

## General Introduction to Law (K001066)

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

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024**

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Cannoot, Pieter

RE21

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Sociology](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

law, legal institutions, sources of law, the basic principles of the various fields of private and public law

**Position of the course**

Law plays a key role in society. For instance, sociological evolutions may trigger the adoption of new legislation, and the outcome of political decision making processes is often concretized in legal rules. This course aims to familiarize students with a number of fundamental concepts within law, the different legal institutions, the specificity of legal reasoning, and the general principles of some main fields of law.

**Contents**

First, the concept of 'law' is discussed, as well as the role of law in society. Then, the sources of law and a number of fundamental concepts are reviewed. Subsequently, the political and legal institutions at international, European, federal and regional level are discussed, as well as the course of a legal procedure.

Thereinafter, the basic principles of some main fields of law are discussed, including fundamental rights and freedoms, constitutional law, administrative law, family law and the law of persons, criminal law, property law and the law of obligations. ontracts, property law and corporate law. The choice for particular fields of law is based on the students' profile and study programme. Particular attention is paid to recent evolutions.

**Initial competences**

No particular prior knowledge is required; only general secondary education knowledge.

**Final competences**

- 1 Students must have a thorough knowledge of the basic legal concepts and terminology and must have an insight in the function of the most significant rules of law in society and in how they work.
- 2 Students will develop ready knowledge of the main aspects of the political, legal and judicial institutions in Belgium and at the European and international level, and of the principles of private and (national and international) public law.
- 3 Students must be able to fluently apply these principles to uncomplicated practical cases.
- 4 Students must acquire basic skills in recognising legal problems.

5 Students develop a basic awareness about the societal role of law and legal actors, and the values reflected by 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**

Lectures in which the course content is taught and examples are addressed.

The seminar takes the form of a response lecture, in which mock exam questions are solved in the classroom.

In light of the students' programme, some parts of the course may become independent work.

#### **Learning materials and price**

Handbook Georges Martyn, Rik Devloo and Yves Jorens, Een kennismaking met recht en rechtspraak, die Keure (most recent edition)

Resource book (Desmet en Dierickx) 'Algemene beginselen van het recht'

PowerPoint presentations and additional learning material are put on Ufora.

Notes made during lectures and seminars.

#### **References**

See textbook and slides (see Ufora).

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Questions can be asked before or after the class, during the breaks, via e-mail or upon appointment, with the lecturer and assistant. Mock exam questions are available on Ufora.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, 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 exam: multiple choice questions and discussing cases. The multiple choice questions assess the students' knowledge and understanding of legal terminology, structures, principles and rules (including the texts discussed in the workshops). The cases test the students' ability to apply legal principles to a concrete situation.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Written exam consisting of multiple choice questions (12 points) and discussing cases (8 points).

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

End-of-term assessment. No special arrangements for working students. Students may ask the professor or assistant questions about the course at any time.