

DISCOVER BGL

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GUIDE TO THE FIRST YEAR BGL

1. Introduction
2. Use of personal devices and books
3. Exam session
 - a. Registration
 - b. Partials, generals, and continuous assessments
 - c. Exam retakes
 - d. How to see your GPA
4. Attendance and Honor Code
5. Study Plan
 - a. First semester : detailed explanation of the exams
 - i. Introduction to Private Law – Module I : Civil Law
 - ii. Introduction to Private Law – Module II : Common Law
 - iii. General Jurisprudence
 - iv. Critical Thinking Seminar
 - b. Second semester : detailed explanation of the exams
 - i. Transnational Constitutional Law – Module I : Civil Law Legal Systems
 - ii. Transnational Constitutional Law – Module II : Anglo-American Legal Systems
 - iii. Historical Foundations of Law – Module I : Civil Law
 - iv. Historical Foundations of Law – Module II : Common Law
6. Program Change

This guide has no intention of substituting the material published by the University, that has to be considered the only official source of news on this topic.

1. WELCOME

Dear BGL students, we can officially give you our warmest welcome at Bocconi University!

Knowing that going from high school to university can be incredibly stimulating but scary at the same time (we've all been there), we decided to write this brief guide that can help you through the beginning of your academic journey, providing you with all the information and advices that we wish we would've received our first day.

So, take some coffee (you'll need a lot!) and grow your desire to experiment and your goodwill: these are the key elements to fully enjoy this intense, but amazing, journey at Bocconi.

2. USE OF PERSONAL DEVICES AND BOOKS

All the materials given by the university and the professors are uploaded on the BlackBoard platform, therefore it is fundamental for lectures to have a personal laptop.

Moreover, most exams have to be taken on your personal laptop using a software called "respondus lockdown", that you will have to download before the exam session.

Many students prefer to also use an iPad/tablet to take notes, and write directly on the slides uploaded by professors; this is a purely personal choice, given that some students prefer to take notes on paper while others go with the digital way.

As far as books are concerned, we suggest you to buy them after the beginning of lectures, because some books might end up being of little use for exams preparation (they can be substituted by handouts or other material given by professors). We highly encourage you to read each exam's section that you will find if you keep reading this guide. It is also important to check BlackBoard before classes start in case professors would have uploaded materials useful to read for the first lecture.

3. EXAM SESSION

Exams, in Bocconi, usually take place during four ordinary sessions, an autumn one (in the end of October), a winter one (from December to January), a spring one (in mid-March), and a summer one (from May to June).

You can then retake the 1st semester exams in July, and both 1st and 2nd semester exams in a session going from late August to early September.

For each exam you have two sittings during the ordinary sessions.

a. REGISTRATION

In order to sit an exam, you have to register through the You@B agenda. In it you can find exam dates and deadlines to sign up.

Signing up for the exam is the only way to be allowed to take it.

b. PARTIALS, GENERALS AND CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENTS

As BGL students, you will have the opportunity to take partials for 2/3 classes for the first semester and 1/4 classes for the second semester.

Sitting two partial exams rather than one general exam is highly recommended as it can be of great use to reduce the workload for the winter and summer sessions.

During your 1st year, you will be asked to participate in various group projects for which signing up is not necessary (only through the professor directly by taking part in a group)

There will also be ways for you to gain bonus points.

For most courses, you will receive information and instructions on these assessments through the Blackboard online platform.

c. EXAMS RETAKES

In Bocconi you're not allowed to retake exams as long as you have gotten a grade higher or equal to 18.

One possibility that the university gives you is to withdraw during the exam. Professors will go into the specifics for this as they slightly change from exam to exam, and in case you withdraw your exam won't be graded and you will be able to retake it in the following sitting.

However it is best to not withdraw from the 1st partial of each class for each semester : in the event you are not satisfied with your grade you can always take the general in the next exam session which will cancel your partial grade.

One very important thing to know is that if you withdraw from the 1st partial you **MUST** take the general, and same thing if you withdraw from a 2nd partial (you can't retake the 2nd partial in the following sitting!!).

Exam grades are normally rounded up.

d. HOW TO SEE YOUR GPA

You can see your GPA on the You@B Pro app (highly encouraged to download it!).

To do so you only have to open the app and click on your profile icon. You will be shown two separate GPAs:

- “GPA” (the one on the left) is your GPA with joint modules, and this means that exams for classes with two different modules are joined together (this GPA is only used to compute your graduation grade).

- “GPA with modules” (on the right) is your weighted GPA with separated modules (this GPA is used to compute your exchange and master admission scores).

The GPA is always weighted by the number of credits per exam.

4. ATTENDANCE AND HONOR CODE

The attendance is a procedure to follow to register your physical presence in the room.

Critical Thinking Seminar is the only first year course that requires full attendance to pass the class.

Other classes usually require a 75% attendance to be able to take partial exams (as written in the class’s syllabus).

It is important to register your attendance for every class you attend.

