

The Department of Theory of Law and Constitutional Law

The Department of Theory of Law and Constitutional Law focuses on the research and teaching of general topics concerning the state and law with a particular interest in constitutional law. The theory of law differs from other legal disciplines mainly by a higher level of generalization of its main questions, by examining the structural relations between individual legal institutes and by situating the law in a broader social and political context. The work of the department stems from the thesis that even abstract theoretical problems should be designed to contribute to solving everyday problems of legal practice. For this reason, too, the members of the department largely connect legal theory with constitutional issues in their scientific and educational work. The main topics the department is involved in are legal argumentation, the rule of law and democracy, human rights, the judiciary, and the ethics of the legal professions.

The department teaches courses mainly in the first grade of legal studies, within which it provides compulsory courses of Theory of Law I and II and Constitutional Law I and II. After completing these classes, students gain a basic overview of the functioning of law in society, its system of division, the legislative and judicial process, the basic institutional structure of the Slovak Republic and fundamental rights and freedoms. In addition, the department offers optional courses for higher grades and study programs such as Practical Class of Argumentation and Ethical Dilemmas in the Legal Professions.