

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
OF UKRAINE**

Department of Philosophy and International Communication

APPROVED

Faculty of Humanities and Pedagogy

“19” June, 2026

**COURSE SYLLABUS
THEORY AND HISTORY OF THE STATE, LAW AND POLITICAL
THOUGHT**

Field of Knowledge: C Social Sciences, Journalism, Information and International Relations

Specialty: C3 International Relations

Educational Programme: International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies

Faculty: Faculty of Humanities and Pedagogy

Course Developers:

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Kyiv, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to provide students with systematic knowledge and develop competencies essential for professional practice in the field of international relations. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the general and specific patterns governing the emergence, development, and functioning of the state, law, and their institutions. The course explores the nature, functions, and operation of the state; the essence, principles, and structure of law; legal norms and mechanisms of legal regulation; as well as theoretical and practical approaches to the interpretation and application of law. Particular attention is devoted to examining the interrelationship between the state and law, their defining characteristics, forms, functions, content, and their role within society. The course also aims to develop students' knowledge, practical skills, and professional competencies required to apply theoretical concepts effectively in real-world contexts. It fosters the ability to analyse and critically evaluate complex legal and political phenomena, establish relationships between diverse state-legal processes, develop independent analytical approaches to resolving complex issues related to state and law, draw well-reasoned conclusions, substantiate arguments with appropriate evidence, and translate theoretical knowledge into informed professional practice.

Field of Knowledge, Specialty, Degree Level and Educational Programme		
Degree Level	Bachelor Degree	
Specialty	C3 International Relations	
Educational Programme	International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies	
Course Characteristics		
Course Status	Compulsory	
Total Workload	120 hours	
ECTS Credits	4	
Number of Content Modules	2	
Course Project (if applicable)	None	
Assessment	Examination	
Course Information for Full-Time and Part-Time Modes of Study		
	Full-time Study	Part-time Study
Year of Study	1 (Academic Year 2026 – 2027)	–
Semester	1	–
Lectures	45 hours	–
Practical / Seminar Classes	45 hours	–
Independent Study	30 hours	–
Number of weekly hours for full-time studies: auditory	6 hours	–

1. COURSE AIM, COMPETENCIES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course Theory and History of the State, Law and Political Thought aims to provide students with a systematic understanding of the principles governing the emergence, development, and functioning of the state and law, as well as the major stages in the evolution of political and legal thought. The course also seeks to develop students' ability to analyse state-legal phenomena and political processes within both historical and contemporary international contexts. Furthermore, the course is designed to foster students' legal and political literacy, critical thinking, and comparative analytical skills in examining national and international political and legal systems. It equips students with knowledge, competencies, and analytical capabilities required for professional practice in the fields of international relations, diplomacy, international cooperation, and global governance.

Competencies Acquired

Integral Competence (IC):

The ability to address complex specialised tasks and practical problems in the fields of international relations, public communications, and regional studies, including foreign policy activities of states and international interactions among states, international organisations, and non-state actors. Such tasks involve complex and uncertain conditions and require the application of social science theories and specialised research methods relevant to international relations.

General Competences (GC):

GC1. Ability to exercise the rights and responsibilities of an active member of society, demonstrate an understanding of the values of civil society and the principles of its sustainable development, the rule of law, and the rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens.

GC4. Knowledge and understanding of the subject area and the context of professional practice.

GC5. Ability to work effectively in an international environment.

GC6. Ability to generate new ideas (creativity).

GC7. Ability to apply knowledge in practical contexts.

GC8. Ability to think abstractly and to analyse and synthesise information.

GC12. Ability to search for, process, and critically analyse information from a variety of sources.

GC13. Ability to demonstrate critical and self-critical thinking.

Special (Professional) Competences (SC):

SC1. Ability to identify the characteristics and development trends of international relations, public communications and regional studies, and to understand their nature, dynamics, and organisational principles.

SC2. Ability to analyse international processes in various contexts, including political, security, legal, economic, social, cultural, and informational dimensions.

SC3. Ability to assess the current state and directions of research in international

relations and world politics within political science, economics, legal studies, and interdisciplinary research.

SC4. Ability to solve complex specialised tasks and practical problems in the fields of international relations, foreign policy, public communications, and regional studies.