Moreover, when you are not physically in the room, do not register your attendance as present, as it violates the Honor Code and can lead to hard disciplinary sanctions.

In order to register your attendance, it’s necessary to enter the You@B app, click on the lecture you’re following and then click “check in” after the professor has made it accessible.

The attendance has to be registered at the beginning of the lecture, usually in the first 10 minutes, or you might be considered late (there’s no penalty for an invalid attendance).

HONOR CODE

The Honor Code is a very important document you’ll hear about many times, as it is fundamental for our university. It is a code that contains behavior rules to follow, directed to the whole Bocconi community in order to guarantee a peaceful study environment in line with the university’s values and principles: independence, ethic, transparency, freedom of expression, equality, solidarity, enhancement of diversity, attention to merit and to the development of individual skills, professionalism and attention to quality, social responsibility. The respect of such principles is part of the university’s mission.

Below here is the Honor Code section for Students :

Accountability :

Students are expected to take responsibility of their actions. In particular, they should:

- Not commit or tolerate any kind of discrimination, bullying or harassment of any kind
- Act according to probity, dignity, decorum
- Not make false accusations against any member of the Faculty
- Not use, possess or distribute illegal drugs

Respect :

Students should:

- Demonstrate respect for cultural and religious values, diversity, freedom and democracy
- Respect other students, professors, and staff members
- Not haze
- Not steal, misuse, destroy, deface or damage someone else's property
- Not disrupt University activities

Transparency :

Students should endeavor to act with integrity in all aspects of their work, in particular:

- Avoid plagiarism, cheating, and falsification
- Refrain from complicity in academic dishonesty
- Not supply false information to the University or forge, alter or misuse any University document or record

In case the norms were to be violated, you can incur in sanctions, decided by the Disciplinary Committee after a careful analysis of the case. The most severe sanctions are:

- ❖ An admonition
- ❖ A temporary ban from one or more courses
- ❖ A suspension from exams during one or more exam sessions
- ❖ A temporary exclusion from the University

Each sanction can have an impact on the student's career, as it will be recorded on the documents awarding you your degree. Furthermore, in the instances of ban, suspension and exclusion students won't be able to take advantage of benefits such as scholarships, residences etc.

5. STUDY PLAN

BGL students have to reach, during their 1st year, a maximum of 58 credits. In order to register for the 2nd year, students must have reached a number of 24 credits by the July session (so it's not mandatory to pass all the exams of the year to be considered an "in corso" student).

a. FIRST SEMESTER EXAMS

i. INTRODUCTION TO PRIVATE LAW – MODULE I : CIVIL LAW

| 9 CFU |

Description – During this course you will explore the fundamentals of private law from the perspective of civil law systems. Topics include defects of consent, impossibility of performance, and the aims and benefits of comparative law.

Exams – Attending students : The exam is divided into two partials, each consisting of around 10 multiple-choice questions and 2 open-ended questions (one theoretical and one case-based). Alternatively, you can take the general exam, which covers the material from the entire semester and is equivalent to combining the two partials into a single test. Attending students can earn up to three additional points by giving a presentation in front of the class.

Exams – Non Attending students : Non-attending students cannot take the partial exams. They must take the general exam, which is the same as for attending students.

Advice – The first partial is more difficult, so make sure to prepare thoroughly, as it covers a large amount of material. Also, read the book as it provides valuable context that can be very useful for the open-ended questions.

ii. INTRODUCTION TO PRIVATE LAW – MODULE II : COMMON LAW

| 9 CFU |

Description – You will dive into the fundamentals of the common law system by studying the main doctrines, principles and cases on which the legal system of the USA, UK, China and Australia is based on.

Exams – Attending and Non Attending students : To begin with, the exam of the attending and the non-attending is the same one as the class does not require attendance. The exam is an open book exam which means that you can use your books, notes, etc, but due to the limited time you almost don't have time to look at your notes. The exam consists of 7 multiple choice and 4 cases similar to the ones you studied in class (you have to write the cases according to the IRAC structure). Moreover, the exam starts from thirty points but you can get extra six points from participation in class discussions and from writing an academic paper on the topic assigned by the professor in the beginning of the school year.

Advice – Go to class because your notes from the in-class discussions are crucial! They are concrete cases that are foundational that you have to know by heart because they are the base for the rest of the cases. The exam is extremely hard so make sure you take advantage of the bonus points.

iii. GENERAL JURISPRUDENCE

I 9 CFU I

Description – The expression “General Jurisprudence” usually refers to theoretical study of law, which tries to answer questions such as “What is law?”, “What distinguishes law from other social phenomena?”, “How is it the case that laws provide guidance to human behavior?”, etc.

Exams – Attending Students : You will have to take two partials, the first one consisting of three open-ended questions, and the second one of two open-ended questions. You will also have to take part in a group presentation.

Exams – Non Attending Students : You will have to sit through a general exam consisting of five open-ended questions.

