

Course Title	Legal Research Methodology				
Course Code	DLNLT511				
Course Type	Compulsory				
Level	Master (LLM)				
Year/Semester of Study	1 <sup>st</sup> / Fall				
Instructor Name	Dr Dimitrios Devetzis				
ECTS	10	Lectures/week		Workshops/week	/
Course Objectives	The aim of the course " Legal Research Methodology" is to prepare students to function as specialized scientists and researchers in the general field of relations and the interaction of legal research and the particularities that this entails. Through a combination of presentation of the basic methodological tools and experiential engagement with the various departments of the research work, students will be prepared for the conduct of high-level scientific research.				
Learning Outcomes	<p>At the end of the course, students are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Recognise the specificities of conducting research in the field of European law.</li><li>- Know how to conduct research work in relation to the case law, especially of Cypriot or Greek courts, the CJEU and the ECtHR.</li><li>- Write legal prose of a high level and accuracy.</li><li>- Refer to the sources of their research in the most scientifically appropriate way.</li><li>- Feel comfortable conducting comparative research.</li><li>- Have a high sense of recognition of the academic work of other researchers and avoid academic plagiarism.</li><li>- Write research proposals.</li><li>- Write scientific papers.</li></ul>				
Prerequisites	/		Co-requirements	/	
Course Content	<p>The importance of the course " Legal Research Methodology" is decisive for the postgraduate program "legal studies". It acts as a foundation for any scientific activity, equipping students with methodological knowledge, analytical abilities and necessary skills, such as critical thinking, writing and presenting research results. Through the course, students become able to conduct high-level scientific research, contributing substantially to the solution of complex and contemporary challenges faced by society in relation to the interconnection of legal research.</p> <p>Key content sections that will be covered in order for students to become critical readers of research in the field of legal research include, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issues of ethics and ethics in research.</li><li>• Legal Prose.</li></ul>				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparative Research.</li> <li>• Research and elaboration of Theory and Jurisprudence.</li> <li>• Hypothetical scenarios.</li> <li>• Formulation of a research question.</li> <li>• The writing of a scientific text.</li> <li>• Submission of a research proposal.</li> <li>• Presentation of a scientific research and other topics.</li> </ul>
Teaching Methodology	<p>The course is taught entirely online through the Moodle online platform. Compulsory, optional and additional bibliography (e.g. books, articles, links, open educational resources, case studies) in combination with notes, course presentations and suggestions for the study of readings (bibliography) are available to students through an electronic platform. Also, a variety of educational material is given through the electronic platform in the form of simple presentations, presentations with notes, presentations with narration, interactive presentations, audio files, online quizzes). Various online tools are used: communication tools (e.g. teleconferences, chat rooms), collaboration tools (e.g. discussion forums, blogs, wikis), as well as content development tools. Students are encouraged through the platform and the various technological tools to interact with their fellow students and with the lecturer, in order to become active members of the online learning community created within the framework of the course. Finally, with the use of the various technological tools, each student is expected to create their own online learning community.</p> <p>Based on the above, students are introduced to the important concepts of the course related to educational technology and its integration into the teaching and learning process. Through online interactions, group discussions and presentations are organized regarding the concepts examined in the lesson. Also, various examples of integration are given through articles and studies where cases are presented and discussed in class through various interactive activities. Students are expected to study, understand and utilize a variety of technological tools and applications related to the contemporary topics examined in the course. In particular, they are expected to be able to design and develop learning environments and educational materials utilizing a variety of new, modern and emerging technological tools. Finally, they are expected to study and critically discuss academic articles on the concepts examined in the course.</p>
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hutchinson, Researching and writing in law, 2010</li> <li>• Macdonald/Clark-Dickson, Clear and Precise writing for Today's Lawyers, 3η έκδοση, 2010</li> <li>• Möllers, Legal Working Techniques and Scientific Work, 2018</li> <li>• Martens, Guidelines for the Doctorate in Law, 2019</li> <li>• Marinos, How to write a student and postgraduate thesis, 2nd edition, 2009</li> <li>• Yaroshevskiy, The Methods of Interpretation of the ECJ</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/forschung/europarecht/bob/berliner_online_beitraege/Paper59-Yaroshevskiy/Paper59---Die-Auslegungsmethoden-des-EuGH.pdf">https://www.jura.fu-berlin.de/forschung/europarecht/bob/berliner_online_beitraege/Paper59-Yaroshevskiy/Paper59---Die-Auslegungsmethoden-des-EuGH.pdf</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P. Filios, Legal Methodology, 3rd ed., Sakkoula Publications, Athens – Thessaloniki, 2011.</li> <li>• K. Stamatis, Methodology of Law, 2nd ed., Sakkoula Publications, Athens – Thessaloniki, 2019.</li> <li>• Berring, R. C. &amp; Edinger, E. A. (1999). <i>Finding the Law</i> (11th ed.). West Publishing. (A guide to legal research with an emphasis on legal sources and the use of legal databases).</li> <li>• Fajans, E. &amp; Falk, M. (2015). <i>Scholarly Writing for Law Students</i> (5th ed.). West Academic. (Handbook for writing legal papers with practical tips for research and writing).</li> <li>• Open University (OpenLearn). <i>Judicial decision making</i> – Section 8.1: Ratio decidendi and obiter dicta</li> <li>• Solanki, S. , Sources of legal research: Primary, secondary and the role of AI, Thomson Reuters Legal Blog. (Article Presenting the Key Categories of Legal Sources and Tips for Locating Trustworthy Information (2023)</li> <li>• LexisNexis (2023). “LexisNexis vs. Google Scholar Case Law Search: A Comparison”. (, (2023) on the LexisNexis Legal Insights Blog – comparison of legal research tools, pros and cons of free and subscription bases.</li> <li>• S. Kotronis, The obiter dicta in the jurisprudence of the civil courts (Presentation to the Union of Greek Lawyers, 2 April 2024).</li> </ul> <p>• <b><i>Additional scientific articles and resources will be given during the semester.</i></b></p>
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Educational Activities (10%)</li> <li>• Task 1 (15 %)</li> <li>• Task 2 (25 %)</li> <li>• Final examination (50%)</li> </ul>
Language	Greek/English