SC5. Ability to analyse the impact of the global economy, international law, and domestic politics on the structure and dynamics of international relations and foreign policy of states.

SC10. Ability to analyse the structure and dynamics of international public communications and to evaluate their impact on the international system, state institutions, and society.

Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

PLO1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the nature of international relations and regional development; the evolution and current state of theoretical research in international relations and world politics; as well as the nature, determinants, and sources of states' foreign policy and the activities of other actors within the international system.

PLO4. Demonstrate knowledge of the principles, mechanisms, and processes underlying the shaping and implementation of states' foreign policy, the interaction between domestic and foreign policy, the identification and promotion of national interests in the international arena, and the processes of foreign policy decision-making and implementation.

PLO9. Conduct research on issues related to international relations, regional development, foreign policy, and international communications by applying contemporary political, economic, and legal theories and concepts, scientific research methods, and interdisciplinary approaches; present research findings and develop evidence-based recommendations.

PLO11. Conduct applied analyses of international relations, Ukraine's foreign policy and the foreign policies of other states, international processes, and the international environment in accordance with defined objectives; prepare analytical and informational materials.

PLO15. Demonstrate the ability to apply current national legislation, international legal instruments and agreements, reference materials, applicable standards, technical specifications, and other relevant regulatory instruments to solve complex specialised problems in the field of international relations, public communications, and regional studies.

2. COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Titles of Content Modules and Themes	Number of hours													
	Full-time Study							Part-time Study						
	Weeks	Total	including					Total	including					
			1	Pract	Lab	Ind	Self-study		1	Pract	Lab	Ind	Self-study	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Module 1. General Theory of the State and Law														
Theme 1. Subject Matter and Methodology of the Theory of the State and Law	1	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 2. Origin of the State and Law	2	6	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 3. Concept and Characteristics of the State	3	6	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 4. Public Authority	4	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 5. Forms and Typology of the State	5	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 6. The State within the Political System of Society	6	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 7. State Mechanism	7	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 8. Functions of the State	8	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 9. Human Rights and the State	9	6	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 10. Civil Society and the Rule-of-Law State	10	6	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 11. State-Organised Society in the Context of Globalisation: Key Challenges and Development Trends	11	6	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total for Theme Module 1		60	22	22	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Module 2. Theory of Law and Mechanisms of Legal Regulation														
Theme 1. Law: Concept, Essence, Principles and Functions	1	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 2. Law within the System of Social Regulation	2	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 3. Law-Making and Forms (Sources) of Law	3	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Theme 4. Legal System: National and Supranational Dimensions	4	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Theme 5. System of Law and System of Legislation	5	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theme 6. Legal Norm	6	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theme 7. Legal Relations	7	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Topic 8. Mechanism of Legal Regulation	8	5	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theme 9. Implementation, Application and Interpretation of Law	9	6	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theme 10. Legal Consciousness and Legal Culture	10	6	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Theme 11. Legal Reform and Its Specific Features in Ukraine	11	8	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total for Theme Module 2		60	23	23	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Course Hours		120	45	45	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-

3. LECTURE THEMES

No.	Theme Title	Number of Hours
1	Subject Matter and Methodology of the Theory of the State and Law	2
2	Origin of the State and Law	2
3	Concept and Characteristics of the State	2
4	Public Authority	2
5	Forms and Typology of the State	2
6	The State within the Political System of Society	2
7	The State Mechanism	2
8	Functions of the State	2
9	Human Rights and the State	2
10	Civil Society and the Rule-of-Law State	2
11	State-Organised Society in the Context of Globalisation: Key Challenges and Development Trends	2
12	Law: Concept, Essence, Principles and Functions	2
13	Law within the System of Social Regulation	2
14	Law-Making and Forms (Sources) of Law	2
15	Legal System: National and Supranational Dimensions	2
16	System of Law and System of Legislation	2
17	Legal Norm	2

18	Legal Relations	2
19	Mechanism of Legal Regulation	2
20	Implementation, Application and Interpretation of Law	2
21	Legal Consciousness and Legal Culture	2
22	Legal Reform and Its Specific Features in Ukraine	3

