**Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility**

**Lecturers**

Jakub Lakomy and Dr. Przemysław Kaczmarek from **University of Wrocław**

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Lecture and group work with seminar discussions - 20 class hours in one week

**Course Description**

1. Morality and ethics. Definitions and relations between concepts. Basic ethical concepts and the problem of justice.

2. Main currents in contemporary philosophy of morality: deontology, consequentialism (utilitarianism), ethics of virtues, ethics of responsibility, ethics of discourse

3. Infrastructure of moral reasoning: basics of theory of argumentation, critical reason, the role of discourse, the role of tradition.

4. Professional ethics - the concept, ethics of legal professions, the separatist thesis.

5. Obedience and authority and moral responsibility of lawyers

6. Models of client - lawyer relations in the contemporary philosophy of morality

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able:

- to use main tools of legal reasoning and theory of argumentation to analyse professional responsibility of lawyers

- to understand ethical and philosophical background of main theories of morality;

- to understand the status of the contemporary professional ethics;

- to analyze differences between the systems of professional responsibility in USA and continental Europe;

- to use knowledge to be able to decide what is the best ethical profile of the contemporary lawyer and implement it in their own professional behavior in future

**Methodology**

The course will be taught through lectures and discussions. Students will analyze actual ethical dilemmas and learn to argue in favour of different interpretations

**Assessment**

Take home exam - essay

**Literature**

1. Michael J. Sandel, Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010

2. W. Bradley Wendel, Ethics and Law: An Introduction, Cambridge University Press, 2014

3. The Concept of Dilemma in Legal and Judicial Ethics, ed. by P. Skuczyński, C.H. Beck, Warsaw 2018

4. S. Milgram, Obedience to Authority; An Experimental View, 1974

5. Lon L. Fuller, The Case of the Speluncean Explorers, Harvard Law Review, Vol. 62, No. 4 (Feb., 1949), pp. 616-645