

## Law and Multiculturalism (B001423)

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

**Credits 4.0**

**Study time 120 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025**

null

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Cannoot, Pieter

RE21

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

null

**crdts**

**offering**

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

emanipation rights, rights of minorities, multicultural society, (super)diversity, pluralism

**Position of the course**

However we think about it, cultural and religious (super)diversity in the Belgian / European society is an irreversible reality that raises questions in many areas, including law. Based on current topics we will examine how law addresses / could address multiculturalism and (super)diversity. The discussions are framed in various theoretical perspectives.

**Contents**

- Theories about multiculturalism, (super)diversity and law
- Discussion of current issues related to multiculturalism, (super)diversity, and Belgian/European law (for example: education, religion in the workplace, religious food laws, religious signs, travellers, decolonisation...)

**Initial competences**

Basic knowledge of Belgian, European and international law  
Good passive knowledge of the English language

**Final competences**

- 1 Being able to apply basic concepts concerning multiculturalism/(super) diversity and law, and theoretical frameworks for a correct contextual and contemporary interpretation of pluralistic law, with or without the responsible use of generative AI.
- 2 A knowledge based, critical but nuanced attitude toward multicultural influence on law and the legal implications of (super)diversity in general on European societies
- 3 Ability to interpret and analyse actual trends and situations involving multiculturalism and law, and (super)diversity and law, with or without the responsible use of generative AI.
- 4 Identifying the ideological, religious, political and social problems that underly legal rules
- 5 Having a critical attitude towards law, on the basis of insights from complementary disciplines (inter alia sociologie, ethics, history...)
- 6 Critical insight in the role and limits of law for the emancipation of minority groups.
- 7 Critical insight in the role and limits of law for societal organisation.

- 8 Critical insight in the ways in which law addresses social developments and vice versa (co-constitution between law and society).
- 9 Making use of legal texts in Dutch, French and English in a scientific way, to analyse and solve complex legal problems, with or without the responsible use of generative AI.
- 10 Critically reviewing the relevance, reliability and validity of digital information sources (waaronder generatieve AI).
- 11 Formulating (in writing or orally) a creative and legally substantiated opinion on a topic theme related to multiculturality/(super)diversity and law, on the basis of a scientific and clear analysis (with or without the responsible use of generative AI).
- 12 Development of an intercultural awareness of the role of positionality and frames of reference for the analysis of the relation between multiculturality/(super)diversity and law
- 13 Development and integration of cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, pluralism and tolerance in the scientific work and in the functioning as a starting lawyer
- 14 Development of an awareness of the societal role of lawyers, including with regard to issues of sustainability and diversity (which encompass issues of equality and multicultural social cohesion)

#### **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**

Group work, Seminar, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

The aim of the seminars is that the lecturer creates added value together with students on the basis of materials previously prepared by the students. Preparation may consist of reading literature, case law, legal instruments, listening to a podcast or watching visual materials. Students are expected to actively participate in class (which will involve assignments in group, with or without support of generative AI) and to work independently. During the seminars, several guest lecturers will be invited based on their professional or authentic expertise in 'multiculturalism and law'. Students are encouraged to attend lectures, debates and other relevant events outside the classroom

#### **Study material**

Type: Slides

Name: Slides Multiculturalism and Law  
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
 Optional: no  
 Language : Dutch  
 Number of Slides : 12  
 Available on Ufora : Yes  
 Online Available : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader Multiculturalism and Law  
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
 Optional: no  
 Language : Dutch  
 Number of Pages : 500  
 Available on Ufora : Yes  
 Online Available : Yes  
 Available in the Library : No  
 Available through Student Association : No

#### **References**

S. Rutten et al., *Culturele diversiteit en recht*, Brussel, Larcier-Intersentia, 2023

### **Course content-related study coaching**

An overview of the class themes and materials is available on Ufora and will be clarified during the first class. There is possibility to ask questions during and after the lectures, via e-mail and after appointment with the lecturer or the assistant. The lecturer will provide examples of exam questions during class. Questions concerning the course contents can be asked until the final week of classes.

### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment open-book

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

Oral assessment open-book

### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

The evaluation consists of several tracks:

- Track 1: students write a paper or record a podcast according to the guidelines provided by the lecturer (inter alia about the responsible use of generative AI)
- Track 2: students thoroughly prepare classes and participate in a critical and constructive manner according to the guidelines provided by the lecturer
- Track 3: students organize a peer feedforward conversation about their paper or podcast, according to the guidelines provided by the lecturer. The students report on their progress through a pitch. The scientifically responsible use of generative AI is questioned.
- Track 4: Students have a conversation about the course (without the support of generative AI) and their assignment with the lecturer in the form of an oral open book examination. The scientifically responsible use of generative AI for track 1 is questioned.

A reliable evaluation is only possible when the student is sufficiently present during the contact moments. Unfounded absence or non-participation in the evaluation moments (including the weekly course meetings) leads to failing the course.

Resit evaluation: oral open book exam with preparation

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Final scores are calculated as follows:

- Track 1: 50%
- Track 2: 10%
- Track 3: 15%
- Track 4: 25%

Students who do not participate in all evaluations will receive a failing grade for this course. This means in particular that when the provisional final score would be a grade of 10/20 or more, the final score will be reduced to the absolute failing grade of 7/20.

Resit evaluation; oral open book examination: 100%

### **Facilities for Working Students**

- No evening classes, no distance learning
- Independently studying this course is not possible
- Occasional absence can be compensated through an extra assignment