4. SEMINAR THEMES

No.	Theme Title	Number of Hours
1	Subject Matter and Methodology of the Theory of the State and Law	2
2	Origin of the State and Law	2
3	Concept and Characteristics of the State	2
4	Public Authority	2
5	Forms and Typology of the State	2
6	The State within the Political System of Society	2
7	The State Mechanism	2
8	Functions of the State	2
9	Human Rights and the State	2
10	Civil Society and the Rule-of-Law State	2
11	State-Organised Society in the Context of Globalisation: Key Challenges and Development Trends	2
12	Law: Concept, Essence, Principles and Functions	2
13	Law within the System of Social Regulation	2
14	Law-Making and Forms (Sources) of Law	2
15	Legal System: National and Supranational Dimensions	2
16	System of Law and System of Legislation	2
17	Legal Norm	2
18	Legal Relations	2
19	Mechanism of Legal Regulation	2
20	Implementation, Application and Interpretation of Law	2
21	Legal Consciousness and Legal Culture	2
22	Legal Reform and Its Specific Features in Ukraine	3

5. SELF-STUDY THEMES

No.	Theme Title	Number of Hours
1.	Subject Matter and Methodology of the Theory of the State and Law	1
2.	Origin of the State and Law	2
3.	Concept and Characteristics of the State	2
4.	Public Authority	1
5.	Forms and Typology of the State	1
6.	The State within the Political System of Society	1
7.	The State Mechanism	1
8.	Functions of the State	1
9.	Human Rights and the State	2
10.	Civil Society and the Rule-of-Law State	2
11.	State-Organised Society in the Context of Globalisation: Key Challenges and Development Trends	2
12.	Law: Concept, Essence, Principles and Functions	1
13.	Law within the System of Social Regulation	1
14.	Law-Making and Forms (Sources) of Law	1
15.	Legal System: National and Supranational Dimensions	1
16.	System of Law and System of Legislation	1
17.	Legal Norm	1
18.	Legal Relations	1
19.	Mechanism of Legal Regulation	1
20.	Implementation, Application and Interpretation of Law	2
21.	Legal Consciousness and Legal Culture	2
22.	Legal Reform and Its Specific Features in Ukraine	2

6. METHODS AND TOOLS FOR ASSESSING LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- oral and written questioning;
- interviews and discussions;
- testing;
- project presentations and defence.

7. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS:

- problem-based learning method;
- practice-oriented learning method;
- case-study method;
- research-based learning method;
- educational discussions and debates method;
- teamwork and brainstorming method;
- practical method (laboratory and practical classes);
- visual method (illustration and demonstration methods);

- work with academic and instructional materials (note-taking, summarising, annotating, reviewing, and preparing written reports);
- video-based learning method (distance, multimedia, web-based and other forms of learning).

8. ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students' knowledge and achievement of learning outcomes are assessed on a 100-point grading scale, with results converted into the national grading scale in accordance with the current Regulations on Examinations and Assessments of NULES of Ukraine.

8.1 Distribution of Points by Types of Learning Activities

Type of Learning Activity	Learning Outcomes	Assessment
Module 1. General Theory of the State and Law		
Seminar 1. Subject Matter and Methodology of the Theory of the State and Law	PLO9. In particular, students are expected to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the evolution and current state of the discipline of the Theory of the State and Law; the fundamental patterns governing the emergence, development, and functioning of state and legal phenomena as the subject matter of the discipline; the processes of shaping, reorganising, and dissolving contemporary states; forms of government; the concept and typology of political systems; the system of public authorities in Ukraine; the concept, significance, and objective nature of the functions of the state; the types of legal status of individuals; models of the rule-of-law state; and the concept of globalisation.	4
Seminar 2. Origin of the State and Law		4
Seminar 3. Concept and Characteristics of the State		4
Seminar 4. Public Authority		4
Seminar 5. Forms and Typology of the State		4
Seminar 6. The State within the Political System of Society		4
Seminar 7. The State Mechanism		4
Seminar 8. Functions of the State		4
Seminar 9. Human Rights and the State		4
Seminar 10. Civil Society and the Rule-of-Law State		4
Seminar 11. State-Organised Society in the Context of Globalisation: Key Challenges and Development Trends		4
Self-study 1. Special legal methods for analysing state and legal phenomena. Methods of law-making. Economic systems: command and market economies. Limitations on state power and mechanisms for ensuring its accountability. Diversity of forms of government within a particular type of state. Interrelationships between political, economic, social, and legal systems within society. Improvement of the		26

