

Selected Topics of International Human Rights Law (B001708)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024

B (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Brems, Eva

RE22

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences\(main subject Laws\)](#)

[Master of Laws in Laws](#)

crdts

6

offering

B

6

B

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Human Rights, International Law

Position of the course

With regard to knowledge acquisition, the course aims at both deepening and broadening students' knowledge of human rights law. As an in-depth course, it thoroughly analyses a number of themes from different perspectives. Moreover, it broadens the students' previous knowledge, that mainly relates to Belgian law and the ECHR, by using the full range of international sources of human rights law. In addition, a critical attitude toward the law is stimulated, through continuous attention for the potential as well as the limitations of the law as a tool for human rights protection. Autonomous reasoning is encouraged by the use of an interactive work method.

Contents

As off the academic year 2023-24, this course has a new approach, with a double focus.

The first focus concerns an integrated reading of international human rights law. In any concrete human rights situation, rights holders can claim rights from a range of different sources, while duty holders are likewise bound by multiple instruments. An important goal of the course is to train students in the use of the multiple sources of international human rights law. This is not approached in a theoretical manner, but rather in the course of studying a number of -annually varying- important and/or current topics.

The second focus concerns human rights protection in Belgium. Students will get an overview of the actors and mechanisms for human rights protection in Belgium. In addition, a number of (annually varying) important and/or current topics concerning human rights in Belgium are studied.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of international law and human rights law, good passive knowledge of English.

Final competences

- 1 Thorough knowledge and understanding of international human rights law,
- 2 Insight in the potential and the limitations of the the law as a tool for human rights protection
- 3 Oral skills with regard to reflection and discussion about the subject matter of

the course

- 4 Critical and scientific attitude toward the law, and to the subject matter of this course
- 5 Integration of cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, pluralism and tolerance in the scientific work and in the functioning as a beginning lawyer
- 6 Insights in complementary domains of law and in multidisciplinary questions
- 7 Ability to use legal and scientific texts to analyse and solve human rights problems and to formulate legal arguments
- 8 Insight in the social responsibility of lawyers, including regarding sustainability issues (which include human rights)

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 course consists of a number of interactive lectures, complemented with independent work.

Online participation is not possible. The lectures are not recorded.

For the interactive lectures, students are expected to read texts in advance of the course, and to actively join the conversation in class.

A few contact hours are reserved for feedback on the independent work. If the group's size allows, this is individual feedback on individual work.

Learning materials and price

- Reader, available on Ufora
- Powerpointpresentations, available on Ufora

The lecturer makes only minimal use of PowerPoint.

Students are strongly advised to take notes during lecture preparations as well as during lectures, and to share their notes with other students.

References

Course content-related study coaching

The students can download the powerpoint presentations on Ufora. There is possibility to ask questions during and after the lectures, via e-mail and after appointment with the lecturer or the assistant.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment open-book

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

For the exam, students can make unlimited use of written materials: class notes, reader texts, printed powerpoints, additional materials.

The continuous assessment consists of two individual written assignments.

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

- no evening classes, no distance learning
- independently studying this course is not possible

