

Maritime Law (B001433)

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

Credits 3.0

Study time 90 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	group work	0.0h
			lecture	
			seminar	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Willaert, Klaas	RE22	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Maritime Science	3	A
Exchange Programme in Law	3	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Maritime law, admiralty law, ship, shipowner, master, liability, maritime liens, ship mortgages, ship arrest, general average, collision, salvage

Position of the course

Within the context of maritime transport, which constitutes a crucial component of the global economy and supply chains, the ship plays a central role. As a result, a specific body of rules – next to the rules covering transport of persons and goods at sea (maritime transport law) and the international principles governing the status and use of the oceans and seas (law of the sea) – is needed. Maritime law (often also referred to as 'admiralty law') roughly regulates everything related to seagoing vessels – and what happens on board thereof – and navigation, including the legal status of ships, the competences and responsibility of the master, the discipline on board, maritime casualties and liability in this regard. It comprises both private and public law and consists of international as well as national rules and legislation. The theory is taught through normal lectures and is subsequently put into practice by means of interactive seminars.

Contents

- General introduction
- The ship (legal nature, nationality, property rights)
- Maritime liens and mortgages
- Ship arrest (conditions, object, procedure)
- Master and crew (legal status, rights and duties, liability)
- Shipowner liability (general context, LLMC, PAL)
- Maritime casualties (general average, collision, salvage)

Initial competences

Having basic knowledge of general legal rules and principles

Final competences

- 1 Understanding the main principles and characteristics of maritime law
- 2 Having knowledge of the legal rules related to seagoing ships and navigation
- 3 Applying the rules and principles of maritime law to actual cases
- 4 Critically assessing topical issues and new developments within maritime law
- 5 Presenting and discussing topical issues and new developments within maritime

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture: during the ex cathedra classes, the theory is explained and students are stimulated to ask questions and to participate actively.
- Group work: students have to prepare a presentation on a topical issue related to maritime law in small groups.
- Seminar: following the theoretic lectures, students learn how the theory is put into practice through interactive seminars. The seminars consist of presentations by students, explanations by the lecturer and group discussions, and focus on the practical application of a specific set of rules, the legal analysis of a case or relevant topical developments within the field of maritime law.

No lecture recordings or livestreams are provided within this course.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides Maritime Law

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Slides : 145

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Slides contain the study material and serve as syllabus

Type: Reader

Name: Bundle Treaties and Regulations Maritime Law

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: A printed version of selected treaties and regulations of Maritime Law (provided through Ufora) may be used during the exam

References

- Baatz, Y. (ed.), *Maritime Law*, Routledge, 2020, 738 p.
- Breitzke, C. & Lux, J., *Maritime Law Handbook*, Kluwer, 2022.
- Attard, J.D. (ed.), *The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law - Vol. I. Shipping Law*, Oxford University Press, 2016, 768 p.

Course content-related study coaching

- Students can contact the lecturer or assistant through e-mail if they have questions or require additional explanation.
- Instructions on the presentation are provided on Ufora.
- Information regarding the exam (including an explanation of the types of questions and a number of examples) is provided during class.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- Written exam: evaluation based on a variety of open questions to assess knowledge and insight.
- Presentation: evaluation of the presentations during the seminars in terms of insight in the legal framework, identification of the relevant aspects, critical analysis and presentation skills.
- Participation: evaluation of the active participation during the seminars.

Calculation of the examination mark

- Written exam: 60%
- Presentation: 20%
- Participation: 20%

Facilities for Working Students

In accordance with Education and Examination Code