Theory of law - class notes (winter 2025/2026)

J. Szczerbowski

October 8, 2025

1 Lecture 1

SCHEDULED: *<2025-10-07 Tue>*

1.1 Organizational matters

1. Form: seminar (pol. *konwersatorium*).

2. Course credit conditions:

   - final test (weight 50%)
   - presentation (weight 50%)
   - attendance is mandatory; two absences are allowed (each absence exceeding two absences lowers the grade to the next lower grade)
   - grading scale:
     - $= 55\%$ — 2,0
     - $>= 55\%$ — 3,0
     - $>= 65\%$ — 3,5
     - $>= 75\%$ — 4,0
     - $>= 85\%$ — 4,5
     - $>= 95\%$ — 5,0

3. Make sure you know how to use MS Teams. MS Teams is available at: `https://teams.microsoft.com` (instructions: `https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/teams`). Access code to our team is:

   - `wckxmk1`

4. IMPORTANT:

   - attendance list is available at `https://forms.office.com/e/rDKUfQhKgN`
   - always remember to fill in the attendance list

5. Office hours: `https://www.uni.lodz.pl/pracownicy/jakub-szczerbowski`

6. This material is available at `https://github.com/j4kub5/dydaktyka`

1.1.1 Survey

In order to improve the quality of my teaching, I conduct a continuous anonymous and optional survey that anyone can fill out:
`https://forms.office.com/e/Vbw0eG6F5T`
The survey can be filled out multiple times during the semester.

1.1.2 Presentations (20-25 min.)

1. Presentation Guidelines

   (a) Presentation Structure and Duration
       - Presentations should be well planned, don't exceed your time
       - Use PowerPoint or an equivalent software for slides

   (b) Citation and Sources
       - Properly cite all sources used in the presentation
       - Include a bibliography or reference slide at the end

   (c) AI Integration
       - Utilize AI tools in the presentation process
       - Document how AI was used (e.g., for research, slide design, content generation)

   (d) File Sharing and Naming Convention
       - Share presentations on the Teams channel before you present
       - Follow the naming convention:

       `YYYY-MM-DD_StudentName1_[StudentName2]_ShortTitle.[extension]`

   (e) Slide Design Guidelines
       - Use a consistent theme and color scheme
       - Limit text on slides (6-7 lines maximum per slide)
       - Include relevant visuals to support key points

(f) Delivery

- Practice the presentation to ensure proper timing
- Prepare to answer questions from the audience

(g) Resources

- "How to Speak" by Patrick Winston: `https://youtu.be/Unzc731iCUY?si=L8sySYO3IKsI_WTv`

2. Presentation topics

(a) Approaches to understanding law

(b) Law versus other normative systems

(c) The concept of justice

(d) Situations regulated by law

(e) Law-making

(f) Legal interpretation

(g) Legal system versus legal order

(h) Rules vs standards

(i) Observance of law

(j) Administration of justice

(k) Functions of law

(l) Logic and law

(m) Norms of conduct (deontic logic)

(n) Rule of law

(o) Introduction do Law and Economics

(p) Law and Economics of Property Law

(q) Law and Economics of Tort Law

(r) Law and Economics of Contract Law

(s) Comparative Law: Method and Scope.

(t) Comparative Law: Legal families.

1.2 The position of theory of law among scientific disciplines

Literature: N. Qamar, Theory Position in the Structure of Legal Science, SIGn Jurnal Hukum 2021/3/1, DOI: 10.37276/sjh.v3i1.126

2 Lecture 2

SCHEDULED: *<2025-10-21 Tue>*

3 Lecture 3

SCHEDULED: *<2025-10-28 Tue>*

4 Lecture 4

SCHEDULED: *<2025-11-04 Tue>*

5 Lecture 5

SCHEDULED: *<2025-11-18 Tue>*

6 Lecture 6

SCHEDULED: *<2025-11-25 Tue>*

7 Lecture 7

SCHEDULED: *<2025-12-02 Tue>*

8 Lecture 8

SCHEDULED: *<2025-12-09 Tue>*

9 Lecture 9

SCHEDULED: *<2025-12-16 Tue>*

10 Lecture 10

SCHEDULED: *<2026-01-13 Tue>*

11 Lecture 11

SCHEDULED: *<2026-01-20 Tue>*