

Constitutional Law

Faculty of Law

PUB1201

Period 1:

1 Sep 2025

24 Oct 2025

Credits:

11.0

Coordinator:

S. Hardt

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam

Keywords:

State, statehood, state forms, constitution, constitutionalism, European Union, democracy, representation, forms of government, separation of powers, checks and balances, law-making, judicial review, Human Rights, European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

Full course description

Constitutional Law (CL) is the first mandatory course of the European Law School bachelor programme. Together with the parallel Skills course, CL lays the foundations for the subsequent contents of the programme.

CL introduces students to core concepts of constitutional law and (multi-level) constitutionalism. These include the rule of law, democracy, and fundamental rights protection, as well as the interplay of national, European, and international norms and institutions in the legal application of these concepts.

This course introduces students to both the underlying ideas and the substantive legal form of main building blocks of Western constitutions:

- the idea of the state and statehood;
- the basic institutional setups (and differences between them) of states and the European Union
- democratic processes and representation;
- parliamentarism;
- state forms, and systems of government;

- rules and procedures of law-making;
- judicial review of legislation and government action;
- human rights protection at national and European level.

The course follows a pattern of reasoning from concept to (different forms of) practical realisation and application, highlighting the available range of normative options. CL uses a comparative approach to explore this spectrum along a set of main legal families. However, where relevant it also makes reference a variety of other examples.

Conveying an understanding of constitutional law as a conduit between legal systems and the evolving societal and political contexts in which it operates, the course refers to ongoing large-scale societal challenges and explores their interrelation with constitutional structures.

True to the problem based learning (PBL) approach of the European Law School, students in the course Constitutional Law not only study the mentioned ideas and systems in the abstract but also train to work with concrete legal provisions from different systems to solve legal problems.

Assessment Methods

Constitutional Law uses two assessment methods at two different examination moments, namely a mid-term assignment consisting of a legal essay on a subject in the context of constitutional law (25% of the final grade), and a final exam consisting in which students have to formulate legal opinions, i.e. reasoned solutions to hypothetical cases or legal questions.

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- understand the basic concepts of constitutional law as a discipline, as well as their social contexts;
- be able to identify the main actors relevant to constitutional law at national, European, and international level;
- understand the basic concepts associated with constitutionalism;
- be able to identify and compare the defining features of the main families of Western constitutional systems, as well as of the European and international legal systems;
- be able to analyse the constitutional properties of a given (novel, foreign, or hypothetical) legal system in comparison with these main families;
- be able to use their knowledge of the positive constitutional law of various systems and of mechanisms for the protection of fundamental rights to solve legal problems and cases;
- understand the basic structure and functioning of the multi-level constitutional systems of the European Union and its member states, including the relevant influences of international law;
- be able to explain how international and EU law produce effects in domestic legal systems.
- be able to use such knowledge to solve cases involving the effect of international and EU law on (national) constitutional settings.
- have knowledge about the concepts of constitutional law from a historical, political and cultural perspective.

- recognize the historical, political, economic and societal context in which national, international and European law have developed.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

Textbook:

- A.W. Heringa, *Constitutions Compared* (7th ed.), The Hague: Eleven, 2023.

Compilation of constitutions, treaties, and legislation:

- S. Hardt & N. Kornet (eds.), *The Maastricht Collection* (8th ed.), Zutphen: Europa Law Publishing, 2024, vols. I & II.

Alternatively: A.W. Heringa & S. Hardt (eds.), *Comparative Constitutional Law Documents*, The Hague: Eleven, 2023.

NB: While it is possible to use this book in the course Constitutional Law as a full alternative to the Maastricht Collection, all volumes of the latter are required in other courses of the European Law School curriculum.

Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning

Faculty of Law

SLC1001

Semester 1:

1 Sep 2025

31 Jan 2026

Credits:

8.0

Coordinator:

G. Giardil. Piovesan

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Portfolio

Keywords:

Legal research; legal sources; legal reasoning; essay writing; working with legal rules; IRAC; PBL

Full course description

The course Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning is the first part of the European Law School (ELS) bachelor programme Skills Development and Legal Challenge track. The primary aim of Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning is to teach new students the skills they need in order to study successfully in the ELS bachelor programme. This course focuses on the abilities which are expected of a first-year undergraduate law student at Maastricht University: study skills; problem-based learning (PBL); and the fundamentals of legal research and reasoning. Students will learn how to approach the writing of essays in legal studies and how to work with legal provisions and cases, analysing and applying them to practical case studies on the basis of the IRAC method. Training in case briefing as well as in the use of library resources and PBL will also be provided during the course. Finally, the course will culminate in a Legal Challenge, whereby students will work in small groups on a contract-drafting challenge or constitution-drafting challenge, depending on their preferences.

Assessment methods:

individual portfolio, groupwork

Course objectives

Following successful completion of this course, students will:

- be able to find, evaluate and use legal resources.
- be able to write and structure essays appropriately in the context of legal studies.
- understand and be able to employ the basics of legal reasoning.
- be able to understand and apply legal provisions and precedent to case studies using the IRAC method.
- be able to understand and brief legal case reports.
- be familiar with the philosophy of PBL and foundational skills to succeed in their undergraduate studies.
- gain experience in legal drafting techniques by means of teamwork.

Prerequisites

None, other than that students were admitted to the bachelor European Law School

Recommended reading

See Canvas for more information

Introduction to Private Law

Faculty of Law

PRI1201

Period 2:

27 Oct 2025

19 Dec 2025

Credits:

11.0

Coordinator:

W.A. Bull

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Private law, family law, contract law, property law, tort law, comparative Law

Full course description

This course offers an introduction to private law as a system focusing on the fields of family law, contract law, property law and tort law. In this introductory course, students will become aware of the core principles and fields of private law, learn how to apply legal rules from diverse sources of private law to the core legal issues in private law, and learn how to analyse the facilitative and regulatory role of private law in society. The aim of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental building blocks that constitute the underlying system of private law. The approach of this course is comparative throughout, using examples from diverse jurisdictions such as Germany, England, France and the Netherlands to illustrate the main rules and principles from family law, contract law, property law and tort law.

Assessment methods

Mid-term assignment and end of term written exam.

Course objectives

1. The student understands the basic concepts of private law as a system that consists of several sub-fields, as well as their social contexts;

2. The student can identify the main actors relevant to private law at a national level.
3. The student understands the basic concepts associated with family law, contract law, property law and tort law;
4. The student can identify and compare the defining features of the main sub-fields of national private law;
5. The student can use their knowledge of the sub fields of private law to solve legal problems and cases.
6. The student can use their knowledge of the sub fields of private law to evaluate different approaches for solving legal problems using the national private law of at least two jurisdictions.
7. The student can reflect on their knowledge of the values and principles that support the sub fields of private law and can develop an argument that critically assesses these fundamental principles and values.

Prerequisites

None, other than that students were admitted to the bachelor European Law School

Recommended reading

N/A

International and European Law

Faculty of Law

IER1201

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

11.0

Coordinator:

L. Visser

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

International law, European Union law

Full course description

The course will consist of two parts: International law and European Union law. As the course is undergoing revision based on last year's feedback and to ensure a smooth transition with the second-year EU law course, its exact contents are still to be finalised. However, in the first half of the course, we will explore the nature and foundations of international law. We will most likely study the subjects and sources of international law, jurisdiction and immunities, state responsibility, peaceful settlement of disputes and the use of force. In the second half of the course, we will concentrate on European law, or to be more precise, on the law of the European Union / EU law. To some extent, EU law can be considered a special type of international law, although, as we will see, the EU legal order has several unique characteristics. In this part of the course, we will most likely study the history and theories of EU integration, the main institutions and basic principles of the EU, the EU system of decision-making, judicial protection, and potentially some core EU substantive policy areas.

Course objectives

The objective of this course is to acquire knowledge of international and EU law. This knowledge includes: the knowledge and insight that a law student who is not specialised in either international or EU law should have; the knowledge and insight that will enable a student who wishes to specialise in either international or EU law to commence this specialisation; the skill to work with

primary sources of international and EU law. Furthermore, students will gain insights into the historical development of international law and of the EU institutional structure, and will become familiar with seminal cases of international and European law, and learn how to find, read and apply them.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

TBD

Thinking Like a Lawyer

Faculty of Law

SLC1002

Semester 2:

2 Feb 2026

3 Jul 2026

Credits:

8.0

Coordinator:

M. Ubertone

Teaching methods:

PBL, Research

Assessment methods:

Portfolio

Keywords:

Legal reasoning, Legal Argumentation, Critical Thinking, teamwork, project

Full course description

The course Thinking Like a Lawyer has two components that run parallel to each other: a legal skills training and a legal challenge. During the legal skills training, you will focus on further developing your legal analytical, reasoning and argumentation skills. During the legal challenge, you will work in a team on a challenge that explores a substantive legal topic under the guidance of your legal challenge supervisor.

The skills development session will provide you with an in-depth introduction to legal argumentation. These skills development sessions provide you with the tools to identify, structure, and evaluate legal arguments. These tools are not connected to a specific legal tradition or branch of law; they are general tools that can be used in the assessment of any legal argument presented by anyone in any jurisdiction. While you will come across other courses in your studies that are designed to develop your knowledge of statutes, case law, codes, treaties, and regulations, this is probably the only one where you will have the opportunity to study the interaction between law and argumentation in a systematic way.

The skills development begins with an introduction to basic notions of logic and critical thinking, which are necessary for making valid legal arguments, but which are not specific to the field of law. The first part of the course follows the structure of the basic unit of any form of legal reasoning: the legal syllogism. After introducing this notion, it deals with the problem of how to justify syllogisms,

both internally and externally. A legal syllogism is internally justified if the conclusion follows logically from its two premises, and it is externally justified if valid arguments are provided for the truth of each of the two premises. The external justification of the first of the two premises (the major premise) is a question of law, because it consists in providing arguments for the existence of a norm. Three sessions are devoted to classifying these arguments about questions of law according to their different functions: interpreting provisions, filling legal gaps, resolving legal conflicts. The external justification of the second premise (the minor premise) is a question of fact, because it consists in giving arguments to the effect that a certain event has taken place or, in any case, that something in the world is, has been or will be in a certain way. These are evidentiary arguments, which are dealt with in a separate session. After considering the internal and external justification of the legal syllogism, the course moves on to a number of related topics: the logical relations between rights and other legal entitlements (Hohfeldian positions); fallacies; the connection between moral and legal reasoning; arguments based on justice.

In the legal challenge part of the course, which runs parallel to the skills development sessions, you will utilise your legal thinking skills by working in a team on a legal challenge project. The legal challenge projects aim to help you further develop your legal analytical, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills while engaging in an in-depth exploration of a substantive topic. Each of the legal challenge supervisors has designed a legal challenge project for you and your team to investigate, research, respond to and/or solve that is closely aligned to their area of expertise. We aim to match students as much as possible with legal challenge projects that align with their interests. For this reason, you will be given the opportunity to register your preferred legal challenge project. Some potential themes of legal challenge projects include: Contract law and Inequality; Access to Justice; Shaping the Future of the EU; AI and the Law; Crime and Punishment; Tackling Plastic Pollution through International Law; The Role of NGOs in the International Protection of Human Rights.

Assessment Methods

To pass the course Thinking Like a Lawyer, you must obtain a pass for both parts of the course: Skills Development and the Legal Challenge. The assessment of your Skills Development is based on an individual portfolio and the assessment of the Legal Challenge is based on a team portfolio.

Course objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students

- understand deductive, inductive and abductive inferences;
- are able to formulate legal syllogisms;
- are able to distinguish and justify the premises of legal syllogism;
- are able to distinguish and use different types of legal arguments according to their function;

- have gained further knowledge of and insight into a specific substantive topic of international, European or national law, from a comparative, European and/or meta-legal perspective;
- have developed core skills be able to effectively collaborate in a team to complete a joint project.

Prerequisites

N.A.

Recommended reading

Literature is available via Canvas

Foundations of Law

Faculty of Law

MET1201

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

11.0

Coordinator:

M. Moerman R.H.M. Pierik

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Deontology; Consequentialism; Natural law; Legal positivism; Aquinas; Aristotle; Roman law; Justice; Rights of nature.

Full course description

This course will introduce students to the historical, philosophical, and economic foundations of law, a thorough understanding of which being indispensable in order to arrive at a true comprehension of the positive law. Through the lens of three meta-judicial disciplines, students will be confronted with questions regarding the nature of the law and its (ideal) role in society. First, the law will be examined from a legal-historical perspective to make students aware of the main political, social, and cultural events throughout history that shaped the (Western) European legal systems of today. The second discipline of philosophy of law will guide students through the normative foundations of law, comparing legal norms with those of a social, political, or moral nature and whilst dealing with questions concerning the justification and enforceability of state law. Third, students will be introduced to the multidisciplinary study of law and economics, to raise awareness of the economic reasoning behind – as well as the economic consequences of – legislative and contractual decisions. The course will employ a chronological approach that guides students – in the form of both lectures and tutorials – through the main events and the most influential actors which constitute the Foundations of (European) law.