Advice – The extra readings provide you a crucial knowledge for the exams. Learning the different law theories is the most important part, try and understand how they’re linked to the rule of law.

iv. CRITICAL THINKING SEMINAR

I 1 CFU I

Description – During this course you will learn how to make a full use of your critical thinking skills through group works and presentations on case studies.

Exams – This seminar will only last for the beginning of the first semester, there will be 8 classes, and 100% attendance is mandatory. To determine whether you pass the course or not there will be two group presentations (you will not get to pick your group or topic). This course does not give you a grade, only PASS or FAIL.

Advice – It’s 8 classes, just attend them, do the work and then done (you seriously cannot fail this class).

b. SECOND SEMESTER EXAMS

i. TRANSNATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL LAW – MODULE I : CIVIL LAW LEGAL SYSTEMS

I 10 CFU I

Description – You will dive into the concepts of the rule of law, the separation of powers, and the independence of the judiciary, which are nowadays common

features of Western constitutional democracies, and institutional arrangements to secure these values are often transplanted from one country to another. You will also understand how, supranational courts, like the European Court of Human Rights, are constantly developing a uniform understanding of fundamental rights and democratic principles on a continental scale.

Exams – Attending students : Attending students can choose between taking two partial exams consisting of 10 multiple choices questions and 1 open-ended question. Or they can take a whole exam consisting of 20 multiple choices questions and 2 open-ended questions. In addition, they are required to take part in a group presentation (you can pick your group and topic).

Exams – Non Attending students : Non-attending students are expected to read and study the texts in the “Reading list for non-attending students” published on Blackboard. They will be evaluated based on a written exam which consists of 18 multiple-choice questions (0.4 pt each) 3 open questions (8 pt each).

Advice – The exams are hard so make sure to not go with the ‘oh i know this anyway’ mindset (as the course will tell you about a lot of things you usually learn in high school). History is as important as any EU concepts.

ii. TRANSNATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL LAW – MODULE II : ANGLO-AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEMS

I 8 CFU I

Description – During this course you will dive into the constitutional models of the common law countries : first England, then the US, but also Australia, and many African Countries. You will also discover how the distinguishing features of the Anglo-American tradition, interact with contentious issues such as protection of democracy and the rule of law, fundamental rights, and scope of judicial review.

Exams – attending students : The 4th week of class, there will be an in class written exam on the constitutional organization of the UK. It consists of 4 short answers questions based on the class material and the 4 first chapter of the book noted in the syllabus. This exam will be graded out of 6 and count for 20% of your final grade. Then, there will be group presentations on case studies (you can choose your group and subject) which will again amount for 20% of your final grade. Finally, you will sit a general exam to obtain the remaining 60%, composed of multiple choice questions and open-ended questions.

Exam – non attending students : Students who do not complete the two in-class assessments will have to sit the exam as non-attending students. The exam will be composed of multiple choice questions and open-ended questions.

Advice – Read the books and make sure to get as much points as possible in the two in class exams, it will give you a great help for the general.

iii. HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LAW – MODULE I : CIVIL LAW

I 6 CFU I

Description – During this course you will explore civil law as a legal system in its historical evolution and to acquire critical skills of legal interpretation (iuris-prudentia), through an approach to normative and juristic sources, based on Roman Law.

Exams – attending students : Attending students (with at least 75% of attendance) will be asked to write a paper on one of the lectures' topics and to discuss it. The paper and the ensuing discussion will be evaluated as part of the final exam (0 to 3 points). The final exam consists of 30 multiple-choice questions.

Exam – non attending students : Non-attending students will be asked to take the final exam on the contents of the suggested textbooks. The final exam consists of 30 multiple-choice questions.

Advice – Take part in the group project to gain bonus points and remember the exam is a MCQ while studying for it. The questions are a bit complicated so read them thoroughly.

iv. HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LAW – MODULE II : COMMON LAW

I 6 CFU I

Description – During this course you will explore the history of England, and the US from a legal perspective to gain a better understanding of how the Common Law was created. The course focuses on the historical development of the common law tradition, from the late eleventh century onwards. The course's mission is to build a historical understanding of modern legal systems, starting from the formation of a national system of law in England, known as the common law.

Exams – attending students : There is only a general exam which consists of 15 multiple choice questions (2 pts each) and a bonus open-ended question. You can also take part in a meme contest (yes, memes.) to gain up to three bonus point (simple participation already give you 1 point so do it !).

Exam – non attending students : The exam consists of 2 mandatory open ended question (max 4 pts each) and 12 multiple choice questions (2 pts each).

Advice – Use the teacher memes to study !! When you're done with the exam, don't overthink it, it's multiple choice so trust your gut and don't change your answers (even if you still have 40 minutes left, it doesn't mean you're wrong).

6. PROGRAM CHANGE

It's possible to request a Program Change however hard. Since BGL does not have a 'foundation' year common to other programs, in the event you want to switch in your

second year, you will have to take every exam of the first year during your second year (on top of those of the second year).

Moreover, you can decide to pursue your program into the

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<https://chat.whatsapp.com/K0BxVUIYR22K739QkNA45J> !