

General Introduction to Law (K001066)

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

Credits	5.0	Study time	150 h	Contact hrs	45.0 h
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

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

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Desmet, Ellen	RE22	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Sociology	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

law, legal institutions, sources of law, the basic principles of the various fields of private and public law, European and international law

Position of the course

Law plays a key role in society. For instance, sociological evolutions may trigger the adoption of new legislation, and the outcome of political decision making processes is often concretized in legal rules. This course aims to familiarize students in the political and social sciences with a number of fundamental concepts within law, the different legal institutions, the specificity of legal reasoning, and the general principles of some main fields of law.

Contents

First, the concept of 'law' is discussed, as well as the role of law in society. Then, the sources of law and a number of fundamental concepts are reviewed. Subsequently, the political and legal institutions at international, European, federal and regional level are discussed, as well as the course of a legal procedure.

Thereinafter, the basic principles of some main fields of law are discussed, namely fundamental rights and freedoms, administrative law, personal and family law, criminal law, contract law, a number of special contracts, and social law. Particular attention is paid to recent evolutions, and to the impact of European and international law.

Initial competences

No particular prior knowledge is required; only general secondary education knowledge.

Final competences

- 1 Students must have a thorough knowledge of the basic legal concepts and terminology and must have an insight in the function of the most significant rules of law in society and in how they work.
- 2 Students will develop ready knowledge of the main aspects of the political, legal and judicial institutions in Belgium and at the European and international level, and of the principles of private and (national and international) public law.
- 3 Students must be able to fluently apply these principles to uncomplicated practical cases.
- 4 Students must acquire basic skills in recognising legal problems.

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

Lecture, seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Formal teaching.

In the seminars, students are familiarized with legal practice, on the basis of cases and other exercises. The seminars are thoroughly prepared by the students.

Resource book: 'Algemene beginselen van het recht' (5 à 10 euro)

Learning materials and price

Handbook Georges Martyn, Rik Devloo and Yves Jorens, Een kennismaking met recht en rechtspraak, die Keure (most recent edition) (+/- 40€)

PowerPoint presentations and additional learning material are put on Minerva.

Notes made during lectures and workshops.

References

See textbook and slides (see Minerva).

Course content-related study coaching

Questions can be asked before or after the class, during the breaks, via e-mail or upon appointment, with the lecturer and assistant.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

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

Written examination with open questions, written examination with multiple choice questions

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

Written examination with open questions, written examination with multiple choice questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam: multiple choice questions and discussing two cases. The multiple choice questions assess the students' knowledge and understanding of legal terminology, structures, principles and rules (including the texts discussed in the workshops). The cases test the students' ability to apply legal principles to a concrete situation.

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam consisting of multiple choice questions (12 points) and discussing two cases (8 points).

Facilities for Working Students

End-of-term assessment. No special arrangements for working students. Students may ask the professor or assistant questions about the course at any time.