Course objectives

Following successful completion of this course, students will:

- understand the main theories and developments of legal history, legal philosophy, and law & economics.
- be able to explain key concepts of legal history, legal philosophy, and law & economics.
- be able to make connections between legal and meta-legal knowledge.
- be able to describe the historical context and the developments throughout history of key legal concepts in order to interpret the changes they underwent.
- be able to analyse and critically reflect on the role of law as an instrument for both societal control and societal change, that is, the law as a tool for reproducing economic, political, racial, and gendered structures of domination, and the law as a source of social emancipation.
- be able to construct the pathways and contingencies of legal developments in Europe and beyond, based on normative, and other societal factors.
- be able to formulate explicit normative standards, based on different legal-philosophical, legal-historical, and economical approaches.
- be able to evaluate possible legal solutions for contentious issues in current political debates that require a resolution through the law as a form of practical reason and place them against explicit normative standards.

Prerequisites

None, other than that students were admitted to the bachelor European Law School.

Recommended reading

See Canvas for more information

Private Law

Faculty of Law

PRI2201

Period 1:

1 Sep 2025

24 Oct 2025

Credits:

11.0

Coordinator:

B. Akkermans

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Private Law; Family Law; Contract Law; Property Law; Tort Law; Private International Law; Multi-level Private Law; Consumer Protection; Technology; Sustainability

Full course description

Private Law (PL) is the second mandatory course in private law in the European Law School bachelor programme. It is the first course of the second year. This course continues the longitudinal learning trajectory (LLT) in Private Law and will utilize the knowledge and skills the students have gained in the first year. The course will lay further foundations for the course on Philosophy of Private law in period 4 of year 2 and for the electives in Year 3.

This mandatory course builds on the knowledge and insights of the students gained in the first year into private law as a system focusing on the fields of family law, contract law, property law, tort law and private international law. In this course the main narrative will be the role of private law in contributing towards solutions for large societal issues. Three major themes will be addressed in this course: (1) Consumer Protection, (2) Technological Developments and (3) Eco-Sustainability. In the course, students will become aware of the fundamental aspects of private law and its principles, apply legal rules from diverse sources of private law to the core legal issues in private law, and analyse the facilitative and regulatory role of private law in society; in particular in the context of the three wider themes. Issues of family law will be used to further underline the role of private law in the organization of people's lives, closely connecting to the students' own experiences.

The aim of this course is to provide students with a further understanding of the fundamental building blocks that constitute the underlying system in private law. The approach of this course is comparative, both in a traditional horizontal sense, as was carried out in the first year, but also in a multi-level (vertical) sense introducing the influence of EU law and the ECHR to private law. The course will focus on legislation and case law from Germany, England, France and the Netherlands as well as EU law and the ECHR to illustrate the main rules and principles from family law, contract law, property law, tort law and private international law. The course therefore adopts a European perspective.

Course objectives

1. The student understands the core concepts of private law as a system that consists of several sub-fields, as well as their societal contexts;
2. The student can identify the main actors relevant to private law at a national level;
3. The student understands the foundational concepts associated with family law, contract law, property law, tort law and private international law;
4. The student can identify and compare the defining features of the main sub-fields of national private law;
5. The student can identify, compare and understand the influence of multi-level legal systems such as European Union law and the European Convention on Human Rights on national private law, for example in the field of Consumer Protection, Technology and Sustainability.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite:

- Introduction to Private Law (Year 1, period 2) (PRI1201)

Recommended reading

The course will provide a reader for students.

Legal Research

Faculty of Law

SLC2001

Semester 1:

1 Sep 2025

31 Jan 2026

Credits:

8.0

Coordinator:

L. Dzedzic

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Participation, Presentation and paper

Keywords:

Legal research, research methodology, academic writing, Legal writing

Full course description

The objective of this course is to develop the skills of academic legal research and writing, with a view to enabling students to become self-sufficient in their academic writing endeavors, including notably (but certainly not only) the Bachelor's Essay. By the second year of their studies, students have already acquired basic knowledge of the technical aspects of academic research. This course seeks to build on this knowledge by further expanding, deepening and practicing students' writing skills with a strong focus on critical reading and writing skills, as well as legal research methodologies. This requires an independent work attitude on the part of the students and the ability to gauge the quality of one's own work, and the work of others, on the basis of the guidance received during the course. For this reason, another important skill that will be developed in this course is the ability to provide critical feedback on written academic work, as well as to address comments and incorporate suggestions as and where appropriate.

Teaching methods: PBL tutorials, knowledge clips, student portfolio

Assessment methods: Research paper, class participation, final paper presentation

Course objectives

- Identify relevant (academic) sources
- Analyse written sources and critically reflect on their quality

- Formulate relevant and disciplinary sound research questions
- Identify and apply different (legal) research methodologies needed to answer legal research questions
- Reflect on the research and writing process and orally present the outcomes of your research
- Provide and receive feedback

Prerequisites

- Skills Development and Legal Challenge I: Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning (SLC1001)
- Skills Development and Legal Challenge II: Thinking like a lawyer (SLC1002)

Recommended reading

- Lammasniemi L, *Law Dissertations: A Step-by-Step Guide* (2nd edn, Routledge 2022)
- Kestemont L, *Handbook on Legal Methodology: From Objective to Method* (Intersentia 2018)
- Finch E and Fafinski S, *Legal Skills* (8th edn, OUP 2021)
- Ingels M, *Legal English Communication Skills. Introduction to Writing Skills and Vocabulary Acquisition for the Legal Profession* (3rd edn, Acco 2010)
- Hutchinson TCM, *Researching and Writing in Law* (3rd edn, Pyrmont N.S.W: Lawbook 2010)

Law of the European Union

Faculty of Law

IER2201

Period 2:

27 Oct 2025

19 Dec 2025

Credits:

11.0

Coordinator:

M. Bonelli

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Full course description

The Law of the European Union is a mandatory course in the second year European Law School bachelor programme. It builds upon and complements the International and European law course of the first year. It also links back to the EU law elements discussed in the Constitutional Law course and further lays the foundation for the third-year elective courses European law of the programme. The objective is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the main features of the law of the European Union. The course builds on and intends to deepen and broaden the knowledge of EU institutional law that students have acquired in the course International and European Law in the first year. It furthermore introduces the students to EU policies and herewith focuses on EU substantive law. The course adopts an integrated approach to EU law by connecting institutional and substantive issues of EU law in lectures and tutorials. The course is structured around the European Union objectives laid down in Article 3 TEU and examines how the EU as a legal and regulatory entity can achieve the Union's economic objectives to create an internal market as well as its broader, more political and economic objectives of an area of freedom, security and justice and an economic and monetary union. It further will reflect on the values of the EU and EU policies towards the wider world.

Course objectives

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. identify, analyse, and use the sources of European Union law;

2. analyse and assess the role of different actors (institutions, individuals, companies, etc) in the EU legal system;
3. critically evaluate EU law law-making rules and processes, including examining the Union's intergovernmental facets and compare them with the EU's supranational features;
4. examine and appraise how EU law operates in selected substantive areas, how law-making powers have been used in those areas, and which are the legal implications of the main EU rules and principles in those policy fields;
5. compare and connect the institutional and substantive elements of EU law and analyse how those components interact;
6. examine critically and apply the fundamental principles on the effect of EU law in domestic legal systems and evaluate the rules on judicial remedies for violations of EU law at national or EU level and whether they strike the appropriate balance between the protection of individuals and the balance of powers in the multilevel legal system;
7. analyse and assess the main objectives of the EU legal and political order in their historical and societal context, considering the evolution of the EU from a market-based construction that is developing into a political Union through the expansion of the EU's competences and of the scope of EU law.

Prerequisites

Course Introduction to International and European Law (IER1201)

Recommended reading

Paul Craig and Grainne De Burca, EU law, Oxford University, 8th edition 2024.

Criminal Law

Faculty of Law

CRI2201

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

J. Keiler

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Substantive criminal law; Comparative criminal law; Criminal liability; Elements of an offence; special offences

Full course description

Criminal law plays an important role in regulating human conduct and its rules work to maintain social order and to protect citizens from harm. Even though every (European) country has its legal culture, and its own criminal law, each system may be understood as a 'local' answer to some 'universal' questions that constitute the foundation of criminal law. Therefore, the objective of this course is to identify various core principles and concepts of substantive criminal law by using a comparative methodology and to reflect on the 'deep structure' behind various (European) systems of criminal law, without ignoring cultural differences and legal sensitivities.

The main aim of this course is to get acquainted with the elementary concepts of the so-called general part of substantive criminal law, as well as some selected offences from the special part and to explore the main differences and similarities between several European legal systems, like the common law system of England and Wales and the civil law system of the Netherlands and Germany. The main (general) concepts that will be studied are: theories of punishment, principles of criminalisation, the objective and subjective elements of an offence (actus reus and mens rea), justifications and excuses, inchoate offences and modes of participation. In addition, we will

investigate how criminal justice systems have regulated certain specific offences such as homicide, property offences and sexual offences.

This seven week course will combine seven sessions of group tutorials and several lectures. According to the philosophy of problem-based learning, tutorial meetings shall be used to explore various concepts of substantive criminal law in different countries on the basis of some reading assignments, presentations and case studies. Using comparative literature students are asked to answer given background questions and specific questions on the case studies.

Course objectives

The object of this course is to identify various principles, rules and concepts of the so-called general part, as well as selected offences of the special part of criminal law, by using a conceptual and comparative methodology. Upon completion of this course, the student must be able to

- analyse and understand main concepts and rules of substantive criminal law;
- to understand and compare the main differences and similarities of the basic criminal liability concepts of three major European legal systems, i.e. the Netherlands, Germany, and the common law system of England and Wales;
- to understand and compare the main differences and similarities with regard to how criminal justice systems have regulated certain offences, such as homicide, property and sexual offences and to critically reflect on them;
- to analyse and understand the constituent elements and core concepts of homicide, property and sexual offences;
- to critically reflect on some basic philosophical aspects and (recent) historical developments related to principles of criminalisation and rules of criminal liability;
- to recognise and debate some societal and ethically relevant aspects of developments in substantive criminal law (e.g. terrorism, homicide, property, and sexual offences)
- to distil a problem in criminal law cases and to identify and apply the relevant rules and criteria in order to solve the cases (in a comparative way);
- to communicate and debate (during the tutorials and in writing) possible solutions of a criminal law case in a well-argued and substantiated way
- to evaluate different legal solutions to social issues .

Prerequisites

None

Recommended prior knowledge:

No specific prior knowledge on criminal law is required.

Recommended reading

The necessary reading material for this course consists of the following:

- A handbook: J. Keiler & D. Roef (eds.), *Comparative Concepts of Criminal Law*, Cambridge, Intersentia, 2025.
- A reading list (e-reader) with required literature.

Philosophy of Private Law

Faculty of Law

LAW2201

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

A.D. OnA.M. Waltermann

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Presentation

Keywords:

Kantian ethics, utilitarianism, human flourishing, autonomy, responsibility, freedom, Justice, private law theory, civil liability, nuisance, wrongful life & wrongful birth, legal pluralism, Numerus clausus, freedom of contract

Full course description

Philosophy of Private law introduces students to the philosophical underpinnings of private law and specific private law doctrines. It aims to enable them to use philosophical (especially normative) theories to critically reflect on and evaluate private law arrangements.

In this course, students will not only recapitulate and further reflect on the knowledge of philosophical traditions already studied in Foundations of Law and the private law doctrines studied in Introduction to Private law and Private Law: in addition, they will acquire knowledge of the most dominant philosophical traditions of justice that inform private law debates and acquire knowledge of normatively salient private law doctrines and their philosophical underpinnings.

Course objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to

- Describe and discuss various doctrines of private law;
- Describe and discuss the most dominant philosophical traditions of justice that inform private law debates;
- Discover and explain philosophical underpinnings of and in private law;

- Analyse and evaluate private law arrangements using philosophical (in particular normative) theories;
- Understand the plurality and multi-level systemic nature of legal norms in private law.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite:

- Introduction to Private Law (PRI1201) and
- Foundations of Law (MET1201)

Recommended prior knowledge

Basic knowledge of private law (as acquired in Introduction to Private Law and Private Law) and basic knowledge of philosophical (normative) approaches (as acquired in Foundations of Law).

Recommended reading

Reader & other materials shared on Canvas

Conflict Prevention and Resolution

Faculty of Law

SLC2004

Semester 2:

2 Feb 2026

3 Jul 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

M.T. Kawakami

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment

Keywords:

Growth Mindset, Biases & Heuristics, Role of Emotions in Conflicts, Storytelling & Perspective Taking, Inter- & Cross-Cultural Sensitivity, Critical, Creative & Strategic Thinking, Positionality & Reflexivity, Cultural Allegiance & Empathy Circle, Emotional & Conversational Intelligence, Non-Legal Solutions & Outside the Box Thinking, Trust & Community Building, Apology & Forgiveness, Short Term v. Long Term Strategies, Claiming Value v. Creating Value, Alternative Dispute Resolution (Negotiation, mediation, Arbitration), Moot Court

Full course description

This is a 14-week course divided into three sections all revolving around the topic of conflict prevention & resolution:

- Weeks 1-5: Theories behind conflict prevention & resolution;
- Weeks 6-9: Mechanisms for conflict resolution; and
- Weeks 10-14: Legal challenge (aka “the moot court”).

