

McDaniel College, Budapest campus

Political Science & International Studies

PSI 3365 Comparative Constitutional Law

Professor: Dr. Tamás Hoffman

Course description

Disagreements about democracy, right forms of governance, fundamental human rights form the core of public debates and permeate our culture. This course aims at providing a strong basis for public discourse by introducing and contextualizing these issues through the examination of different legal cultures.

Students will learn about different approaches to governance and will debate topical issues of fundamental human rights, focusing on such hotly contested topics as the right to life, sexual and reproductive rights, freedom of religion, socio-economic rights and the fight against terrorism.

Learning Outcomes

- Familiarize students with fundamental concepts about governance, such as forms of governance, political systems, democracy;
- Students will gain in-depth knowledge about the international system of human rights protection;
- Students will study leading cases of different constitutional courts and gain a better understanding how different political-historical-social contexts can determine different approaches to fundamental rights;
- Students will improve their critical analytical skills by focusing and debating on different forms of legal argumentation.

Assessment

The course learning objectives will be assessed by a combination of the evaluation of active coursework, presenting and analyzing cases and by regular mootings, clashing two different approaches to fundamental rights, e.g. euthanasia, sexual and reproductive rights etc.

Readings

- Mark Tushnet, *Advanced Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law* (Edward Elgar, 2014);
- Tom Ginsburg, Rosalind Dixon (eds) *Comparative Constitutional Law* (Edward Elgar, 2011)
- Various journal articles.