GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2024-2025

Animal Welfare, Law and Ethics (G000922)

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

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Vliegher, Sarne	DI08	lecturer-in-charge
Moons, Christel	DI07	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	3	A
Bachelor of Laws in Laws	3	A
Bachelor of Science in Communication Science	3	A
Master of Veterinary Medicine in Veterinary Medicine(main subject Companion Animals)	3	A
Master of Veterinary Medicine in Veterinary Medicine(main subject Horse)	3	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Maritime Engineering)	3	A
Master of Veterinary Medicine in Veterinary Medicine(main subject Pig, Poultry and Rabbit)	3	A
Master of Veterinary Medicine in Veterinary Medicine(main subject Research)	3	A
Master of Veterinary Medicine in Veterinary Medicine(main subject Ruminants)	3	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering	3	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	3	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	3	A
Master of Science in Mechanical and Electrical Systems Engineering	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	3	A
Elective Set Sustainability and Society	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Animal welfare, animal ethics, jurisprudence for animals

Position of the course

The inter-university, inter-faculty course offers all, who are interested in how we

deal with animals in society, the opportunity to reflect on this and to acquire insights centred around the animal and, as such, benefit animal welfare. Attention is also given to the implications of the jurisprudence for animals. Twelve lectures are offered from various scientific disciplines that address different aspects of animal welfare, ethics and law, with opportunity for reflection and discussion.

- Students acquire knowledge about the basic principles of animal welfare.
- Students are aware of different socio-cultural approaches to dealing with animals and the reasons for this.
- Students can reflect critically on how one should deal with animals.
- Students know the basic principles about the legal status of the animal.
- Students acquire insight into ethical reflections on our interaction with animals and are aware of different approaches to animal welfare.
- Students can articulate their vision appropriately.
- Students develop a critical-reflexive attitude towards how we deal with animals in society

Contents

The course consists of a series of 12 lezingen, each one combined with a discussion session. How we deal with animals in our society is approached from different disciplines (welfare, law and ethics). The following themes are discussed:

- animals as sentient beings
- the different human-animal relations and the consequences for animal welfare
- recent insights in the research of animal welfare for different animal groups
- animal welfare and sustainability
- the role of the veterinarian in monitoring animal welfare
- attention for the welfare of pest species
- the debate about the moral status of animals and the implication for different forms of animal use
- different approaches to animal welfare from the ethical debate
- the legal status of the animal

Initial competences

There is no specific prior knowledge required.

Final competences

1 To have insight in the scientific and ethical approach to owning and using animals (Ma 3.1, Ma 5.4).
2 To have insight in animal welfare (Ma 3.1; Ma 1.16)
3 To have insight in the legislation about animals (MA 3.1)
4 To have insight in the concepts of One Welfare (and One Health) and how these are embedded at the crossroads of welfare science, law and ethics (MA 5.4, MA 5.7).
5 To be conscious of the ethical and societal issues surrounding the keeping, using and dealing with animals, both in national and international context (Ma 3.5, Ma 5.6)
6 To have insight into the societal debate about animals and animal welfare (Ma 3.5, Ma 5.4, Ma 5.6)
7 To be able to analyse examples of dealing with animals, identifying good and bad aspects (MA 3.5).
8 To research scientific information independently, to critically synthesize and analyze it (Ma 3.2).
9 To independently and critically analyse a problem, to assess and solve it (MA 3.3).
10 To elaborate on and/or defend a line of reasoning scientifically (Ma 3.3, Ma 4.2).

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Each class consists of a lecture followed by an integration seminar about the same theme.

Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Teaching material
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

References

Useful publications are mentioned throughout the course material and via Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

No formal tutoring is provided for this course. Any issues are discussed directly with the lecturer.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Each lecturer provides exam questions to the coordinators of the course. A few example questions will be shared with students on Ufora. The remaining questions are used to create the sets of multiple choice and open questions for the exam.

Calculation of the examination mark

The exam consists of one part, the written exam. This is scored on a total of 20 points. The examiner can decide a student has failed the course if said student did not participate in the evaluation.