We hope to present you with ideas and theories about how conflicts form and how we can make (practical) changes to mitigate their negative impacts. In doing so, we want to encourage our students to reframe conflicts as potential opportunities for learning and growth. We will take a very holistic approach to achieve this goal by collecting insights from fields diverse as psychology, neuroscience, behavioral economics, anthropology, sociology and more.

The course will not only help you build a foundational understanding of conflict prevention and resolution but will provide ample opportunities for you to practice (or wrestle with) the theories during our tutorials.

Teaching methods

- For better or worse, we are **NOT permitted to have lectures** for this course; however, if there is enough demand from the students, we will create videos and offer office hours in lieu of lectures.
- We are scheduled for **3-hour tutorials** each week for 14 weeks, which sound a bit brutal, but each tutorial will consist of active challenges/tasks (in the hopes of not boring you half to death).
- Your homework each week will be to:
 - prepare for these tasks before the tutorials; and
 - conduct a bit of post-mortem/reflection about the exercise for your PebblePad Portfolio after the tutorial.
- The aim of our course is NOT to cram as much knowledge as possible in the limited amount of time that we have. We want you to – if at all possible – have fun while learning and feel inspired to learn something new. In other words, we want you to be intrinsically motivated. How we can best do that is something we will figure out together in this course.

Assessment methods

For better or for worse, this course is graded on a pass/fail scale. The three “graded” assignments are in Weeks 5, 9 and 14 (at the end of each section).

- Week 5: Creating Your Conflict Prevention & Resolution Tool Kit;
- Week 9: Analyzing Your Preferred Method of Conflict Resolution; and
- Week 14: Moot Court Memorandum & Oral Pleading.

Specific instructions about the moot court and the memorandum & oral pleading assignment will follow in Week 10. As for the other two assignments, think of it as a paper/essay (in the range of 1,500-2,000 words), where you will have to think about what you’ve learned in the previous weeks and assess how that content will (or will not) help you as you progress in your career.

Attendance is strongly encouraged (as there will be a series of group exercises during the tutorials that you will have to reflect upon for the weekly homework). In exchange for your commitment to attend the tutorials, we will do our utmost to make it worth your while. To facilitate this goal, we will set up an “online suggestion and feedback box” that will be running before and during the course so that we can incorporate your inputs on a rolling basis.

For those of you that managed to read all of the above, we leave you with an easter egg: A clearly upset daughter says to her dad, “Dad! Are you even listening to me?!” to which the dad responds, “Well, that’s an interesting way to start a conversation.” It’s a dad joke about (not) listening. You’re welcome.

Course objectives

At its core, this course aims to help students become better problem-solvers. During the first part of the course, we will attempt to (re)discover: 1) what it is that we want for ourselves, 2) how we can

resolve our differences with others, and 3) how we can engage or galvanize the community around us in furtherance of our shared goals. We attempt to do so by developing a growth mindset, learning how to tell our unique stories (while taking perspective of others), and much more.

To validate this approach, I borrow the hallowed words of Bill Ury, the co-founder of the Harvard Program on Negotiation: “If we can figure out how to unlock all three kinds of potential together – the potential that lies within the parties, the potential that lies between the parties, and the potential that lies around them – I believe that will give us our best chance for dealing with the intractable conflicts that we face.”

In the second part of the course, we will cover the basics of negotiation, mediation, and arbitration and discuss how the selection of the conflict resolution mechanism and various procedural considerations can impact the substantive outcome of the conflict. The third and final part of the course will be the moot court, where students get to try their hands in litigating a conflict. While the course will generally encourage students to avoid litigation to the extent possible, we will nevertheless cover the basics of drafting an effective legal memorandum and pleading in a convincing manner relying on knowledge we acquired in the first two sections of the course.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites:

- Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning (SLC1001) and
- Thinking Like a Lawyer (SLC1002)

Recommended prior knowledge:

No prior knowledge required. Just come in with an open mind and be prepared to get comfortable with discomfort (whatever that means).

Recommended reading

William Ury, *Getting to Yes*

Criminal Procedure

Faculty of Law

CRI2202

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

C. Peristeridou

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Work in subgroups

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

criminal procedure, Comparative Law, ECHR, procedural & defence rights, fair trial, coercive measures, theories of legitimacy of criminal procedure

Full course description

Criminal justice systems across the globe face similar challenges, yet their solutions to these obstacles might differ for a variety of reasons. This course introduces the students to the most salient aspects of criminal procedure from a comparative perspective: investigative measures, arrest and pre-trial detention, out of court settlements, prosecution and the criminal trial. The goal of the course is two-fold: First, it strives to present the main features of criminal procedure. The reader shall find the most topical measures, principles, rights and procedures of criminal process. Special attention is also paid to jurisprudence from the European Court of Human Rights which will be used structurally throughout the course. Second, because describing the criminal process is not sufficient, this course further explores why criminal procedure looks the way it does, by dissecting the *raison d'être* and choices behind legislation and practice. Accordingly, the procedural phenomena present in various criminal justice systems are discussed mainly through reference to the legal systems of Germany, the Netherlands and England and Wales, although sometimes other systems will also be presented. Whereas criminal justice systems may differ greatly, many of the issues they face are the same.

Course objectives

- Recognise and understand the main concepts, stages, rules and principles/rights of criminal procedure of the legal systems presented in the course;
- Compare the main differences and similarities of how criminal justice systems organise and regulate criminal procedure;
- Distil from the presented legal systems abstract common features and generalising them into legal families or traditions, especially in relation to inquisitorial and adversarial traditions.
- Analyse and debate how competing political motivations (crime control or protection of rights), historical elements and social constructs might influence coercive measures and the organisation of trial;
- Distinguish and comprehend the conditions for applying selected coercive measures and the strategies of different systems to put in place safeguards for coercive measures;
- Diagnose with a critical mind the challenges of criminal procedure and derive the broader philosophical context within which developments in criminal procedure manifest
- Relate developments especially of coercive measures with broader social context
- Map out and assess the legal standards found in the ECHR, outline the leading jurisprudence of the ECtHR in those issues and analyse the level of legal standards provided by the ECHR.
- Comprehend at an introductory level of the existence of EU instruments influencing criminal procedure;
- Develop important skills, i.e. learn how to summarize and dissect case law, how to analyse legislation on criminal procedure and how to solve practical case studies.
- Argue a case from multiple perspectives and solve conflicts in a well argued way.

Prerequisites

N/A

Recommended prior knowledge

Substantive criminal law

Recommended reading

Peristeridou, C., & Klip, A. (Eds.) (2024). *Comparative Perspectives of Criminal Procedure*. Intersentia.

Administrative Law

Faculty of Law

PUB2201

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

C.M. Colombo

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Administrative law; principles; administrative action; access to court; remedies against the administration; comparative law.

Full course description

The primary functions of administrative law are: a) power-establishing - to enable the government to put its policies into effect; b) power-checking - to keep the powers of the government within their legal boundaries, so as to protect those affected (citizens and companies) against their abuse.

The course Administrative Law provides an introduction to these functions of administrative law. It will also discuss the main characteristics and nuances that each of these functions can take in selected legal systems representing the main families of administrative law systems in Europe, namely France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom (mainly England and Wales). The course concentrates on the following themes: 1) the administrative decision-making process and its outcome (the forms of administrative action); 2) the general principles regulating administrative decision-making and the concept of discretion; 3) the access to administrative courts; 4) the remedies against abuses of the administration.

Course objectives

Throughout this course, students will be able to explain and discuss the main concepts/structuring themes of administrative law. They will also be able to critically examine these themes as they

develop in legal systems representing the main families of administrative law systems in Europe - France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK. Furthermore, they will be able to compare specific differences and similarities between these four administrative law systems, as well as others. Finally, the course will instruct students to use administrative law to address legal issues in multiple legal systems.

Prerequisites

N/A

Recommended reading

- A reader
- Casebook Judicial Review of Administrative Action – the Maastricht Edition (Hart, 2020)
- Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of Comparative Administrative Law: An Introduction (by Giulio Napolitano and Leonardo Parona), Edward Elgar Publishing 2025.

Final Legal Challenge

Faculty of Law

SLC3001

Semester 1:

1 Sep 2025

31 Aug 2026

Credits:

12.0

Coordinator:

S.N. Tas

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Portfolio, Assignment, Presentation and paper

Keywords:

Legal research; Legal methodology; Academic writing; Legal writing; Oral presentation; Independent Learning.

Full course description

The module builds upon the foundations established in *Skills Development and Legal Challenge I, II and III* and serves as the culmination of students' academic legal skill development. Throughout their studies, students have gained a strong understanding of the technical aspects of academic research, including methodology, argumentation, and legal analysis. This module provides them with the opportunity to apply this knowledge by conducting independent legal research on a selected topic. While the research process is carried out individually, the Final Legal Challenge module incorporates a collaborative element through three team-meetings. These meetings include peer feedback, encourage academic discussions and allow students to refine their work.

By the end of the course, students will have demonstrated their ability to conduct rigorous legal research, articulate well-reasoned arguments, and present their findings in a clear and structured bachelor thesis, as well as orally in a presentation. In addition, students have demonstrated their capacity to plan, execute, and evaluate their approach to independent learning. The Final Legal Challenge thus represents the final step in their journey to become a European jurist in a globalised world.

Teaching method: PBL; student portfolio

Course objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Identify relevant sources and methodologies.
2. Conduct independent, in-depth legal research.
3. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a specific (legal) issue.
4. Describe and analyse written sources and critically engage with them.
5. Formulate a clear and focused research question.
6. Apply relevant methodologies.
7. Develop and present a well-structured, strong and sound argumentation.
8. Form a reasoned conclusion.
9. Apply proper citation practices.
10. Provide and receive feedback.
11. Present and summarise their findings orally.
12. Plan, execute, and evaluate their own approach to learning, with an attitude appropriate for life-long learning.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites:

Legal Research (SLC2003)

Recommended prior knowledge:

N/A

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

Laura Lammasniemi, Law dissertations: a step-by-step guide (Routledge 2022)

Recommended reading:

N/A

Foundations of International Human Rights

Faculty of Law

IER3009

Period 1:

1 Sep 2025

24 Oct 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

J.A. Sellin

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Participation

Keywords:

Human rights law; the UN human rights system; civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; equality and non-discrimination; State obligations; limiting human rights; human rights protections for specific groups; procedural mechanisms to monitor state compliance.

Full course description

“Human rights law is a complex but compelling subject that fascinates students but also confuses them” (Bantekas & Oette, 2013). Human rights are a universal language intended to end discrimination and violence, reduce human suffering and promote human development. However, the gap between universal principles and national practice is difficult to comprehend.

In this course we examine the nature and scope of international human rights standards; the obligations of states (under international law) to uphold these; and the mechanisms in place to transform national injustices into international concerns. Our focus is on the international human rights system created within the framework of the United Nations. We will delve deeper into the (legal) meaning of different human rights and corresponding state obligations addressing both civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. Special attention is paid to the principle of non-discrimination and what this means for different groups, such as women and persons with disabilities. In addition, we will examine the procedural mechanisms created within the UN system to ensure State compliance.

The course reflects the problem-based learning (PBL) approach that promotes student-centred learning. Teaching and learning activities are designed in such a way to actively engage you in constructing your own understanding of international human rights law by working with real-life situations that reflect relevant and professional context. Active participation and collaboration are a key part of problem-based learning because learning improves when you do it together. Finally, you are responsible for your own learning and expected to engage with the learning materials through independent, self-directed study.

You will have one 2-hour tutorial meeting and one 2-hour lecture per week on campus.

The weekly plenary **lectures** have two main objectives. First the lectures intend to provide you with an overview of the key legal concepts discussed in this course. Second, they provide you with opportunities to ask questions for further clarification or elaboration. These open Q&A sessions will be interactive and mainly driven by your questions and comments. The regular lectures are (generally) recorded; however, the Q&A sessions are not.

Tutorials are devoted to a mixture of tasks, including problem tasks which are aimed at generating a deeper understanding of the law and the ways in which it can/should be applied to real-life cases and situations, discussion tasks which are aimed at practicing your debating skills and generating a deeper understanding of the general topic by identifying different perspectives that can be taken with respect to a particular topic, and finally review questions which are aimed to help you understand the materials. Through this range of tasks, you will learn to work with, and argue on the basis of, the treaties and the interpretative work of treaty bodies (General Comments/Recommendations), as well as explore academic work.

You are assessed on the basis of two separate components:

- A **written exam**, with problem-based and/or essay questions, accounting for 85% of your final grade. The exam intends to assess whether you meet the course intended learning outcomes.
- **Participation in a debate** during a tutorial session (in person), accounting for 15% of your final grade. This intends to assess whether you are able to debate current human rights-related topics and convincingly present your (counter) arguments in oral format. You will be working in a team but assessed individually on a pass/fail basis. Importantly, in the event that you do not pass the course during the first sit, your assessment for the debate remains valid during the resit. This means that there is no chance to resit the debate!

