

## Introduction to International and European Law (B001690)

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

**Credits 4.0**                      **Study time 120 h**                      **Contact hrs**                      45.0h

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2022-2023**

A (semester 1)                      Dutch                      Gent                      lecture                      45.0h

**Lecturers in academic year 2022-2023**

Van Elsuwege, Peter                      RE22                      lecturer-in-charge  
Ruys, Tom                      RE22                      co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2022-2023**

[Bachelor of Laws in Laws](#)                      **crdts**                      **offering**  
4                      A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

European integration process, sources of European and international law, EU institutions and decision-making, international organisations, United Nations, treaties

**Position of the course**

This is a compulsory course in the 1st year of bachelor studies in law. It provides an introduction to the broad area of European and international law, with specific attention to the sources, institutions and decision-making mechanisms. In addition, topical events related to European and international law will be integrated.

**Contents**

Part 1: Introduction to international law

1. International law: general features and historical evolution
2. Sources of international public law
3. Treaty law
4. Interaction between national and international law
5. Subjects of international law: States
6. Subjects of international law: International Organizations
7. Subjects of international law: individuals and companies

Part 2: Introduction to European law

1. The legal framework of the European integration process: historical evolution
2. The EU as an autonomous and differentiated legal order
3. Institutions and decision-making procedures of the EU
4. Sources of EU law
5. Basic principles of EU law

**Initial competences**

No advanced knowledge of European and international law is required.  
The capacity to understand documents dealing with European and international law (in Dutch and English) as well as the ability to follow lectures in Dutch (40h) and English (5h) is necessary.  
Students should be open to develop a critical and scientific attitude

**Final competences**

- 1 Know the sources, subjects and areas of European and international law
- 2 Understand the basic principles of the relationship between European law, international law and national law

- 3 Understand the specific terminology and sources of European and international law in Dutch, English and French
- 4 Assess the evolution of the European integration process from a legal perspective
- 5 Understand the institutional structures and decision-making procedures of the European Union
- 6 Critically analyse recent developments in European and international law
- 7 Be aware of the role of European and international law in tackling global challenges (such as peace and security, human rights, environment protection etc.)
- 8 Be aware of the interaction between European and international law and other areas such as (international) politics and economics

#### **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**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### **Teaching methods**

Lecture

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

The theory of European and international law will be explained during the lectures and will be clarified on the basis of relevant case law and recent developments. Students will be motivated to actively think and participate during the lectures.

#### **Learning materials and price**

Two syllabi (one part on European law and one on international law) and the 'codex international and European law: Part I' will be provided through the student organisation (VRG). Estimated cost: € 30. Powerpoint slides will be distributed via Ufora.

#### **References**

- J. Wouters, C. Ryngaert, T. Ruys, G. De Baere, International Law: a European Perspective, Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2018, 1038 p.  
 R. Schütze, An Introduction to European Law, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015, 314 p.  
 G. De Baere, J. Meeusen, Grondbeginselen van het recht van de Europese Unie, Intersentia, 2020, 378 p.

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

Interactive support via Ufora; guidance by the 'monitoraat'; appointments with assistants and professors

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Written examination

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

Written examination

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

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

not applicable

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

Questions dealing with e.g. the explanation of specific terminology, basic case law and principles of European and international law including a number of statements requiring a short explanation, open questions and hypothetical case

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

End-of-term written exam including a number of statements, open questions and a hypothetical

case. The answer to the statements requires short explanations (marks are based on the explanations). The statements count for max. 50 % of the total mark

### **Facilities for Working Students**

A special information session will be organised at the beginning of the first semester and a question session at the end of it; possibility to download all distributed slides and documents during the lectures via the Ufora platform. Lectures are recorded and can be downloaded via Ufora.