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Distinctive features of teaching the international space law in Kiyv National Taras Shewchenko University.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Practically since the late seventies the subject-matter of the international space law has been included into the general normative course of the international public law in the faculty of international law and international relations in Kiyv National Taras Shewchenko University. As a rule, international legal standards of exploration and use of space were studied by the third-year students of the department of international law during the second half of the abovementioned course, which was devoted to the basic branches of international law.

In 1986 due to the efforts of the members of the department of international law and comparative jurisprudence, namely Prof. Vladimir G. Butkevich and associate professor Valeriy F. Samokhvalov, the special course “international space law” was worked out. This special course normally consisted of 8-9 lectures and 6 practical studies, covering the problems of international space law.

In succeeding years this special course as well as the special course “international law of the air” became mandatory for the students of the Institute of international relations specializing in the international law in order to get the bachelor’s degree.

The special course “international space law” is given to the fourth-year students on the basis of the curriculum and the working program , which were specially drawn up and contain not only the main theses of the lectures, but also the topics of the practical studies and the tasks for the students’ individual work as well.

The subject matter of the educational discipline “international space law” includes the following: legal relationships between the countries which appear in the process of exploration and use of space; distinctive features of legal regime of space and celestial bodies; legal status of extraterrestrial objects and their crews; the institute of responsibility in the international space law.

The object of the educational discipline “international space law” consists of the following issues: the system of international agreements, aimed at regulation of the states’ activity in space and contemporary mechanism of the space activity regulation.

The average volume of the educational course “international space law” consists of 41 teaching periods, 18 of which are devoted to the lectures, 14 periods – to practical studies and 6 teaching periods are given to the individual work. Students pass the test at the end of the course.

It is worth mentioning that at the present time the students of all the departments of the Institute of international relations, namely the department of international relations, the department of international economic relations, the department of international business, the department of international information etc., study the international space law within the framework of the year's course of lectures devoted to the modern problems of international law.

To sum everything up, it's worth noting that the main problems of teaching the discipline "international space law" are the following:

- In fact, the differences in the curriculums, drawn up for the students specializing in the international law, in the international private law and in the European law for their bachelor's degree, result in the special course "international space law" being listened to only by 25 per cent of the students of the department of the international law.

- Despite the high level of technical equipment of the Institute of international relations the library stock doesn't have the foreign specialized juridical periodicals, covering the problems of international space law.

- As the practice shows, no more than 2 per cent of bachelor's and master's theses of the students of the department of international law cover the problems of the international space law.

Thank You for Your attention.