Course objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- identify, interpret and apply the main international (UN) human rights treaties and relevant documents related to the institutional framework of the UN.
- identify, apply and critically assess (foundational) human rights concepts, normative standards, state obligations and procedural mechanisms related to the UN human rights system.
- use, compare and contrast the UN treaty- and Charter-based mechanisms.
- examine and evaluate real-life situations of (potential) human rights violations in light of international human rights law.
- debate current human rights-related topics and convincingly present your (counter) arguments in oral format.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites:

N/A

Recommended prior knowledge:

International human rights law is a sub-system of international law. Consequently, the course presumes a basic understanding of the foundations of public international law – most notably subjects and sources of international law. It builds on the first-year *International & European Law* course within the European Law School bachelor programme.

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

Our main focus in the course is on the legal content (both substantive and procedural) of the UN human rights treaties, for which the following textbook presents general information and background reading:

MOECKLI , Daniel, *et al.* (eds.), *International Human Rights Law* , Oxford: OUP 2022 (Fourth Edition).

Except for the Moeckli textbook all other learning resources, such as human rights treaties and General Comments/Recommendations, used in the course are freely accessible online via the website of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights – <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/pages/home.aspx> .

EU Citizens Rights and Remedies in EU Law

Faculty of Law

IER3201

Period 1:

1 Sep 2025

24 Oct 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

F. Ristuccia

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assessment

Keywords:

EU Citizenship – Free movement of persons – Equal Treatment – Political Rights– Judicial Remedies – Non-Judicial Remedies

Full course description

EU citizenship is the “cherished child” of EU integration, but what are its implications in the European legal and political order?

The EU Treaties bestow citizens the **right to move and reside freely** across the Member States and to be **treated equally** with nationals of the host State, including to some extent in access to welfare. Mobility rights have also fundamental rights connotations, among which the right to family life, independently of the status as non-EU citizens of family members. However, Union citizenship rights come with inherent tensions. This is because control over national borders has historically been central to **State sovereignty**, the boundaries of social solidarity are a crucial yet open question in our societies, and individuals' fundamental rights may clash with Member States' interests.

What is more, citizenship is closely associated to political and **democratic rights** and to **participation in key constitutional and political decisions**. The same goes for Union citizenship in the EU system. And yet, the supranational nature of EU citizenship entails specific tensions and inevitable changes. The democratic participation of individuals to such a complex polity requires specific instruments to ensure that European integration does not alienate citizens, thus becoming an undemocratic endeavour.

Finally, **rights are of little use without appropriate remedies** . In the EU, the de-centralised enforcement of EU rights plays a key role. Nevertheless, remedying violations and correcting distorted applications of EU rights is not straightforward when the legal order is multi-layered and access to centralised European courts is limited. Here too, specific remedies, including extra-judicial ones, need to be analysed to make sure that rights in the books correspond to rights in practice. The course “EU citizenship: rights and remedies in EU law” intends to discuss all those questions and to provide a **deep understanding of the role and rights of EU citizenship in the EU legal order, fostering a critical reflection on conflicts, trade-offs but also opportunities of ensuring rights in multi-level polity** .

To achieve those objectives, the course proposes to complement the study of the **substantive rights** of EU citizens with the **institutional and procedural tools to enforce those rights** . Such a perspective appeals both to those who envisage a career as practitioners and to those interested in continuing their academic path.

This seven-weeks course requires students to *think creatively and critically* about the law, in order to learn **how rights work in practice** , what is their impact on the European legal system(s) and – ultimately – on society. To do so, we will consider legal issues within their **social, historical, geographical, and political context** , discussing **case studies** on topical issues, such as the rights of LGBTQAI+ families under free movement law, the controversial Golden Passport citizenship schemes, strategic litigation, or the emerging concept of digital citizenship.

Finally, there is no better place than Maastricht to study this crucial field of EU law: the symbolic connection to the Maastricht Treaty, which established EU citizenship, and the international classroom foster the synergies between legal inquiry and our own background experiences, allowing for a better grasp of the development of forms of citizenship and rights beyond national borders.

Assessment methods:

Participants will be assessed on the basis of a mid-term assessment and an exam at the end of the course. More details in the syllabus on Canvas.

Course objectives

By the end of this course, you will:

- gain a deep understanding of the free movement, political, democratic and fundamental rights of EU citizens;

- learn to apply and appraise the procedural remedies at national and EU level, judging whether they adequately protect individuals, and how EU citizenship law changes domestic legal systems;
- learn to discern and critically reflect on the evolution of EU citizenship law and its drivers in their societal and historical context, examining conflicts, tensions, and gaps specific to EU citizenship and its constitutional implications in the multi-level EU polity;
- learn how to skilfully read the case law and academic papers and independently conduct research.

More details on the intended learning outcomes (ILOs) in the syllabus on Canvas.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite:

- Law of the European Union (IER2201)

Prior knowledge of EU law both in its institutional dimension (i.e. competences and decision-making in the EU; institutions of the EU; judicial review) and substantive elements (i.e. law of the internal market and free movement); basic knowledge of constitutional law.

Readiness to **actively participate** in an informed group discussion based **on PBL principles** where students engage in contextual, constructive, **collaborative and self-directed** learning.

Recommended reading

The reading materials will consist of primary sources (legislation, case law, institutional documents) and secondary sources (excerpts of textbooks, selected scholarship in academic journals or books).

The readings will be specified in the syllabus on Canvas.

European Cooperation in Criminal Matters

Faculty of Law

LAW3012

Period 1:

1 Sep 2025

24 Oct 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

E.C. Loibl

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

European Criminal Justice Area, European Arrest Warrant, Cooperation in Criminal Matters, Area of Freedom Security and Justice

Full course description

This course examines cooperation between EU Member States in criminal matters, focusing on the evolution and functioning of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ). Students will explore how European integration has shaped cooperation across various stages of the criminal process, from investigation to enforcement.

Key European legal instruments will be analyzed, including the European Arrest Warrant, the European Supervision Order, and the European Protection Order, alongside relevant CJEU case law and EU legislation. The course will also cover core principles such as mutual recognition and ne bis in idem, and assess how these principles operate in practice.

Particular attention will be paid to the practical and legal implications of mutual recognition instruments and their impact on citizens' rights. Students will critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the emerging European Criminal Justice System.

Please note: the course focuses exclusively on judicial cooperation and does not cover the influence of EU law on national substantive criminal law. That subject is addressed in the master's course

Course objectives

- Identify the main EU instruments for cooperation in criminal matters and explain their function within the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.
- Apply mutual recognition instruments, such as the European Arrest Warrant and European Supervision Order, to practical case studies in cross-border criminal proceedings.
- Compare the legal scope and procedural requirements of various cooperation instruments and evaluate their effectiveness in practice.
- Analyse legal and human rights challenges arising from the application of EU criminal justice instruments in national contexts.
- Interpret relevant CJEU case law to determine the conditions for issuing and executing mutual recognition instruments.
- Assess the impact of EU criminal justice cooperation on national legal systems and formulate informed opinions on its implications for individuals and legal practitioners.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites:

- Law of the European Union (IER2201) and
- Criminal Procedure (CRI2202)

Recommended prior knowledge:

- A solid basis on criminal law and procedure, and EU law.
- Interest in cooperation in criminal matters
- Readiness to participate in group sessions based on PBL

Recommended reading

Recommended reading:

N/A

Mandatory reading:

- André Klip, European Criminal Law, Intersentia Antwerpen, 2021 4th edition
- Materials on European Criminal Law, Intersentia Antwerpen, 2022, 4th edition

Intellectual Property in the Digital Single Market

Faculty of Law

LAW3018

Period 1:

1 Sep 2025

24 Oct 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

A. Moerland

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Presentation and paper

Keywords:

Copyright, trade marks, patents, unfair competition, digital enforcement, freedom of expression

Full course description

This course frames the understanding of intellectual property in the context of the Digital Single Market as a central EU policy. It follows closely the EU's policy on intellectual property in the Digital Single Market, and gives students tools to understand and work with that policy in their future professional lives.

The course will familiarize students with intellectual property areas and principles, through knowledge clips, interactive lectures and tutorials. The aim is two-fold: first, students are provided with an understanding of the EU's legal regime concerning the intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks and copyright), which will encompass an overview of the legislation, case law, and legislative background of these IP rights.

Second, through specialised lectures, among others by guest lecturers, students deal with specific intellectual property issues in the Digital Single Market, such as the online enforcement of IP rights, IP protection for video games, etc.. These lectures will be given by invited lecturers who are experts in the particular topics covered.

Another part of this course is that students deepen and specialize their knowledge and understanding of intellectual property in the context of the Digital Single Market through a mock trial in week 5, in which students apply their knowledge and understanding and practice their oral presentation and writing skills.

Teaching methods: PBL

Knowledge clips, interactive lectures, tutorials and mock trial (written submission and oral pleading)

Assessment methods

Written Exam; Mock Trial (presentation and paper)

Course objectives

- Identify, analyze, and use sources of international and European intellectual property law;
- Recognize and critically reflect upon the role EU intellectual property law plays in the Digital Single Market;
- Compare and contrast the different rationales of intellectual property rights, and apply them in the context of the Digital Single Market;
- Understand and apply the legal concepts underpinning the EU regimes for trade marks, patents, copyright and digital enforcement of rights, in particular of the aspects of acquisition of rights, scope of protection and infringement;
- Compare and contrast the EU regimes for trade marks, patents, copyright and digital enforcement of rights with international and national legal systems;
- Use the acquired knowledge and solve legal problems and recent practical cases, particularly as part of a team project to prepare a written brief and orally argue a case concerning intellectual property rights listed above;
- Present convincing argumentation in writing and orally, depending on the position allocated;

Prerequisites

N/A

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

Kur, Annette, Dreier, Thomas, & Luginbühl, Stefan. (2019). *European intellectual property law: text, cases and materials* (Second edition). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Recommended reading:

- WIPO, What is IP, 2020 https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_450_2020.pdfLinks to an

[external site.](#)

- WIPO, Understanding Intellectual Property, 2016 <https://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4080>[Links to an external site.](#)
- WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook 2004 <https://tind.wipo.int/record/28661>[Links to an external site.](#)

Comparative legal history of the Limbourgish Territories

Faculty of Law

MET3006

Period 1:

1 Sep 2025

24 Oct 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

B. van Hofstraeten

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Presentation

Keywords:

Comparative legal history; research skills; legal history of the Meuse-Rhine EUregion, 16th-18th centuries.

Full course description

In the Early Modern Period (16th-18th centuries) the Meuse-Rhine region was divided in many autonomous territories like the duchies of Gueldres, the prince-bishopric of Liege, the city of Maastricht etc. Most of these territories underwent a process of legal modernization in this period. One of the most important features of this process was the recording of customary law, as ordered by the sovereigns of these territories. Although the compilers in those territories made use of the Corpus Iuris Civilis as a subsidiary law source, they found different solutions for comparable legal problems, resulting in different mixtures of customary, legislation and Roman law, which were studied in regional legal treatises and jurisprudence in the following period. Such contemporary treatises enable us to study similarities and differences in the legal systems of the Meuse-Rhine territories.

Assessment methods

Paper (70%) and presentation (30%)

Course objectives

1. Acquisition of necessary skills in the field of comparative legal history research

(application):

- problem definition and research design: how to choose a topic which is relevant for comparison
- read, translate and interpret primary legal sources of the early modern period (written in Middle Dutch and Middle French)
- compare and describe two or three legal systems of the Meuse-Rhine Euregion
- frame one's observations in a broader theoretical framework in order to review and evaluate (by means of comparative research) generally accepted or disputed theses and views in the field of European legal history

2. Acquisition of insight in the legal history of the Meuse-Rhine Euregion (understanding)

- outline general legal history of the Meuse-Rhine Euregion
- identify, describe and explain specificities of legal history of the Meuse-Rhine Euregion within a wider European context

Prerequisites

Elementary legal history; advanced (passive) knowledge of French and/or Dutch is an indispensable (!) prerequisite.

Recommended reading

Recommended literature is referred to in the course book.

Criminal Sciences and Policy

Faculty of Law

CRI3201

Period 2:

27 Oct 2025

19 Dec 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

R. Hofmann

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Final paper

Keywords:

Criminal law, Criminology, Criminal Justice

Full course description

Criminal Sciences and Policy offers an interdisciplinary deep dive into how crime is defined, explained, and governed. Bridging law, criminology, and the social sciences, this course equips students with the tools to critically examine criminal justice systems in Europe, and beyond. What counts as crime—and who decides? Why do people commit crimes? How should societies respond? This course tackles these fundamental questions through seven weekly tutorials and lectures. Students explore topics such as the social construction of crime, leading criminological theories, punishment and penology, victimology and gender-based violence, sex work policies, organized crime and money laundering, and the (mis)use of forensic science and profiling. Although the course integrates perspectives from criminology, sociology, and psychology, its foundation remains in legal analysis. Emphasis is placed on the development and reform of criminal policy, with attention to ethics, human rights, and the social impact of justice systems. Students also gain an introductory understanding of empirical legal research and how it informs legal debate and policy-making.

Using a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) approach, students engage in dynamic, student-led discussions grounded in real-world case studies—ranging from the legalization of cannabis to the role of AI in sentencing. Each session is accompanied by lectures given by a variety of experts from the criminal law department.

