

Advanced Human Rights (B001393)

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

Credits 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 1) English seminar 45.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Brems, Eva RE22 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021 crdts offering

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Human Rights, International Law

Position of the course

With regard to knowledge acquisition, the course aims at both deepening and broadening students' knowledge of human rights law. As an in-depth course, it thoroughly analyses a number of themes from different perspectives. Moreover, it broadens the students' previous knowledge, that mainly relates to Belgian law and the ECHR, by using the full range of international sources of human rights law, complemented with a comparative approach. In addition, a critical attitude toward the law is stimulated, through continuous attention for the potential as well as the limitations of the law as a tool for human rights protection. Autonomous reasoning is encouraged by the use of an interactive work method.

Contents

Selected chapters of human rights law are studied in depth. The specific themes may vary each year. Priority is given to current issues and socially relevant developments. The themes are studied from an international law perspective, and in many cases also from the perspective of Belgian and comparative law. The legal dimension of human rights is the main subject of the course. This approach is supplemented by elements from legal theory, sociology and political science.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of international law and human rights law, in particular the ECHR; good passive knowledge of English.

Final competences

- 1 Thorough knowledge and understanding of international human rights law,
- 2 Insight in the potential and the limitations of the the law as a tool for human rights protection
- 3 Oral skills with regard to reflection and discussion about the subject matter of the course
- 4 Critical and scientific attitude toward the law, and to the subject matter of this course
- 5 Integration of cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, pluralism and tolerance in the scientific work and in the functioning as a beginning lawyer
- 6 Insights in complementary domains of law and in multidisciplinary questions
- 7 Ability to use legal and scientific texts to analyse and solve human rights problems and to formulate legal arguments
- 8 Inisght in the social responsibility of lawyers, including regarding sustainability issues (which include human rights)

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

Seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminars, student participation, student presentations and discussions, guest lectures
The aim of the seminars is that the lecturer creates added value together with the students on the basis of texts previously read and prepared by the students. Students are expected to actively participate in class and to work independently.

There are one or more guest lectures each year.

Students are encouraged to attend lectures, debates and other relevant events outside the classroom.

Learning materials and price

Reader, available on Minerva

Powerpoint presentations, available on Minerva

Student presentations, available on Minerva

References

Course content-related study coaching

The students can download the powerpoint presentations on Minerva. There is possibility to ask questions during and after the lectures, via e-mail and after appointment with the lecturer or the assistant.

Examples of exam questions are available on Minerva.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination with open questions, written examination, open book examination

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

Written examination with open questions, written examination, open book examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment, report

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent evaluation (50%): Class participation and one or more small tasks. The aim of the seminars is that the lecturer creates added value together with the students on the basis of texts previously read by the students.

(LLM Students have to prepare two additional assignments).

Periodic evaluation (50%): The written open book exam aims to test the writing skills, the student's capacity for independent reasoning and his/her ability of to manage, interpret and handle the course materials.

Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent evaluation (50%); Periodic evaluation (end-of-term evaluation) (50%).*(LLM-students: Permanent evaluation (25%); additional assignments (25%); Exam (50%).*

Students are obliged to take part in both non periodic and periodic evaluations in order to qualify to pass. Students who do not participate in all evaluations achieve maximum 7/20 for this course.

Second chance for the permanent evaluation is only possible for students who failed the permanent evaluation AND failed overall.

Second chance: Permanent evaluation (50%); Periodic evaluation (re-examination) (50%).

Facilities for Working Students

- no evening classes, no distance learning
- independently studying this course is not possible
- possibility to write a paper (contact the assistant for more information)