institutional mechanism of the modern Ukrainian state as a prerequisite for enhancing the effectiveness of its functioning. International legal standards and mechanisms for the protection of human rights. Comparative analysis of the formation, development, and implementation of fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms in different national contexts. Liberal and social rule-of-law states. States of Concern.		
Module test 1.		30
Total for Theme Module 1		100
Module 2. Theory of Law and Mechanisms of Legal Regulation		
Seminar 12. Law: Concept, Essence, Principles and Functions	PLO9, PLO15. In particular, students are expected to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the concept, nature, functions, characteristics, and principles of law; legal regulation in society; the concept of law-making, including its content, objectives, subjects, types, and guiding principles; the concept and principal stages of the legislative process; the functions of the legal system; the elements of the system of law; branches of law and their general characteristics; the classification and types of legal norms; the concept of a legal norm; the concept and constituent elements of legal relations; methods, techniques, and types of legal regulation; the nature and operation of legal regimes; the principal forms and mechanisms of the implementation of law; legal consciousness, including its concept, principal theoretical approaches, and structure; and the concept of legal reform and its relationship with legal policy.	4
Seminar 13. Law within the System of Social Regulation		4
Seminar 14. Law-Making and Forms (Sources) of Law		4
Seminar 15. Legal System: National and Supranational Dimensions		4
Seminar 16. System of Law and System of Legislation		4
Seminar 17. Legal Norm		4
Seminar 18. Legal Relations		4
Seminar 19. Mechanism of Legal Regulation		4
Seminar 20. Implementation, Application and Interpretation of Law		4
Seminar 21. Legal Consciousness and Legal Culture		4
Seminar 22. Legal Reform and Its Specific Features in Ukraine		4
Self-study 2. Justice, equality, and freedom as fundamental principles of law. Interrelationships and tensions between law and morality, and approaches to their resolution. Distinction between the concept of a legal system and related concepts of legal life and legal reality. Dimensions of integration within a legal system. Main stages and current state of codification in Ukraine. Characteristics of hypothesis, disposition, and sanction as structural elements of a legal norm. Simple and complex legal facts. Legal regimes.		26

Fundamental principles of legal interpretation. Legal consciousness, including legal psychology and legal ideology. Specific features of legal reform in Ukraine.		
Module test 2.		30
Total for Theme Module 2		100
Coursework	(M1 + M2)/2*0,7 ≤ 70	
Examination	30	
Total for the Course	(Coursework + examination) ≤ 100	

8.2 Student Knowledge Assessment Scale

Student Score (Points)	National Grading Scale (Examinations/Credits)
90-100	excellent
74-89	good
60-73	satisfactory
0-59	unsatisfactory

8.1. Assessment Policy

Late Submission and Resit Policy	Assignments submitted after the deadline without valid reasons will receive a lower grade. Resits of course modules are permitted with the lecturer's approval and only in the presence of valid reasons (e.g., medical leave).
Academic Integrity Policy	Cheating during tests, examinations, and other forms of assessment is strictly prohibited, including the use of mobile devices. Written assignments and multimedia presentations must contain appropriate in-text references to the sources used.
Attendance Policy	Attendance at classes is compulsory. In cases of valid and documented circumstances (e.g., illness or participation in an international internship), students may complete course requirements through an individual study arrangement, including online learning formats, subject to approval by the Dean of the Faculty.

9. LEARNING AND TEACHING RESOURCES

- E-course of the discipline (available on the eLearn educational portal of National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine) – <https://elearn.nubip.edu.ua/user/index.php?id=2809>;
- links to digital educational resources;
- lecture notes and lecture presentations (in electronic format);
- textbooks, teaching manuals, and practical guides;
- methodological materials for studying the course for full-time and part-time students;
- educational (professional) practice programme related to the course, where applicable, as specified in the curriculum.