Assessment includes a final written exam and active participation in tutorials. This course is ideal for students considering a Master's in criminal law or criminology, particularly those interested in combining doctrinal knowledge with critical and empirical insights.

Course objectives

- Introduce students to the interdisciplinary study of crime and criminal policy, combining legal, criminological, and social scientific perspectives to foster a deeper understanding of how crime is defined, explained, and regulated.
- Develop students' ability to critically assess the rationale, effectiveness, and fairness of criminal justice policies, particularly in relation to controversial or evolving issues such as drug regulation, prostitution, organized crime, and the use of forensic evidence.
- Familiarize students with core criminological theories and their application to real-life case studies, encouraging analytical thinking about the causes of crime and the social responses to it.
- Encourage students to engage with contemporary debates in criminal justice, including the ethical and legal challenges posed by technological developments like artificial intelligence and predictive policing.
- Introduce basic empirical research methods relevant to criminal justice and legal policy, and promote awareness of how data and evidence inform criminal law reforms, enforcement practices, and public discourse.

Prerequisites

Pre-requisites:

N/A

Recommended prior knowledge:

N/A

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

TBD

Recommended reading:

N/A

Law and art

Faculty of Law

IER3004

Period 2:

27 Oct 2025

19 Dec 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

L.P.W. van Vliet

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Final paper

Keywords:

Art law, cultural heritage protection, looted art, restitution and return, fakes, misrepresentation, Colonialism, warranty of title, provenance

Full course description

In Law and Art - The Free Movement of Cultural Property we take a closer look at the legal dimension of the art trade, the protection of cultural heritage from various threats, and the different points at which law and cultural heritage intersect. Artworks speak to our imagination and either fascinate or irritate (or bore) us. In the public discourse works of art are described and valued for different reasons: their uniqueness, their representation of the artistic genius, expressions of the human condition... These values we ascribe to art can also lead to it being endangered during conflicts, stolen, looted, forged, or even purposefully destroyed.

Beside their artistic and historic value, art works are also goods: material objects that can be valued in money and are traded across the globe. This international element of the trade renders regulation and enforcement across legal borders difficult, and actors in the illicit trade of cultural objects take full advantage of this. Since artworks are relatively easy to take across borders, stolen or looted art objects can show up all over the globe. To add to the difficulties, laws affecting the art trade differ from country to country. This is especially true for export regulations, the rules on the bona fide purchase and limitation periods. For example, the position of the bona fide purchaser is a delicate issue. Who should be protected and for how long? Must a bona fide purchaser return a stolen or

looted painting to the original owner? Which law applies if more than one jurisdiction is involved? Which international obligations exist? Are there just and fair solutions for these types of disputes? These examples show that this course deals with many different areas of law: International and European law, Private and Private International Law, Public as well as Criminal Law and criminology. However, you can easily widen the legal fields having a relation to the art market, such as for example Intellectual Property Law or Tax Law, which will not be addressed directly during the course.

Assessment:

Participants will be assessed on the basis of an exam at the end of the course.

Course objectives

After completing this course, students can:

- identify the special role and treatment of works of art in a variety of related legal issues.
- outline the evolution of international cultural heritage law and summarize its main instruments.
- discuss the legal difficulties of regulating the (i)licit trade in art and the protection of art and cultural heritage from forgeries and destruction.
- analyse the private (international) law issues relevant to artworks.
- rate the compatibility of laws on cultural heritage with European and international standards.

This course is also part of an interfaculty MINOR – Art, Law and Policy Making

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of law is important even if this course is open for students of the faculties of LAW, Arts and Culture and UCM and Erasmus students. Students who have no background in law should in any case read the recommended literature before the course starts.

Recommended reading

The course uses a mix of literature which is available through the library and reference list. No additional literature needs to be purchased.

Non-law students are advised to consult the following book: Hage, Jaap, Waltermann, Antonia M., Akkermans, Bram (Eds.), Introduction to Law, Springer 2017, available as ebook in the UM Library.

European Human Rights

Faculty of Law

LAW2006

Period 2:

27 Oct 2025

19 Dec 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

S. Imamovic

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Presentation

Keywords:

Human rights; Council of Europe; ECHR; ECtHR.

Full course description

The aim of this course is to study the system of human rights protection in Europe, in particular the system established by the Council of Europe's European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR or Convention). This regional human rights system, now over 70 years old, is widely considered to be the most effective human rights system in the world, and to have generated some of the most extensive and important jurisprudence on human rights issues. Its case law has been influential and has been cited by human rights courts and constitutional courts across the globe.

This course examines various Convention rights such as the right to life, freedom from torture, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression. In this context, the key principles underpinning the decisions made by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR or Strasbourg Court) including the principles of effectiveness, proportionality and subsidiarity are analysed. Lastly, the relationship between the ECHR system and the developing human rights system of the EU is considered.

Assessment methods

Final exam with essay questions and a case study

Course objectives

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- comprehend the main aspects of the ECHR legal system and its relationship with the EU;
- analyse the case law of the ECtHR;
- present analysis of an ECtHR's judgment in oral format;
- apply ECHR law to hypothetical cases;
- assess the relevance of the case law of the ECtHR in light of current societal challenges.

Prerequisites

Pre-requisites:

N/A

Recommended prior knowledge:

Basic knowledge of EU law, constitutional law and (international) human rights law

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

B. Rainey, E. Wicks and C. Ovey (eds), Jacobs, White, and Ovey: The European Convention on Human Rights, OUP (latest edition).

Recommended reading:

- Harris, O'Boyle & Warbrick (eds), Law of the European Convention on Human Rights (latest edition).
- Janneke Gerards, General Principles of the European Convention on Human Rights (latest edition).
- Janneke Gerards, Europees Verdrag voor de Rechter van de Mens (EVRM), algemene beginselen, studenteneditie (latest edition).
- Louis-Edmond Pettiti, Emmanuel Decaux & Pierre-Henri Imbert, La Convention Européenne des Droits de l'Homme : commentaire article par article (latest edition).
- Jochen Frowein & Wolfgang Peukert, Europäische Menschenrechtskonvention: EMRK-Kommenar (latest edition).

Law and Neurosciences

Faculty of Law

LAW3021

Period 2:

27 Oct 2025

19 Dec 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

D. Roef

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Presentation

Keywords:

Criminal law, neurosciences, human rights

Full course description

This course introduces you to the relatively new interdisciplinary field of law, neuroscience and philosophy (in short: neurolaw). By using an integrative approach students are invited to study some potential applications, but also limitations of neuroscience in the field of law, more in particular criminal law and human rights law. On a more philosophical level the course also explores how neuroscientific research may challenge the foundations and conditions of criminal liability. The main themes of the course include the following: the neuroscientific challenge to free will and legal responsibility; the scientific and legal view on human agency and personhood; the problem of neuroreductionism (reducing mental states and behaviour to brain states); diagnosing and assessing mental capacities (in light of the insanity defence); addiction; neuroscience and violence, coercive brain-based lie detection and human rights, and finally, we will also focus on some criminological and ethical aspects and the rehabilitative use of neuroscientific techniques.

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, you must be able to:

- understand the basic conditions of criminal liability and how neuroscientific research may challenge these conditions;
- understand the different philosophical positions on the free will and determinism debate;

- reflect on the neuroscientific challenges to free will, human agency and legal responsibility;
 - understand the relevance and limitations of neuroscientific techniques as a diagnostic tool in order to determine mental capacities and disabilities, with a particular focus on the insanity defence;
 - critically reflect on the use of science and the legal image of man;
 - assess the value and limitations of neuroscientific evidence in court cases, especially regarding lie-detection;
 - explore how coercive neuro-technologies (brain-reading) raise fundamental questions for human rights (right to respect for private life and the privilege against self-incrimination);
 - reflect on the value of neuroscientific techniques as a predictive tool for risk assessment;
- reflect on the use of neuroscientific techniques (brain interventions) to modify the brain in order to enhance people's responsibility

Prerequisites

N/A

Recommended prior knowledge:

Although there are no prerequisites for this course, we expect good English language and writing skills. Also, some basic legal knowledge is necessary to understand the main topics of this course. Therefore, in the first two weeks some introductory lectures will be given to recapitulate the basic concepts of criminal law, (especially for students without any knowledge of law).

One is also required to study additionally

- chapters 4, 5 and 6 (only on insanity defence) from J. Keiler & D. Roef (eds.), *Comparative Concepts of Criminal Law*, Cambridge, Intersentia, 2025.

This additional literature will be made available in a reader.

Students report spending an average of 12-15 hours for each session.

Recommended reading

The literature for this course consists of state-of-the-art articles on neurolaw. It is indicated for each session which reading materials should be studied beforehand. Here are some examples of relevant literature. It may be interesting to have a look at some of these sources so that you have an idea on the nature of the reading materials.

- U. Maoz & G. Yaffe, 'What does recent neuroscience tell us about criminal responsibility?' *Journal of Law and the Biosciences*, 2015, 120-139;
- M.S. Pardo & D. Patterson, *Minds, Brains, and Law. The Conceptual Foundations of Law and Neuroscience*, Oxford University Press, 2015, p.1-42; 79-140.
- S. Morse, 'Determinism and the Death of Folk Psychology: Two Challenges to Responsibility From Neuroscience', *J.L.Sci & Techn.*, 2008, 1-20;

- C. Korponay & M. Koenigs, 'The neurobiology of antisocial and amoral behaviour: insights from brain science and implications for law' in A. Moratti & D.M. Patterson, *Legal insanity and the brain: science, law and European courts*, Oregon, Oxford and Portland, 2016, 9-37;
- A. Poldrack, J. Monahan, P.B. Imrey, V. Reyna, M.E. Raichle, D. Faigman and J. W. Buckholz, 'Predicting Violent Behavior: What Can Neuroscience Add?', *Trends in Cognitive Science*, 2018, Vol. 22, No. 2, p. 111-123;
- F.X. Shen & O.D. Jones, 'Brain Scans as Evidence: Truths, Proofs, Lies and Lessons', *Mercer Law Review* ,2011, 861-883;
- S. Lighthart, Th. Douglas, C. Bublitz, T. Kooijmans and G. Meynen, 'Forensic Brain-Reading and Mental Privacy in European Human Rights Law: Foundations and Challenges', *Neuroethics*, 2020.

European Legal History in a Global Context

Faculty of Law

MET3201

Period 2:

27 Oct 2025

19 Dec 2025

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

A. Parise

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Portfolio, Oral exam

Keywords:

Codifications, Colonialism, Comparative Law, European Union, Globalisation, Human Rights, International Instruments, Legal History, Legal Humanism, Natural law

Full course description

The course trains you as a 21st century jurist by offering a global and comparative historical dimension to law. The academic journey starts in Rome and continues with the reception of Roman law in the Western world. The journey then deals with the emergence of Canon law, Legal Humanism, Natural law, and national codifications; and finalizes with the establishment of the EU.

Attention is devoted also to occurrences beyond Europe: the transplantation of European legal concepts and ideas into the Americas; the dissemination of the common law as a consequence of colonialism; the circulation of legal concepts and ideas with and from Asia and Africa; and the building of a framework of international instruments to deal with global needs, such as human rights, migration, and commercial needs.

The course offers you a fertile ground and a toolbox to become an European jurist in a globalising world. History is indeed one of the three pillars for the scientific study of law, the other two being the dogmatic study of current law and the philosophical study of what law ought to be. History is intrinsic to law, and hence it is impossible to fully understand the law when neglecting history. The course likewise trains you as an European jurist in a globalising world, attaining an intercultural

experience. It further aims to stimulate you as a member of society, being member of a global community.

Assessment methods:

You will be assessed by means of an oral presentation and a dossier. There, you will engage with primary and secondary sources, and will be expected to engage in self-reflection and in peer-feedback.

Course objectives

When completing the course, you will be able to:

- **understand** the global dimension of European legal history while building on the philosophical and theoretical knowledge gained in the previous years;
- **explain** the continuity of law across time in Europe and its relation to the circulation of legal ideas, philosophies, models, and theories;
- **identify** legal historical events that have shaped current laws and that can serve as tools to interpret current and future developments of the laws of Europe and beyond;
- **draw connections** between legal historical events at a global level, looking beyond Europe;
- **formulate** scholarly opinions on the role of law in the shaping of society as a consequence of the circulation of legal ideas, models, and theories across time and space; and
- **design** solutions for societal problems benefiting from the holistic comprehension of the different meta-juridical dimensions of law in Europe, being imbedded in a constantly evolving global scenario that is shaped by the historical circulation of legal ideas, philosophies, models, and theories.

Prerequisites

N/A

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

- Aniceto Masferrer et al (eds.), *A Companion to Western Legal Traditions: From Antiquity to the Twentieth Century*, Leiden: Brill 2023 (to be made available for free in Student Portal)
- Selection of readings in Reference List (to be made available for free in Student Portal)

Recommended reading:

- Tamar Herzog, *A Short History of European Law: The Last Two and a Half millennia*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press 2018
- Randall Lesaffer, *European Legal History: A Cultural and Political Perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2009 (or later edition)

EU Law and Inequality

Faculty of Law

IER3202

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

L. Díez Sánchez

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Presentation

Keywords:

EU law, equality, inequality, distribution, social

Full course description

Inequality within and between countries has become a prominent concern in the aftermath of European integration. This course explores how the EU legal system deals with inequality, and how this has evolved over time. To this end, and after a methodological introduction, the course delves into specific areas of activity of the EU (non-discrimination, state aid, social policy, cohesion policy, common agricultural policy, and COVID-19 recovery instruments) to explain the EU legal instruments that affect the distribution of benefits and burdens between individuals and between countries.

