

Anti-Discrimination Law (B001867)

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 1)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Cannoot, Pieter

RE21

lecturer-in-charge

Van de Graaf, Cathérine

RE21

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

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

crdts

offering

4

A

[Master of Laws in Laws](#)

4

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

discrimination, equality, diversity, inclusion

Position of the course

This is a new course, which will be organised for the first time in academic year 2025-2026. The course offers a thorough study of Flemish, Belgian and European anti-discrimination law. Both theoretical perspectives and concrete case studies will be addressed.

Contents

The course starts with an exploration of the historical and theoretical background of anti-discrimination law, and a thorough study of core concepts and legal instruments. Both a positivist and a critical perspective are used. Although the focus is on Flemish, Belgian and European anti-discrimination law, - where possible and relevant - the analysis is contextualized in a comparative perspective. Subsequently, a selection of discrimination grounds is discussed in detail, such as the racial criteria, sex/gender, disability, sexual orientation, etc. The thematic selection varies from year to year and takes current events into account. Finally, the course provides an analysis of the enforcement of anti-discrimination law. As far as possible, a visit is made to one or more equality bodies, such as the Flemish Human Rights Institute, Unia, and the Institute for the equality of women and men.

During the semester, students prepare a written position in a realistic discrimination case. During the last lesson they orally defend their position in the form of a hearing at the Disputes Chamber of the Flemish Human Rights Institute.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of Belgian, European and international law.

Good passive proficiency in English and French.

Final competences

- 1 Being able to apply basic concepts of anti-discrimination law
- 2 Knowledge of how (parts of) Belgian, European and international anti-discrimination law express(es) social views on (in)equality
- 3 Critical insight in the possibilities and limitations of anti-discrimination law as instrument for societal organisation
- 4 Being able to apply anti-discrimination law on concrete legal cases

- 5 Identification of political and social phenomena that underlie anti-discrimination law, on the basis of deconstruction
- 6 Critical insight in the way in which the law responds to societal evolutions and vice versa.
- 7 Making use, in a scientifically grounded way, of legal texts in Dutch, French and English to analyse and solve complex problems
- 8 Formulating - in writing and/or orally - a creative and legally grounded opinion on a topic theme or case related to anti-discrimination law, on the basis of a scientific and clear analysis
- 9 Critically reviewing the relevance, reliability and validity of digital information sources (including generative AI).
- 10 Developing awareness on the role of positionality and frames of reference when analysing and deconstructing (in)equality and discrimination.
- 11 Integration of cultural sensitivity, gender awareness, respect for diversity, pluralism and tolerance in the learning process, the scientific work and in the functioning as a starting lawyer
- 12 Developing awareness on the social responsibility of lawyers, including with regard to issues regarding (in)equality, discrimination, diversity and inclusion

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

Group work, Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

The purpose of the seminars is that the lecturer, together with the students, creates added value to the teaching material that has been thoroughly prepared independently by the students. The preparatory work may consist of reading literature, case law, legislation, listening to a podcast or viewing visual material. Students are expected to actively participate during lessons (which often involve group exercises, with or without the support of generative AI) and to produce work independently. During various seminars and/or lectures, guest lecturers are also invited who have special or authentic expertise in the field of anti-discrimination law. Students are encouraged to attend lectures, debates and other relevant events outside of class.

As far as possible, students visit one or more Flemish/Belgian equality bodies, such as the Flemish Human Rights Institute, Unia, and the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides Anti-Discrimination law
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : Dutch
 Number of Slides : 12
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Online Available : Yes
 Available in the Library : No
 Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader Anti-Discrimination law
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : English
 Number of Pages : 500
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Online Available : Yes
 Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Excursion

Name: Cost of public transport

Indicative price: € 15

Optional: no

References

S. Fredman, *Discrimination Law*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2022.

Course content-related study coaching

An overview of the class themes and learning materials will be posted on Ufora and explained during the first contact moment. It is possible to ask questions during and after the lectures, via e-mail and by appointment with the assistant or lecturer. During the lectures, the lecturer discusses possible questions that may later be discussed during the evaluation. Substantive questions can be asked via email until the final week of classes.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous 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

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Students are evaluated based on various evaluation components.

- Track 1: students independently prepare the learning process that takes place during the contact moments and participate in it in a high-quality and constructive manner according to the guidelines given by the teacher.
- Track 2: students prepare a written position in a realistic discrimination case, according to the guidelines given by the teacher. The scientifically responsible use of generative AI is questioned.
- Track 3: students present the prepared position orally during a simulation of a hearing at the Disputes Chamber of the Flemish Human Rights Institute. The scientifically responsible use of generative AI is also questioned.
- Track 4: written exam with open questions during the examination period (knowledge questions, application questions and/or reflection questions). Generative AI may not be used.

A reliable evaluation is only possible when the student is present as much as possible during the contact moments. Unjustified absence or non-participation in the evaluation moments (including the weekly contact moments) will lead to failing the course.

Resit session: written exam with open questions + oral exam with written preparation (discussion of a position in a realistic discrimination case).

Calculation of the examination mark

Final scores are calculated as follows:

- Track 1: 10%
- Track 2: 25%
- Track 3: 15%
- Track 4: 50%

Students who do not participate in all evaluations will receive a failing grade for this course. This means in particular that when the provisional final score would be a grade of 10/20 or more, the final score will be reduced to the absolute failing grade of 7/20.

Resit evaluation:

- Written exam with open questions: 75%
- Oral exam with written preparation: 25%

Facilities for Working Students

- No evening classes, no distance learning
- Independently studying this course is not possible
- Repeated absence can be compensated through an extra assignment