

International Criminal Law (B001044)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 4.0 Study time 120 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	Dutch	lecture	30.0 h
		self-reliant study	10.0 h
		activities	
		guided self-study	5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Vermeulen, Gert RE23 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Criminological Sciences	5	A
Master of Science in Criminological Sciences	4	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

International, European, EU, European Union, Council of Europe, criminal law, Jurisdiction, Universal, Treaty, Extradition, Legal assistance, Europol, Eurojust, Cooperation in criminal matters, Mutual recognition, Justice, Judicial cooperation, Police cooperation

Position of the course

The course addresses the (application of the) rules, the bottle-necks and the evolution regarding substantive as well as procedural (international police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters) international criminal law. Previously gained basic insight into the historical and intrinsic theoretical foundations of Belgian criminal law and the historical and institutional/ substantive developments at the level of several European and international organisations and institutions, will allow students to better grasp the content of this specialist course.

Contents

Aspects of substantive international criminal law (criminal law under international law and Belgian law)

- international treaty and customary law concerning universal/international crimes, such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, terrorism, and international humanitarian law
- sanctioning infringements of substantive international criminal law for international (ad hoc) tribunals, paying special attention to the International Criminal Court
- (application of) extra-territorial jurisdiction, paying special attention to the law concerning serious violations of international humanitarian law
- case-studies: Pinochet, Yerodia, Sharon, Franks, ...

Aspects of procedural international criminal law

- analysis and study of relevant legal instruments which are developed on a national, Benelux-, Schengen-, EU- and Council of Europe-level concerning respectively judicial and police cooperation in criminal matters
- judicial cooperation: extradition, mutual legal assistance, transfer of proceedings, transfer of the enforcement of criminal judgements, cooperation with international

tribunals, Eurojust, mutual recognition, European arrest warrant,...

- police cooperation: controlled delivery, cooperation in joint investigation teams, cross-border pursuit, observation and undercover, information exchange, cooperation with Europol, ...

- case-studies: Moreno-Garcia, Verbesselt-Van Engeland, Erdal,...

Initial competences

- Having basic knowledge of the European and international institutional context of the reaction to deviance and crime, including criminal policy, and administration of criminal justice
- Having knowledge of relevant sources on this matter and of their means of disclosure

Final competences

- 1 Understanding and ability to apply and comment on the European and international (institutional context of the) administration of justice, in particular with regard to the aspects legislation, investigation, prosecution, sanctioning and enforcement of the sanction
- 2 To know and ability to use/apply the sources and rules of substantive and procedural international criminal law, as relevant specialism for criminological sciences
- 3 To know and ability to correctly use the jargon specific to the course subjects.
- 4 To have the ability to reflect on aspects of international criminal law in a critical-scientific manner, as well as on the written exam.
- 5 Being aware of the important role for a criminologist to elaborate on the international dimension to criminal law (e.g. in light of a specific legislative or policy initiative).
- 6 Ability to elaborate on relevant current affairs in light of the social and political context.
- 7 Ability to draft a problem statement and defend a creative position based on a scientifically well-founded analysis and a logical legal reasoning.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminars: Education is provided for in the form of hearing- and responding-seminars. The seminars aim at familiarising students with the application of legal rules, obstacles and evolution of substantial and procedural (international police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters) international criminal law. The self-exploring character is activated by the technique of hearing- and responding-seminars. By asking questions and provoking reactions, active participation and critical thinking is spurred.

Guided self-study: An online reader is made available to students. They are expected to prepare for the seminars by reading the recommended literature which will broaden their knowledge of the topics handled in the corresponding seminar. The literature is explicitly discussed during the seminars.

Independent work: students are to independently formulate a research question, relevant for the course. On the basis of that question, they are to write a critical paper. In this paper, they are to defend a creative viewpoint regarding a relevant question by offering a scientifically researched analysis and logical reasoning.

Lifelong continued learning: Students are informed about relevant scientific activities such as study seminars, relevant for the course.

Learning materials and price

- Reader (price approximately 35 EUR)
- G. Vermeulen, Basisteksten Internationaal en Europees Strafrecht, Antwerpen-Apeldoorn, Maklu, 2016, 9th edition (price approximately 50 EUR - update expected in 2018)
- slides lecturer and possible supplementary teaching materials distributed via Minerva
- Students' own lecture notes

References

Included in learning material

Possible supplementary references to the teaching material will be distributed during the lectures and via Minerva.

Course content-related study coaching

- Continuous feedback/coaching possible
- interactive assistance via Minerva (documents, e-mail)
- office-hours

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

62.5 % periodical evaluation

The exam tests the knowledge, insights and scientific thinking abilities in written and oral communication skills of the examinandus. The questions aim at testing if the student has gained insights and knowledge relating to the terminology, the relevant structures, the system, and the principles of the course area. Finally, the questions aim at testing if the student can apply the gained knowledge by formulating an opinion regarding a complex legal issue.

37.5 % non-periodic evaluation.

Course paper

Calculation of the examination mark

STUDENTS ARE OBLIGED TO PARTICIPATE ON ALL EVALUATIONS (periodic as well as non-periodic evaluations). OTHERWISE STUDENTS CAN NOT PASS THEIR EXAMS. This means that if the final score is ten or more (out of twenty), this score will be reduced to the highest non-passing grade.

37,5 % paper as detailed above

62,5 % written and oral examination.

The written exam represents 50 % of the points (10 out of 20 points)

The oral exam is a crucial addition to the written exam. Each student will get an additional question (2.5 points). Furthermore, the oral exam is aimed at verifying/consolidating the written exam (re-evaluating, where necessary going into more detail into the understanding and insight and/or associations and links). The result of exam in its entirety (12,5 out of 20 points) is only final after having conducted both the written and oral part.

Facilities for Working Students

Pursuant to the faculty rules on the position of working students, working students are allowed to hand in their course paper solely in an electronic format.