Throughout seven weeks, you will learn how the EU is more than simply an internal market in which people, goods and capital move around: it is also a system that shapes peoples' opportunities to live a good life through policies and legislation that redistribute money between territories, and through rules on how individuals should be treated in such a system.

Course objectives

In this course, you will:

- Analyse EU policies that affect the distribution of wealth and opportunities between different collectives;

- Learn how to solve legal challenges that emerge in the development and implementation of such policies;
- Examine and evaluate relevant legal and academic materials in relation to EU law and one or several dimensions of inequality.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites:

- Law of the European Union (IER2201) (in the case of exchange students, an equivalent course on foundational aspects of EU law).

Recommended prior knowledge:

- EU institutional law
- EU substantive law

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

TBD

Recommended reading:

- The reading materials will consist of primary sources (legislation, case law, institutional documents) and secondary sources (excerpts of textbooks, selected scholarship in academic journals or books).
- The readings will be specified in the syllabus.

Law of the United Nations

Faculty of Law

IER3203

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

C.M. Eggett

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

United Nations, International law, Security Council, General Assembly, International Court of Justice

Full course description

This central aim of this course is to explore the practice of international law within the framework of the United Nations (UN). In the first weeks, students will study the history of the UN, its structure, and some foundational questions about the UN as an organisation and its constituent instrument, the UN Charter. In the rest of the course, students explore the law and practice of three of the UN's principal organs: the General Assembly (UNGA), the Security Council (UNSC), and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). With respect to each of these organs, this course examines the basic rules and procedures that govern their function, considers the practice of these organs, and seeks to encourage students to reflect on their role in contemporary international law.

Assessment method:

- Final exam (70%)
- Assignment (30%)

Course objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the history, nature, and structure of the UN.

- Explain the different kinds of entities that make up the UN and understand the relationships between them.
- Work with the core legal texts of the UN, including the UN Charter and the ICJ Statute. Students should also be able to solve case studies on the basis of such texts.
- Analyse the practice of the UNGA, UNSC, and ICJ.
- Critically reflect on the strengths and weakness of the UN and its constituent organs, and their place in the international legal system.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended prior knowledge

Basic knowledge of Public International Law.

Recommended reading

Course Reader/Statute Book.

Legal Analytics

Faculty of Law

LAW3025

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

R. Nanda

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Presentation, Assignment

Keywords:

legal analytics, research design, data science, data analysis, data visualization, Python programming, statistical inference

Full course description

The world is increasingly dominated by information technology and data. Economic and social relations are digitised. Technological innovation is already disrupting the practice of law and the legal professions. In Legal Analytics, you will learn how to use legal information as data and apply quantitative methods to law. The computational approach to law of this course provides an understanding about how data science techniques can help improve our understanding of the law and may help design innovative legal services and legal solutions.

In this course, you will learn about the following major topics:

- Introduction to Legal Analytics
- Quantitative Research Design
- Data and the Data Science Pipeline
- Exploratory Data Analysis
- Visualization
- Statistical Inference

Teaching methods : Lectures and tutorials. Additionally, AI tools and online courses in DataCamp Academic will be used for learning Python.

Course objectives

Upon completion of the course, a student is able to:

- Explain and apply fundamental concepts and principles of data-driven research;
- Explain and apply fundamental concepts of statistics and data science;
- Clean and manipulate a dataset in Python;
- Perform quantitative and visual exploratory (legal) data analysis in Python
- Communicate (written and oral) and visualize (legal) data and results.

Prerequisites

None. This course is intended for students without any statistics or computer programming experience.

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

N/A

Recommended reading:

- Epstein L & Martin AD (2014). An Introduction to Empirical Legal Research. Oxford: OUP. <http://empiricallegalresearch.org>
- Kelleher, J. D., & Tierney, B. (2018). Data Science. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. Available at UM e-library.

Internet Law & Governance

Faculty of Law

LAW3026

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

K.A.S. Kollnig

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Internet, World Wide Web, online platforms, privacy, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence

Full course description

Over the past forty years, the Internet has developed at an incredible pace. While the Internet in the 1980s consisted of a handful of computers, nowadays, the Internet connects us to billions of people around the globe. This rapid growth brought a need for a system of governance. In the first years of the Internet, its users consisted of a relatively homogenous group, mainly academics, experimenting with new possible features. When the number of users started to grow, and the personal computer became accessible to the general public, a new group of users emerged that saw the potential of the Internet for illegal activities. Governments responded to these kinds of activities by regulating and monitoring Internet activity. Besides unlawful activity, legal conduct can also be problematic. The Internet brought a number of companies that obtained very powerful positions in our society. They can control what kind of content we watch or the results we get in our searches. Moreover, they can gather vast data and profile us with increasing accuracy.

The course follows three Internet eras and addresses some of the most important economic and societal disruptions arising during these periods and compares regulatory approaches (statutory laws and self-regulation) taken by the European Union and the United States. It addresses opinions and

theories primarily arising out of law and computer science, but also includes references to sociology, communication and media studies.

Topics each week:

- The Foundations of the World Wide Web
- Online Platforms
- Data Protection & Privacy
- Mobile Apps & Internet of Things (IoT)
- AI & Machine Learning
- Intellectual Property & Copyright in the Age of AI
- Cybersecurity

Course objectives

- Understand the technical foundations of digital technologies, including the Internet, the World Wide Web, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence (AI).
- Understand the global regulatory challenges posed by digital technologies, particularly the fragmented regulatory landscape within the European Union.
- Apply the core principles of privacy and data protection, AI, and platform regulation, alongside contemporary frameworks for addressing cybercrime and enhancing cybersecurity.
- Analyse the interplay between harmonised regulation, industry standards, technological innovation, and societal needs in building secure, human-centred, and trustworthy digital technologies.
- Defend well-reasoned legal arguments in the context of rapidly evolving landscape of digital technologies, including their technical foundations and regulatory mechanisms.
- Create and substantiate well-reasoned legal arguments by independently identifying and using appropriate sources and by ethically and responsibly using state-of-the-art AI tools.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended prior knowledge:

Foundations of European law

Recommended reading

Mandatory reading:

Interdisciplinary readings of scientific articles from law and computer science will be provided.

Recommended reading:

N/A

Rechtspsychologie

Faculty of Law

MET3004

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

R. Horselenberg

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Het geheugen, leugendetectie, verhoor, bewijs, minderjarigen, kwetsbaar

Full course description

Dit vak betreft een eerste kennismaking met de rechtspsychologie en zal inzichten geven over de meest voorkomende rechtspsychologische functies. De focus in dit vak zal liggen op de minderjarige getuige in het strafrecht. Dit onderwerp zal tijdens het blok door een rechtspsychologische bril bestudeerd worden aan de hand van wekelijkse thema's. Die thema's zijn: hoe werkt het geheugen? Zijn er bijzondere soorten herinneringen? Hoe kan ervoor gezorgd worden dat dat geheugen zo goed mogelijk wordt aangesproken door de politie in een verhoor? Waar moeten we dan rekening mee houden? Kunnen we leugens detecteren? En, wat moet een rechter weten om tot een correcte waardering van een verklaring van een getuige te kunnen komen?

Het blok moet in het bijzonder inzicht verschaffen in de wijze waarop de minderjarige bejegend wordt in het strafrecht en welke de rechtspsychologische aandachtspunten zijn voor minderjarige getuigen afgezet tegen de algemene inzichten bij volwassenen.

Course objectives

1. de rechtspsychologische concepten en inzichten te begrijpen en in eigen woorden toe te lichten;
2. de rechtspsychologische concepten en inzichten te bespreken en illustreren;
3. de belangrijkste risico's te identificeren in concrete casus;

4. concrete casus kunnen analyseren vanuit rechtspsychologische inzichten met het oog op het ontwikkelen van een eigen oordeel en het formuleren van aanbevelingen.

Prerequisites

Volgtijdelijkheidseis :

NVT

Aanbevolen voorkennis:

NVT

Recommended reading

Verplichte literatuur:

De Keijser, J., Horselenberg, R., & Vredeveltdt, A. (Eds.) (2024). Tussen wet en wetenschap: De psychologie van het recht. Boom juridisch.

Aanbevolen literatuur:

NVT

Rechtseconomie

Faculty of Law

MET3013

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

K. de SmedtN.J. Philipsen

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam

Keywords:

Recht en gedragsbeïnvloeding, Efficiëntie van regelgeving, Maatschappelijke welvaart

Full course description

Het keuzevak **Rechtseconomie** biedt een inleiding in de economische analyse van het recht.

Rechtsregels vormen het kader waarin individuen en organisaties opereren. Maar wat is de invloed van die regels op gedrag? Hoe dragen ze bij aan — of belemmeren ze — maatschappelijke welvaart? En zou een aanpassing van wetgeving kunnen leiden tot betere maatschappelijke uitkomsten?

In het keuzevak Rechtseconomie onderzoek je deze vragen door juridische thema's te benaderen vanuit een economische invalshoek. Je leert hoe rechtsregels het gedrag van individuen en bedrijven sturen, hoe zij kosten en baten in de samenleving verdelen, en in hoeverre zij bijdragen aan efficiëntie en effectiviteit. Aan de hand van concrete voorbeelden — zoals het bekende *Kelderluikarrest* — analyseer je hoe rechtseconomische inzichten worden toegepast in wetgeving, beleid en rechtspraak.

Rechtseconomie geeft je een kritisch denkkader en tools om met een frisse blik te kijken naar juridische vraagstukken: wat werkt, wat niet, en waarom?

In het keuzevak Rechtseconomie bekijken we verschillende rechtsgebieden zoals bijvoorbeeld het contractenrecht en aansprakelijkheidsrecht, maar ook het bestuursrecht (o.a. mededingingsrecht en

milieurecht) en strafrecht. We nemen eveneens de inzichten mee uit de gedragseconomie (Behavioural Law and Economics). Steeds reflecteren we over het recht en de invloed op de samenleving en de rol van de overheid.

Het keuzevak Rechtseconomie is toegankelijk voor rechtenstudenten zonder economische voorkennis, en voor economiestudenten zonder juridische achtergrond. Ook studenten met een brede interesse in maatschappij en beleid zijn welkom, mits zij bereid zijn zich enkele basisbegrippen eigen te maken.

Course objectives

1. De student staat open voor kennis uit andere wetenschappelijke domeinen.
2. De student leert economische concepten hanteren en toepassen op rechtsregels.
3. De student leert kritisch reflecteren over rechtsregels en hun effectiviteit en de relatie tussen recht en maatschappelijke doelen.
4. De student leert kritisch reflecteren over de rol van de overheid en leert economische argumenten pro en contra wetgeving aandragen (marktwerking versus regulering).
5. De student begrijpt hoe het recht ingezet kan worden voor normatieve, sociaal-politieke doelstellingen.
6. De student leert kritisch reflecteren over de fundamenteën van het rechtseconomische denken in vergelijking met het juridisch denken.
7. De student maakt kennis met de beginselen van de theorie preventive law in aanvulling op de economische analyse van de civiele geschillenoplossing.

Prerequisites

NVT

Recommended reading

NVT

De onderneming in de maatschappij

Faculty of Law

PRI3025

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

T. VosS. Renssen

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Keywords:

Duurzaamheid; ESG; Corporate Governance; Duurzame financiering; Aansprakelijkheid; Fraude; Curator; Turboliquidatie; Bestuursverbod

Full course description

Tussen ondernemingen en de maatschappij bestaat een dynamische wisselwerking. Enerzijds beïnvloeden ondernemingen de maatschappij, zowel op een positieve als negatieve manier. Anderzijds beïnvloedt de maatschappij (of beter gezegd de normen en waarden die gelden in de maatschappij) de onderneming.

Het bedrijfsleven is een onmisbaar onderdeel van de maatschappij. Ondernemingen leveren een enorme bijdrage aan de economische ontwikkeling, de financiële situatie en de werkgelegenheid. Bovendien spelen zij in op de behoeften van de bevolking en de maatschappij in haar geheel. Maar daartegenover staat dat ondernemingen ook een negatief effect kunnen hebben. Wanneer de feitelijk ondernemer zich, bij zijn operaties in de markt, bedient van een organisatievorm met rechtspersoonlijkheid, wordt gebruik gemaakt van de mogelijkheid van beperking van aansprakelijkheid. Beperking van aansprakelijkheid is uitnodigend voor fraudeurs, en fraude met ondernemingen leidt logischerwijze tot maatschappelijke schade.

