

Air and Space Law (B001765)

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

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Wouters, Mia

RE22

lecturer-in-charge

Oosterlinck, René

RE22

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Laws)

crdts

offering

4

A

Master of Laws in Laws

4

A

Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject International and Human Rights Law)

4

A

Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject International and National Legal Orders)

4

A

Exchange Programme in Law

4

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

International and European air law, International and European space law, air and space aviation, organisations involved in air and space activities, liability, satellites

Position of the course

The objective of this course is to provide the students with a general overview of the principles and rules of air and space law.

Contents

In this course following topics will be dealt with:

- Delimitation of air and space, status of air and space.
- Air transport law: development and organization of civil aviation; overview of International Conventions and European legislation are on air transport law; study of the 1999 Montreal Convention on the liability of the air carriers for the international carriage of passengers and cargo ; the European regulations on air passenger rights.
- Space Law: use of outer space and celestial bodies (exploration and exploitation: satellites), liability for damage due to space activities, rescue of astronauts, space organisations, European activities in space and intellectual property rights in space applications..

Initial competences

- To have a basic knowledge of international and European law.
- To be able to analyse legal texts and sources.
- To be able to distinguish the essentials from the side issues.
- To have the attitude to be willing to develop a critic and scientific attitude

Final competences

- 1 To have an insight in international and European air and space Law.
- 2 To know the historical backgrounds of international and European air and space Law.
- 3 To be able to analyse and valuate legal texts and sources in the field of

international and European air and space Law.

4 To have the attitude to do self-study in air and space law.

5 To develop a critical and scientific attitude and have a scientific attitude.

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

Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Students are frequently asked to prepare an assigned task that will be dealt with during next class. This topic is then dealt with in the form of a group discussion.
- Via Ufora students are invited to participate in conferences and lectures on topics of air law, organised by prof. Mia Wouter in Brussels. Students of this course do not have to pay registration fees.

Study material

None

References

- BIN CHENG, Studies in International Space Law, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1997, 798.
- DIEDERIKS-VERSCHOOR, I.H.Ph, An Introduction to Air Law, The Hague, Kluwer, 1997, (6th revised ed.), 276.
- DIEDERIKS-VERSCHOOR, I.H.Ph, An Introduction to Space Law, The Hague, Kluwer, 1999, (2nd revised ed.), 280.
- NAVEAU, J., Précis de droit aérien, Bruxelles, Bruylant, 1988, 351.
- SALIN, P.-A., Satellite Communications Regulations in the Early 21st Century, The Hague, Martinus Nijhoff, 2000, 584.
- SHAWCROSS & BEAUMONT, Air Law, London, Butterworths, 2000, (loose-leaf)
- Reports Committee on Space Law - International Law Association
- Webpages air and space organisations

Course content-related study coaching

- 1 Power points and treaties, clarifying documents or illustrations will be provided via Minerva.
- 2 Answering questions from students, including guidance at distance, will happen through e-mail

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written open book examination in case of air law and space law

The questions on air law and space law are case related, to be solved by each student individually. The student can use indicated course material to solve the cases.

Calculation of the examination mark

Space law: 50 %

Air law: 50%

Facilities for Working Students

