

Advanced Course on Human Rights (B001802)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Prieto Munoz, José Gustavo

RE22

lecturer-in-charge

Brems, Eva

RE22

co-lecturer

Dembour, Marie-Benedicte

RE22

co-lecturer

Destrooper, Tine

RE22

co-lecturer

Haeck, Yves

RE22

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

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

crdts

6

offering

A

[Master of Laws in Laws](#)

6

A

[Master of Laws in International and European Law\(main subject European Union Law\)](#)

6

A

[Master of Laws in International and European Law\(main subject International and Human Rights Law\)](#)

6

A

[Master of Laws in International and European Law\(main subject International and National Legal Orders\)](#)

6

A

[Exchange Programme in Law](#)

6

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

human rights; international law; transnational litigation; courts; legitimacy; evidence; legal governance.

Position of the course

This new course is offered for the first time in the 2023-24 academic year. The aim is to gain multi-perspective knowledge and insights into how human rights are advanced, promoted, and/or contested within international and transnational litigation. The course will provide a unique understanding of how power, legal craft, and demand for change affect Human Rights international litigation outcomes. The course is aimed at LL.M students in International and Human Rights Law. Also, it will be valuable for other students curious about the functioning of international and transnational litigation. Thus, it assumes a familiarity with the key features of the main treaties and institutions of international human rights law and public international law.

Contents

The course is taught by professors and researchers of the Department of European, Public and International Law, Ghent University. In particular, it builds on research conducted at the Human Rights Center (HRC).

The course offers a mix of doctrinal, legal, and socio-legal approaches to human rights law, international law, and international & transnational human rights litigation.

The course topics are related to legal, quasi-legal, and political HR mechanisms and processes at the global, regional, and transnational levels.

It includes: evidence in human rights adjudication; comparative regional human

rights litigation; human rights claims within international economic adjudication; the role of individual victims participants in human rights adjudication; and, multi-level litigation of human rights within the European Union supranational legal order.

Intended for a diverse and international audience, the course also integrates comparative perspectives and perspectives from the Global South.

Initial competences

General knowledge of international law; international human rights law: familiarity with its main instruments and mechanisms.

Good active and passive knowledge of English.

Final competences

1 Understanding how power, legal craft, and demand for change affect the outcomes in different types of human rights litigation.

2 Understanding different strategies to advance HR within international and transnational litigation

3 Being able to reflect orally on issues about the subject matter of human rights

4 Having a critical and scientific attitude toward the law, legal craft, and practice related to the litigation of human rights.

5 Being able to integrate cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, pluralism, and tolerance in scientific work and as a lawyer in transnational litigation.

6 Having in-depth knowledge of several fields of international human rights law

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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

The main teaching method is a combination of guided self-study and seminars with student participation. Students are expected to work independently in the preparation of the seminars on the basis of assigned reading materials. Students are expected to participate in class actively.

The course is taught by a team of lecturers, who each have their own styles and their own expectations regarding student participation.

Students are informed of the expectations of each lecturer via Ufora.

Learning materials and price

A Syllabus with legal doctrine and primary sources will be available via Ufora

References

Course content-related study coaching

Students can ask questions during and after the seminars, via e-mail, and in one-on-one meetings online or on campus after appointments with the lecturers.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark

- Periodic Evaluation 60%
- Permanent evaluation 40%