De invloed van de maatschappij op het ondernemingsrecht en het functioneren van ondernemingen blijkt bij uitstek bij vraagstukken omtrent duurzaamheid. Duurzaamheid staat hoog op zowel de Nederlandse als de internationale agenda van de overheid en dus ook van ondernemingen. Het zijn inmiddels ook niet slechts de grote beursgenoteerde vennootschappen die een duurzaamheidsbeleid

hebben; steeds meer mkb-ondernemingen zien de noodzaak en voordelen van het inspelen op duurzaamheidsvraagstukken. Zij houden rekening met de effecten van hun bedrijfsvoering op mens, milieu en maatschappij. Juristen van de toekomst moeten op deze maatschappelijke uitdagingen voorbereid zijn. Daarnaast leiden de grensoverschrijdende activiteiten van ondernemingen ook tot allerlei vraagstukken op het gebied van het internationaal privaatrecht, zoals bijvoorbeeld vragen ten aanzien van het recht dat van toepassing is op buitenlandse vennootschappen, de aansprakelijkheid van bestuurders en gevallen van grensoverschrijdende insolventie.

In het blok 'De onderneming en de maatschappij' worden de belangrijkste elementen van de dynamische wisselwerking tussen onderneming en maatschappij belicht. Daarbij komen de volgende onderdelen aan bod:

- Financiering en duurzaamheid
- Corporate Governance en duurzaamheid: de rol van de aandeelhouder en van het bestuur
- Fraude(bestrijding) in het kader van het ondernemings- en faillissementsrecht. Er kan onder andere stil worden gestaan bij frauduleuze turboliquidaties, het civielrechtelijk bestuursverbod en de rol van de curator als fraudesignaleerder in het faillissement.
- Internationaal privaatrecht: IPR-aspecten van bestuurdersaansprakelijkheid o.a. in geval van milieuschade en grensoverschrijdende insolventie.

Course objectives

Het doel van dit blok is de deelnemers inzicht te bieden in de regelgeving en de praktijk van de maatschappelijk relevante leerstukken binnen het ondernemingsrecht en de invloed van de maatschappij op de onderneming. De behandeling van de verschillende aandachtsgebieden vindt in onderwijsgroepen plaats op basis van een aantal uitdagende casus. Naast deze onderwijsgroepen zal wekelijks een college worden gegeven.

Na afsluiting van het blok:

1. heeft de student diepgaande aantoonbare kennis en inzicht over/in de hoofdlijnen van het ondernemingsrecht in een maatschappelijke context;
2. kan de student complexe materie inzake het ondernemingsrecht in een maatschappelijke context het hoofd bieden en daaruit ontstane vragen oplossen;
3. is de student in staat om een originele bijdrage te leveren aan het ontwikkelen en/of toepassen van vernieuwende ideeën rondom het ondernemingsrecht in een maatschappelijke context;
4. kan de student een oordeel en eigen standpunt vormen over ondernemingsrechtelijke aangelegenheden, daarbij rekening houdend met sociaal-maatschappelijke en ethische verantwoordelijkheden;
5. is de student in staat om deze oordelen en standpunten gedegen en gemotiveerd over te brengen aan anderen; en

6. is de student in staat zelfstandig aan de slag te gaan met ondernemingsrechtelijke vraagstukken, maar is ook in staat om dit in groepsverband te doen.

Prerequisites

Geen

Aanbevolen voorkennis

Studenten dienen over basiskennis op het terrein van het ondernemingsrecht te beschikken, willen de onderwerpen in dit blok op nuttige wijze kunnen worden bestudeerd. Deze basiskennis wordt aangeboden in semester 4 van de Bachelor Rechtsgeleerdheid. U kunt deze basiskennis ook opdoen met behulp van de Boom Basic Ondernemingsrecht en Kroeze e.a., De kern van het ondernemingsrecht, Deventer: Kluwer 2022.

Recommended reading

- J. Kroeze, L. Timmerman & J.B. Wezeman, De kern van het ondernemingsrecht, 6de druk, Deventer: Kluwer 2022
- Van Schilfgaarde, Van de BV en de NV, Deventer: Kluwer 2022

N.B. Per week zullen verschillende tijdschriftartikelen worden voorgeschreven via Canvas die te downloaden zijn via Legal Intelligence.

Business and Company Law in a Global Context

Faculty of Law

PRI3201

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

M.K. Kołacz

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s), Work in subgroups, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Keywords:

Commercial law

Company law

Business contracts

Global value chains

Full course description

The elective '**Business and Company Law in a Global Context**' provides an in-depth exploration of private law, focusing on its role in facilitating trade. This course explores fundamental legal aspects of business and company law through the framework of the private law learning trajectory (PrLLT), with a particular emphasis on **facilitation and regulation**. It examines the legal choices made by both legislators and businesses in shaping trade relations. This study centres on the concept of contracts and the principle of freedom of contract, highlighting their essential role in enabling companies to operate and engage in business relations. Additionally, the course explores how law influences contracts and corporate structures at national, European, and international levels, while also establishing boundaries on contractual freedom.

Rather than studying legal concepts in isolation, students will analyse business and company law within the context of transactions that drive business growth—both at the company level and across value chains (see Figure 1 below). Through **practical case studies of start-ups** in industries such as **garments and electronics**, which develop their brands and expand into new markets, students will explore the complexities of establishing and scaling companies. They will also examine the structuring of agreements from a business perspective, particularly in securing materials for

production and distributing new products. The **start-up narrative** plays a crucial role in this course, which spans seven weeks and aims to help students grasp the complexities of business growth across its various phases. To achieve this, we begin with the creation of a start-up, guiding students to reflect on its expansion through financing, mergers, and the development and governance of value chains.

The integration of real-world industries into the course serves also another purpose: to highlight the direct societal relevance of business and company law. Students will engage with issues such as **opening businesses to stimulate local economies, the impact of multinational corporations, and the formation of global value chains**—particularly in relation to sourcing production components from emerging economies. These discussions will also prompt reflection on broader economic and societal implications, including for example the economic efficiency of contracts. By taking this elective, students will deepen their understanding of core areas of business and company law, particularly in relation to national and international legal frameworks. Expanding their knowledge in these domains will also enhance skills that are increasingly relevant to European jurists in a globalized world. Among other practical exercises, students will draft contract clauses and **negotiate mergers**, strengthening their analytical abilities and their ability to apply legal principles across diverse legal sources. Additionally, they will develop a **pluralistic legal mindset**, enabling them to navigate competing systems of rules effectively. Relatedly, the students will deepen **comparative skills** and critically analyse diverse legal frameworks, equipping them to navigate the complexities of business and company law with a structured approach. The students will also experience work in groups.

Examining real-life business transactions and the **extent of contractual freedom** will also encourage students to engage in **critical discussions** about the law—particularly in understanding how different political and economic contexts shape normative choices. A crucial foundation of the course is the **distinction between contracts and companies** which will secure the **discussion on meta-questions** at two levels: Firstly, the distinction between contracts and companies will prompt students to reflect on how these legal constructs interact, how contracts facilitate corporate operations, and whether company law principles are necessary for organizational contracting in a globalized world. Secondly, the distinction between contracts and companies will trigger discussions about the extent of legal unification in a globalized world, including its positive and negative sides. These meta-discussions will be closely linked to the broader economic and societal impacts of business transactions.

Please note that more information will follow.

Course objectives

1. Students apply legal knowledge concerning business and company law across diverse legal sources.
2. Students analyse real-life situations related to introduced business transactions, identify relevant legal issues, and situate these legal issues within the specific legal framework.
3. Students critically evaluate the interactions between legal constructs of contracts and companies
4. Students critically reflect on the selected economic and societal impacts of business transactions.
5. Students develop, articulate (both in writing and orally), and effectively defend legal strategies in relation to the introduced business transactions.
6. Students develop negotiation skills and understand how these skills facilitate transfer of expert legal knowledge.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite:

Private Law (PRI2201)

Recommended prior knowledge:

Students will be expected to draw on prior knowledge in areas such as contract law and tort law.

Recommended reading

1. **Eric Tjong Tjin Tai, Tort Law. A Comparative Introduction (Edward Elgar 2022)**
2. **Jan M. Smits, Contract Law. A Comparative Introduction. 3rd ed. (Edward Elgar 2021)**

European Administrative Law

Faculty of Law

PUB3003

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

S.N. TasM. Eliantonio

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Final paper

Keywords:

European administrative law, comparative law, Europeanisation of public law, procedural law, agencies, comitology, principles, shared administrative, administrative decision-making, remedies, Comparative Law

Full course description

Most of what the EU actually does can be qualified as administrative law. A EU measure setting standards for air quality, a fine imposed by the European Commission to a company found guilty of a cartel, a guidance on safety standards issued by the European Aviation Safety Agency, or Frontex's operations at the external borders of the EU are all measures which fall within the scope of administrative law.

While at national level there is a rather clear-cut division between legislative and administrative bodies, and it is not hard to identify what constitutes 'the administration', when the EU is involved matters become more complicated. Some of EU law is adopted and executed at EU level. If the Commission investigates the behaviour of a company which it suspects abusing its dominant position, it acts as an administrative authority. At the end of this process, the Commission may then issue an administrative measure, e.g. a fine, against which judicial review will be open before the European Courts. This is a typical case of direct administration.

Most of EU law, however, is not executed by the European institutions themselves. Because of the complexity and the sheer amount of work involved, the EU has, from the outset, needed national administrations to put European policies into effect. First of all, national parliaments need to

transpose Directives and operationalise Regulations. If the EU passes a Directive on waste treatment, the national parliaments must create national law e.g. setting percentages of minimum waste recycling, designating the competent authorities in charge of monitoring whether companies comply with the requirements, setting fines for non-compliance etc. The designated national authorities will then have to inspect premises, draw up reports, impose fines etc. In such cases, one talks about indirect administration, because EU law is executed through the national administrations.

In cases of indirect administration, it is generally national rules of administrative law that govern the actions of national authorities. These national rules govern the procedural requirements that have to be fulfilled if one asks for a permit, if and at which court one can file an action if the permit is refused and with which means the government can ensure that the requirements for obtaining the permit are enforced. Because national administrations are, in such cases, executing European law, and national courts are adjudicating on European law, national procedural rules have to respect some minimum requirements imposed by the EU legislator and the CJEU. In this way, the EU has been increasingly influencing national administrative law.

The course European Administrative Law covers all these themes: starting from the cases of direct administration (i.e. what is sometimes referred to as 'the administrative law of the European Union'), where the EU institutions adopt measures of individual and general application, the course then moves to discuss situations in which the EU and the national administrations have to cooperate in the execution of European law, and will subsequently discuss the way in which European law influences national administrative law in cases of indirect administration. All of the themes will be illustrated through concrete examples from various EU policies, such as competition, agriculture or environmental policy.

Course objectives

Students will be able to discuss the key concepts of administrative law. At the end of the course, they will gain a deep understanding of administrative law of the European Union, as well as the Europeanisation of national administrative law. Students will also be able to appraise and critique different administrative law arrangements and their implications. Finally, students will learn to independently conduct research and draft a research paper.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite:

- Administrative law (PUB2201)

Recommended prior knowledge

This course builds upon the knowledge acquired in the courses Comparative Administrative Law, European Union Law: Foundations and, to a certain extent, European Union Law: Substantive Law.

Concepts of Income and Business Taxation

Faculty of Law

TAX3009

Period 4:

2 Feb 2026

2 Apr 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

A. Draghici

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Final paper, Presentation, Oral exam

Keywords:

tax, personal income tax, corporate income taxation, tax base, income, tax accounting

Full course description

This course provides a basic introduction to income taxation.

In the first part of the course, we focus on foundational issues related to the legal nature and design of personal income tax systems. Through a comparative methodology, we reflect on different approaches to the taxation of personal income (from employment, entrepreneurship and investment) and other key elements in the architecture of personal income tax systems (e.g., tax rates, tax credits, and the determination of the taxpaying unit).

In the second half of the course, we address fundamental issues related to the taxation of legal entities. In particular, we focus on the rationale for corporate income taxation, company financing and issues related to the determination of the corporate income tax base.

This course will not focus on the tax system of any state(s) in particular, instead taking principle-based comparative law approach.

The course dedicates special focus to terminological aspects. We establish foundational knowledge of tax-specific lexicon (e.g., tax base, tax rates, tax credits, etc.) and other key terms in the area of taxation (employment, business, dividends, interest, capital gains, etc.).

Course objectives

Students should be able to understand and explain basic principles of personal and corporate income taxation from a government and taxpayer perspective.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

Provided via Canvas and the UM e-library

Materieel Strafrecht en Criminele Politiek

Faculty of Law

CRI3004

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

D. Roef

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam

Keywords:

Strafrechtelijke aansprakelijkheid – strafbaarstellingsbeleid – veiligheid - risicomaatschappij, Materieel strafrecht, criminele politiek, strafbaarstellingsbeleid, strafrechtstheorie.

Full course description

De titel Materieel strafrecht en Criminele Politiek refereert aan de tweevoudige opzet van het blok. Het onderdeel Materieel strafrecht gaat over de vraag welk gedrag strafbaar is gesteld. In het blok wordt allereerst aandacht besteed aan verscheidene algemene kernleerstukken, zoals bijvoorbeeld daderschap (van de rechtspersoon), opzet en schuld, en toerekenbaarheid. Daarnaast komen enkele bijzondere delictsvormen aan bod, zoals bijvoorbeeld uitingsdelicten (aanzetten tot haat), terrorismemisdrijven, prostitutie en verkeersdelicten. Deze opsomming is voornamelijk illustratief, want het is de bedoeling dat regelmatig andere delictsvormen aan bod komen, in het licht van actuele legislatieve of jurisprudentiële ontwikkelingen.

