**Legal Reasoning**

**Number of classes: 12x2classes**

**Credits: 2**

**Grading: mid-term grading, report (three-scale)**

**Teacher assigned with the course: Tamás Ádány PhD**

**Teachers delivering the course: János Erdődy PhD, Unger Anikó**

**Aim of the course:**

The seminar offers practical information on legal reasoning in English. A methodical approach is applied to study the structure of various reference systems applicable: the sources of law and ways of building legal arguments. The course lays emphasis on all-skills development exercises, involving interactive and audio-visual tools.

**Contents of the course:**

By empirical approach it prepares students for the rigors of legal analysis in general international practice. Cognitive approach ensures focussing on timely decision-making and the stylistic arsenal, the logical aim and the register within the classical historical models (Abraham Lincoln, Queen Elisabeth or the argumentation in the landmark case of JFK). The main issue is how the aim and the means can be rendered to the legal aspects of the contents by sheer logical arguments.

**Topics:**

1. Introductory class: language skills assessment through argument-building and argument-localizing short drills; 2 classes

2-3.Abraham Lincoln delivers an argument to the Cabinet on how and why the ”*Emancipation Proclamation*” can be considered *illegal/illegitimate* (to be discussed) (”Lincoln” [Steven Spielberg, 2012.]; 4 classes

4-5. Queen Elizabeth argues regarding the”*Act of Uniformity*” (1558) – the means a sovereign applies to demonstrate commitment (”Elisabeth” [Shekhar Kapur, 1998.]; 4 classes.

6. Legal reasoning as presented through natural law versus legal positivism in “Legal Skills” by Emily Finch – Stefan Fafinski, Oxford University Press, pp. 248 – 249.; 2 classes

7. How to write an argument in 100 words, based upon the guidelines in the previous book and the above topic; 2 classes

8-9.The burden of proof: demonstration; argumentation; logical statements and delegated conclusions; segmenting the information as presented by the prosecution in the Oscar- awarded film ”JFK” [Oliver Stone, 1991.]; 4 classes

10. Working up the written material of the said pleading, lexical and stylistic text interpretation; 2 classes;

11. Classical models in forensic rhetoric; drilling arguments and building counter-arguments; 2 classes;

12. Lessons learned on completing the seminar; 2 classes

Absences:

One absence is tolerated, due to the practical feature of the subject.

Course requirements:

To prepare form hour to hour by watching the films required for the specific dates; prepare from the handouts by reading and digesting the meaning of the text, hand in the written tasks on time and participate in oral tasks, debates, making your own glossary.