10. RECOMMENDED INFORMATION SOURCES

1. Krestovska, N. M., & Matvieieva, L. H. (2023). *Theory of the State and Law. Textbook. Practical Guide. Tests*. Odesa State University of Internal Affairs. 580 p.
2. Tetarchuk, I., & Diakiv, T. (2021). *Theory of the State and Law. Study Guide for Examination Preparation*. Center of Educational Literature. 184 p.
3. Oliinyk, A. (2021). *Fundamentals of the History and Theory of the State and Law*. Center of Educational Literature. 200 p.
4. Tetarchuk, I., & Diakiv, T. (2021). *History of Doctrines on the State and Law. Study Guide for Examination Preparation*. Centre of Educational Literature. 184 p.
5. Helei, S., & Rutar, S. (2021). *Political and Legal Systems of the World*. Centre of Educational Literature, 346 p.
6. Lowi, T. J., & Ginsberg, B. (2024). *The American System of Government: Powers and Purpose*. Lviv: Litopys Publishing House. 960 p.
7. Skakun, O. F. (2021). *Theory of the State and Law: Textbook for Students of Higher Education Institutions*. Kyiv: Alerta. 528 p.
8. Bobrovnyk, S. V. (2021). *General Theory of Law: A Normative Course*. Kyiv: Yurinkom-Inter. 596 p.
9. Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine of 24 August 1991.
10. Shynkaruk, O. V. (2023). The Policy of Implementing Academic Integrity in Higher Education Institutions of the United Kingdom. *Comparative Professional Pedagogy*. Khmelnytskyi, pp. 93–100.
11. Shynkaruk, O. V. (2024). Implementation of Academic Integrity in Higher Education Institutions of the European Union Countries. *Scientific Notes. Series: Pedagogical Sciences*, Issue 7, pp. 120–124.
12. Shynkaruk, O. V. (2025). Educational Diplomacy as an Instrument for Strengthening Humanitarian Cooperation in the International Arena. In *Ukrainian Diplomacy: Formation, Development and Prospects: Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference*. Kyiv, pp. 304–306.
13. Shynkaruk, Oleksandra. (2025). Adherence to the Principles of Integrity in International Communications as a Basis for Forming a Positive Image of the State. In V. Shynkaruk (Ed.), *International and Cross-cultural Communication in Shaping the State's Image: Collective Monograph* (Chapter 2.1, pp. 89–114). Riga: Baltija Publishing.
14. Shynkaruk, O. V. (2026). Ensuring the Quality of Higher Education in Accordance with European Standards and Guidelines. In *Education of Ukraine in the Context of War and Post-War Reconstruction: Global Trends and National Challenges: Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference*. Kyiv: National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, pp. 72–74.
15. Shynkaruk, Oleksandra. (2026). Systems, Culturological and Sociolinguistic Approaches. In V. Shynkaruk (Ed.), *Communication in the Context of Cultural Diversity: International and Cross-cultural Dimensions: Collective Monograph* (Chapter 2.1, pp. 115–132). Riga: Baltija Publishing.
16. Khrystiuk, S. (2022). The Formation of Personality Leadership Qualities in

Higher Educational Institutions. *Humanities Studios: Pedagogy, Psychology, Philosophy*, 10(1), 81–88.

17. Khrystiuk, S., & Tsymbal, S. (2023). The Role of Information and Communication Technologies in Implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy of Higher Education in Ukraine. *Humanities Studios: Pedagogy, Psychology, Philosophy*, 11(2), 99–106.

18. Vitchenko, A., Vitchenko, A., & Khrystiuk, S. (2024). Developing the Capacity of Case Lectures in Higher Education: Problematicity, Interactivity, Heuristics. *International Journal of Philology*, 15(2), 96–108.

11. Information resources

1. Official Web Portal of the Parliament of Ukraine (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine).

URL : <http://portal.rada.gov.ua>

2. Official Website of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. URL :

<http://kmu.gov.ua>

3. Scientific Library of National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (NULES of Ukraine). URL : http://irb.nubip.edu.ua/cgi-bin/irbis64r_14/cgiirbis_64.exe?C21COM=F&I21DBN=NUBIP&P21DBN=NUBIP

4. V. I. Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine: Official Website. URL :

<http://www.nbuv.gov.ua/>

5. Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine: Official Website. URL :

<https://nlu.org.ua/>