GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Professional Ethics (B001411)

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

Credits 4.0 **Study time 120 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Broeckx, Karen RE21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Laws)	4	A
Master of Laws in Laws	4	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Legal Ethics, legal professions, basis of the rules, objectives, sanctions

Position of the course

The practice of various legal professions not only requires a good knowledge of the law, but also a respect for the fundamental principles of legal ethics. Competence, independency, loyalty and confidentiality are important attitudes to be observed.

The students attention will be drawn to a number of important written and unwritten rules of legal ethics.

Contents

The necessity of the course at the end of the study program will be clarified and justified in a general introduction. The importance of the rules, the distinction between legal ethics on one hand and penal law and disciplinary rules on the other hand, will be analysed.

Attention will be paid to the rules of legal ethics, to which judges, lawyers, bailiffs, notary publics are subjected to. The basis of these rules and the sanctions of infringements thereof will be analysed. Practical issues will be studied on the basis of concrete cases.

Initial competences

The student is supposed to have acquired a thorough knowledge of the different domains of the law. They want to specialize in a certain branch in view of their future profession. Therefore, they have to obtain a good understanding of the difficulties, that may occur in the exercise of different legal professions as a consequence of the fundamental rules of legal ethics, proper to the profession.

Final competences

1 The students should have an advances knowledge - and insight- of Belgian procedural law, enforcement law and the European and supranational law on procedural matters.
The students should have knowledge of actual discussions and problems concerning enforcement of law, procedural law and ehtics of legal professions.
2 Making use of juridicial literature in Dutch, French or English language in a scientific way to analyze and solve complex ethical problems..
Learning the evolving rules through self study.

Detect and qualify relevant judicial facts and formulatie adequat and critical judicial questions for complex ethical cases.

3 Dare to formulate a creative point of view concerning a juridicial question concerning legal ethics through a scientific based analysis and a logic judicial argumentation.
Assimilate new and/or rules of law in the field of legal ethics through self study and be open for the permanent innovation of judicial knowledge and judicial thinking.

4 Oral presentation an defense of a given or personal point of view on a question of legal ethics on the basis of a juridicial argumentation, taking into account the public that is concerned.

5 Respect integrity and ethical rules and integrate them in the scientific work and in the functioning as a beginning judicial worker. Having insight in the ethical rules, their mutuel coherence and the restrictions they imply for the exercise of a judicial profession.
Be aware of the responsibility of the judicial functions for the community.

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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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

The students read the jurisprudence/legal doctrine in preparation for the weekly meetings, in order to make the lectures interactive. They are expected to follow current events and reflect critically on problem situations that are regularly discussed in the media.
No lecture recordings are made.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Legal ethics of the judicial professions
Indicative price: € 7
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Number of Pages : 200
Oldest Usable Edition : Yearly update
Available through Student Association : Yes
Additional information: The syllabus gets an update every year.

Type: Other

Name: Documentation - legislation- jurisprudence - legal doctrine
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes
Additional information: Relevant jurisprudence and legal opinions, discussed during the lessons, are weekly made available on UFORA.

References

Yearly actualised survey of recent publications, mentioned in the course

Course content-related study coaching

Students may contact the teacher.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark

100% written examen