

## The European Convention on Human Rights: Theory and Practice (B001803)

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

**Credits 4.0** **Study time 120 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 2) English Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Brems, Eva	RE22	lecturer-in-charge
Van de Graaf, Cathérine	RE22	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Laws)</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Master of Laws in Laws</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject International and Human Rights Law)</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme in Law</a>	4	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Human Rights  
ECHR

**Position of the course**

This course is addressed to students who already have a basic knowledge of international human rights law, and in particular of the ECHR, and who wish to acquire a deeper understanding of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights as well as of current debates about the Convention system.

**Contents**

The course will address the institutional and procedural lay-out of the Convention system, and will study current challenges and critiques of the Court.

A major focus will be on close reading of case law and gaining a deeper understanding of the Court's reasoning.

Depending on opportunities, the course will include guest lectures by actors within the Court or frequently engaging with it, as well as online attendance of Court hearings. It may also involve close engagement with a pending or recent case.

**Initial competences**

Basic knowledge of international human rights law and of the ECHR.  
Very good active and passive knowledge of English.

**Final competences**

- 1 Students have a thorough insight in the working of the ECHR system and the challenges it is faced with.
- 2 Students are able to critically read and comment upon a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights.
- 3 Students are able to build a legal argument aimed at persuading the European Court of Human Rights in a concrete case.

**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**

This course requires active student participation and preparation before each contact moment.

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

**Study material**

None

**References****Course content-related study coaching**

The contact hours are intended as moments of intensive exchange between the students and the lecturer.

In addition, the lecturer and the assistant can be contacted by e-mail; e-mail is also the way to make an appointment for a meeting.

**Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

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

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

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

not applicable

**Calculation of the examination mark**