

Introduction to Dutch Law

Academic year

2025-2026

Period

Period 3 Start date: 05/01/2026 End date: 30/01/2026

Code

LAW3008

ECTS credits 6

Organisational unit

Faculty of Law

Coordinator

Carolina Cicati

Full course description

The **aim of this course** is to offer an introduction to exchange students into three of the main branches of Dutch law: private law (contract law and property law), criminal law and constitutional law. In this course, the student will acquire basic knowledge of the three branches of Dutch law and the ability to apply that knowledge to concrete cases and questions. Students are invited to reflect on the similarities and differences between their domestic legal system(s) and/or other legal systems and the Dutch legal system.

Course objectives

At the end of the course, students are able:

- To recognize the difference between Dutch private, criminal and constitutional law.
- To explain and compare basic concepts and relevant case law from Dutch private, criminal and constitutional law.
- To apply the acquired knowledge to concrete cases and questions.

Instruction language

English

Prerequisites

None

Recommended prior knowledge

None

Recommended reading

- van den Herik, L., Hondius, E., & Voermans, W., Introduction to Dutch Law (6th edition), Aalt 2022.
- Heringa, W., Constitutions Compared. An Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law (6th edition), The Hague: Eleven 2021.
- Keiler, J., & Roef, D. (Eds.), Comparative concepts of criminal law (3rd edition). Intersentia 2019.
- Colson, R., & Bergeron, H., European drug policies: the ways of reform. New York: Routledge 2017.
- Tak, P.J.P., The Dutch Criminal Justice System (3rd edition), Nijmegen: Wolf Legal Publishers 2008.

Teaching methods

Interactive lectures

Assessment methods

Written exam: An oral exam could be scheduled if a few students attend the (re-)sit.

Keywords

Private law, Constitutional law, Criminal Law