Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

Faculty of Law, Kováčska 26, 040 75 Košice

**Gustav Radbruch Institute of Legal Theory**

Academic Year: 2025/2026

Year: I., II. & III. Bc. full-time study

Semester: 1st, 3rd & 5th

**Lecture Syllabus for the Course**

**JURISPRUDENCE**

1. On Legal Thinking in General:

* Screening of the film LUMET, S.: Twelve Angry Men – a film demonstrating the functioning of the jury system in the USA and the importance of the standard of proof “beyond reasonable doubt” in evaluating evidence and factual circumstances of a case.

2. Classical Doctrines of Natural Law (Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau):

* Screening of the film SPIELBERG, S.: The Amistad – a film demonstrating the case before the U.S. Supreme Court, 40 U.S. 518; January 1841, and the opinion of Justice Joseph Story.

3. Classical Legal Positivism (J. Bentham, J. Austin):

* Screening of the film Lincoln – the last four months of Lincoln’s life, focusing on the president’s effort in January 1865 to secure the approval of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by the House of Representatives.

4. The Pure Theory of Law (H. Kelsen)

5. The Renaissance of Natural Law Thinking (L. L. Fuller, G. Radbruch):

* Screening of the film SIMONEAU, Y.: Nuremberg (Trial) – a film demonstrating the arguments presented before the tribunal for war crimes against Hermann Göring and the surviving Nazi leadership.

6. The Concept of Law and the Concept of a Legal System (H. L. A. Hart)

7. Dworkin’s Theory of Legal Principles:

* Screening of the film KRAMER, S.: Inherit the Wind – a film demonstrating arguments for the theory of evolution (Henry Drummond) and for the theory of creation (Matthew Harrison Brady), in the case of a teacher prosecuted for teaching Darwinism.

8. Theory of Justice (J. Rawls)

prof. JUDr. Gabriela Dobrovičová, CSc.

 Director of the Institute