the catalogue and databases of the Library of the Hungarian National Assembly.</p> <p>10–11. Solving a mini-case using Jogtár. Solving a similar mini-case using artificial intelligence. Group work comparing and evaluating the two approaches.</p> <p>12. Overview of the “Jogkódex” legal database. Conducting advanced legal searches and exploring the professional journal article database.</p> |
| List of the most important required literature (2–4 pieces) with bibliographical details | The content presented during the practical sessions, as well as the material outlined in the accompanying PowerPoint presentations, constitutes the required reading for the course. Due to the dynamic nature of legal databases, no fixed textbook or printed course manual can be recommended. |

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| List of the most important recommended literature (2–4 pieces) with bibliographical details | <p>ACZÉL-PARTOS Adrienn: Könyvtári kutatás és jogi adatbázisok. In: <i>A jog tudománya. Tudománytörténeti és tudományelméleti írások, gyakorlati tanácsokkal</i>. Budapest, Századvég, 2015. 579—642. ISBN 9789632582580</p> <p>ZÖDI Zsolt: Jogi adatbázisok és jogi forráskutatás. Gépek a jogban. Budapest, Gondolat, 2012. ISBN 9789636934637</p> <p>ZÖDI Zsolt: Jogi adatbázisok és elektronikus jogi forráskutatás. In: <i>Infokommunikációs jog</i>. Budapest: Dialóg Campus, 2014. szerk. Czékmann Zsolt. 321—339. ISBN 9786156020604</p> |
| Applied teaching methods: | <p>During the course, both individual and group assignments play a key role. As this is primarily a practice-oriented course, the emphasis is placed on skill development, the practical application of legal information, as well as on student presentations and short talks. To support the consolidation of knowledge, each session includes interactive tasks—such as Kahoot-based quizzes—designed to reinforce previously acquired content. Over the course of the semester, each student delivers a brief, independent presentation on a self-selected topic situated at the intersection of law and information technology.</p> |
| Form of evaluation (<i>exam / pract. mark / other</i>): | Practical Grade |
| Evaluation criteria: | <p>A maximum of two absences is permitted during the semester. Assessment is based on the completion of individual and group tasks, which are practical in nature and aimed at facilitating the application of acquired knowledge. Students will also be introduced to the use of artificial intelligence for legal information purposes, with a particular focus on experimenting with and critically evaluating large language models. Given the interactive nature of the sessions, active participation is strongly emphasized and considered essential.</p> |
| Contribution of the subject to the acquisition of competence elements as defined in the Training and Outcome Requirements | <p>a) knowledge: T1, T2, T9, T10, T15 b) skills: K3, K6, K15, K29, K31, K32, K33 c) attitude: A1, A2, A3, A7, A1 d) autonomy and responsibility: F1, F5, F8</p> |
| Lecturer(s) involved in the teaching of the subject, if any: | dr. Aczél-Partos Adrienn Kardos Helga |