Het onderdeel Criminele Politiek heeft tot doel inzicht te verkrijgen in het hoe en waarom van het door de overheid gevoerde strafbaarstellingsbeleid. Het materiële strafrecht ontstaat immers niet in een vacuüm. Strafbearstellingen zijn steeds het uitvloeisel van maatschappelijke opvattingen en politieke ontwikkelingen en derhalve voortdurend aan verandering onderhevig. Zo zien we bijvoorbeeld dat de criminele politiek steeds meer wordt beheerst door veiligheidsdenken en risicomanagement. Of het nu gaat om terrorisme, zinloos geweld of milieuvuiling, van de overheid worden meer maatregelen verlangd teneinde een veiligere samenleving te garanderen. Deze focus op

veiligheid is niet alleen zichtbaar binnen het strafbaarstellingsbeleid maar ook binnen de sanctionering. Hierbij kan onder meer worden gedacht aan meer levenslang gestraften, pleidooien voor een 'soepelere' TBS-oplegging en de toepassing van 'levenslang toezicht' op ex-zeden- en geweldsdelinquenten. Deze ontwikkeling doet niet alleen talrijke vragen rijzen over de grondslagen, maar ook over de mogelijke beperkingen van het moderne strafrecht. Daarom wordt in het blok ook aandacht besteed aan meer strafrechtstheoretische beschouwingen, zoals beginselen en criteria van strafbaarstelling. Het blok heeft daardoor naast een sterke positiefrechtelijke, ook een metajuridische dimensie. En om onze blik te verruimen zal ook af en toe naar andere rechtsstelsels worden gekeken. Een centrale doelstelling van het blok is op een kritische wijze te onderzoeken hoe strafrechtstheorie, criminele politiek en materieel strafrecht zich tot elkaar verhouden.

Instructietaal

Nederlands (hoewel een beperkt deel van de literatuur in het Engels zal zijn)

Course objectives

- Het verbreden en verdiepen van de kennis van verscheidene algemene kernleerstukken van materieel strafrecht.
- Inzicht verkrijgen in het hoe en waarom van het door de overheid gevoerde strafbaarstellingsbeleid en de sanctionering.
- De ontwikkelingen in het materiële strafrecht, het strafbaarstellingsbeleid en de sanctionering in de crimineel-politieke context kunnen plaatsen.
- Aan de hand van strafrechtstheoretische en rechtsvergelijkende inzichten beargumenteerd een eigen standpunt kunnen innemen over de crimineel-politieke ontwikkelingen in het materiële strafrecht, het strafbaarstellingsbeleid en de sanctionering.

Prerequisites

Geen

Aanbevolen voorkennis

Basiskennis van het materiële strafrecht is vereist.

Recommended reading

Er wordt gebruik gemaakt van een zorgvuldig samengestelde reader. De volgende teksten zijn illustratief:

- J. Keiler and D. Roef, 'Principles of Criminalisation and the Limits of Criminal Law', in J. Keiler and D. Roef (eds.), *Comparative Concepts of Criminal Law*, Cambridge-Antwerp-Chicago, Intersentia, 2019, p. 35-83;
- A.E. Hartevelt & R. Robroek, *Hoofdwegen door het verkeersrecht*, Deventer: Kluwer 2021, hoofdstukken 4, 5 en 6

- J. Bijlsma, *Stoornis en Strafuitsluiting. Op zoek naar een toetsingskader van ontoerekenbaarheid*, Wolf Legal Publishers, 2016 (hoofdstuk 3 & 5);
- K. Rozemond, 'Waarom werd Wilders veroordeeld?', *Nederlands Juristenblad*, 2022, p. 246-252.
- D. Roef, 'De strafrechtelijke positie van overheden anno 2018: een stand van de rechtsontwikkeling', *O&A 2018*, p. 113-123;
- M. Lintz, 'Recente ontwikkelingen in de toepassing van de Wet terroristische misdrijven: naar een meer ideologische toepassing van strafrechtelijke antiterrorwetgeving?', *Delikt en Delinkwent*, 2022, p. 260-270

Advanced Legal Analytics

Faculty of Law

LAW3027

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

H.A.M. Westermann

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Participation, Presentation and paper

Full course description

Artificial intelligence (AI) has experienced an enormous development boost in recent years. Novel methods such as generative AI have led to a rapid acceleration in the capabilities of AI systems, particularly in the analysis of unstructured data such as text.

These advances make the application of AI highly relevant in the legal field, which is highly focused on textual documents such as laws, administrative decrees, court decisions, contracts and other legal texts. Actors in the legal field (e.g., lawyers, judges, litigators) analyze and use this information to perform legal tasks, such as providing legal advice, drafting legal arguments, or deciding cases.

The advanced legal analytics course offers students an interactive exploration of how AI can be used to analyze legal texts and perform tasks in the legal domain. Through hands-on Python programming tasks, students will gain experience in methods such as machine learning, large language models, data science, and Python programming. Not only will students gain an intuitive, hands-on understanding of the capabilities and shortcomings of such systems. They will also be equipped to use these technologies in their own work and legal practice.

Teaching methods:

- Lectures to introduce important topics relating to the course material.
- Weekly hands-on programming tutorials, where students use jupyter notebook to explore the concepts in a hands-on manner.
- Students will work on a legal analytics group project throughout the course.

Assessment methods:

Attendance and Student Participation during tutorials, Project Presentation and Project Report (including Code and Datasets).

Course objectives

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, a student is able to:

- Plan and conceptualize the use of AI methods to perform tasks in the legal domain, taking into account the current capabilities and shortcomings of such methods;
- Apply data science methods to ingest, visualize and clean real-world legal datasets to allow for effective machine learning;
- Leverage effective and advanced prompting strategies to effectively harness large language models (such as ChatGPT) for performing tasks in the legal domain, including drafting, question answering and summarization;
- Utilize traditional machine learning models to perform tasks in the legal domain;
- Evaluate (quantitatively and qualitatively) the results of an AI system to understand its real-world performance and risks;
- Interpret and communicate the findings, implications and limitations of the AI system when applied to legal datasets/tasks
- collaborate effectively in groups for a legal analytics research project while designing, implementing and evaluating the methodology of the AI system;
- defend the methodology and the results of the legal analytics project in a presentation, addressing potential critiques constructively.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended prior knowledge

Basic knowledge of Python programming is a strong requirement. It is highly recommended that you have completed the Legal Analytics course.

Recommended reading

Readings and programming resources will be provided on a weekly basis.

Privacy

Faculty of Law

LAW3067

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

M.M. Maroni

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Keywords:

privacy, data protection, EU law, GDPR, Fundamental Rights

Full course description

This elective course addresses the increasingly topical issues of privacy and data protection, their scope, limitations, and protection. Issues surrounding privacy and data protection are manifold. The advancement of technology leads to the collection, storage, and analysis of an abundance of (private) data: ranging from the applications we use, the calls we make, our search behaviour on the Internet and covert surveillance, to name but a few examples.

Content and meta-data are retained for surveillance purposes or analysed and sold for commercial purposes. For example, public authorities may take fingerprints or store DNA samples; intelligence services can store data obtained through CCTV surveillance in public areas; cameras for monitoring traffic might be used for traffic purposes and for criminal investigations. Another pressing issue is the balancing of privacy and data protection with other fundamental rights and interests, such as free speech, the right to property and transparency. What limitations does the law impose on data collection and, even more importantly, who supervises compliance with the privacy and data protection rules?

This course covers a panoply of issues. First, it aims to identify what is meant by notions of privacy and data protection and to explain how these concepts should be understood.

Moreover, the course sheds light on the pertinent EU rules on privacy and data protection and identifies the relevant case law of the CJEU. As the notion of privacy is rapidly gaining

importance in EU law, a large proportion of time will be devoted to the analysis of various EU legal sources and case law. Finally, although privacy and data protection are regulated by EU law, the compliance therewith is to be ensured at the national level through supervisory authorities. Consequently, the course will also cover this aspect of legal regulation of privacy and data protection.

Assessment methods

Closed book in person exam.

Course objectives

As the result of this course students will obtain the essential understanding of privacy and data protection in the European legal space. They will gain awareness of the range of issues protected under relevant provisions of the EU law. Students will develop the basic understanding of the regulatory framework for personal data protection and its practical implications.

Recommended reading

Mandatory and recommended literature is provided for enrolled students in Canvas

Legal Philosophy

Faculty of Law

MET3003

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

L. Dziejic

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Final paper

Keywords:

Legal Philosophy, Political Philosophy, Law, Justice, Fundamental Rights

Full course description

This course introduces students to major theories in the field of legal theory and philosophy of law. These theories are discussed in relation to one another, and on the basis of a number of themes, including the nature of law, the relationship between law and justice, legal positivism and natural law theories, the normative foundations of the liberal legal order and fundamental rights. In addition, students learn to apply these theories to concrete cases from legal practice and case law. In doing so, the premise is that positive law as a concrete social practice is analyzed and critically evaluated from various legal philosophical and legal-theoretical perspectives. The ultimate goal is that students are challenged to develop their own critical view of applicable law, which is informed by ideas, concepts and arguments derived from the legal philosophical literature.

Questions addressed include: How does law relate to morality and justice? Are laws that are unjust nonetheless binding? Can such unjust laws be considered law at all? And to what extent should conceptions of justice play a role in the interpretation of law? What are the normative foundations of the liberal legal order? On what fundamental rights and "principles of justice" is this liberal legal order based? And how can fundamental rights such as freedom of speech or the right to privacy be philosophically justified? Are there philosophical arguments for placing certain limits on the exercise of these rights?

This course focuses on skills characteristic of normative inquiry and, more specifically, the ability to analyze legal cases using multiple legal philosophical theories. This includes the skill of applying relevant legal philosophical arguments to the case, defending a particular interpretation of the case using legal philosophical arguments, and comparing and contrasting different legal philosophical theories and arguments when evaluating the case.

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be familiar with major theories in the field of philosophy of law and legal theory; familiar with philosophical discussions of law regarding the nature of law, the relationship between law and justice, legal positivism and natural law, and the normative foundations of the liberal legal order and fundamental rights; able to describe, present in context, and critically evaluate various philosophical theories of law.

Upon completion of this course, students will have the ability to:

- recognize, distinguish between, outline, and apply dominant philosophies of law and legal theories;
- analyze a legal case from different legal-philosophical perspectives;
- apply relevant legal-philosophical arguments to this case;
- defend a particular interpretation of the case based on legal-philosophical arguments;
- compare and contrast different legal philosophical theories and arguments when evaluating the case.

Recommended reading

- Reader

Personen- en Familierecht

Faculty of Law

PRI3005

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

C.H.C. HocksG.C.M. Noteborn

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam, Assignment

Full course description

Dit vak wordt aangeboden in samenwerking met Hogeschool Zuyd. De onderwijsgroepen worden verzorgd door 2 docenten 1 van iedere instelling. Een aantal onderwijsgroepen (verwacht 2/3) vindt plaats op locatie Hogeschool Zuyd in Sittard, studenten van de Hogeschool Zuyd nemen dus ook deel aan alle onderwijs.

Het doel van dit blok is studenten kennis en inzicht te verschaffen in het Nederlandse personen- en familierecht. Binnen het blok wordt gewerkt met innovatieve onderwijsmethoden en een grote betrokkenheid vanuit het werkveld. Studenten passen hun kennis toe op interactieve casussen ontwikkeld in nauwe samenwerking met de beroepspraktijk. Naast de theorie komt dus ook nadrukkelijk de praktische toepassing aan bod. Iedere week wordt een nieuw thema behandeld, met bijbehorende casus. Eerst in een onderwijsgroep, daarna in een praktisch college verzorgd door het werkveld. Additioneel (niet verplicht) worden inhoudelijke hoorcolleges aangeboden.

Meer specifiek zullen de volgende onderwerpen aan de orde komen: Relatievormen (huwelijk, samenwonen, geregistreerd partnerschap), de totstandkoming, inhoud alsmede de gevolgen ervan, het huwelijksvermogensrecht, echtscheiding en ouderschapsplan, recht op levensonderhoud (partneralimentatie en kinderalimentatie), ouderlijk gezag, omgangsrecht, en afstamming. Het blok bestaat uit acht onderwijsbijeenkomsten, en een wekelijks gastcollege verzorgd door de beroepspraktijk (notarissen, rechters, advocaten) welke hun visie geven op de leerstukken vanuit hun

praktijk ervaring. Studenten hebben ook, uitgebreid de mogelijkheid om contact te leggen met deze professionals. ***Simultaan werken studenten aan een real-life casus, waarmee zij zeer praktisch aan de slag gaan. Binnen deze casus staan zij een fictief echtpaar bij in hun familie rechtelijke problemen.*** We sluiten het blok af met een finale zitting. In het flankerend onderwijs worden interactieve colleges en kennisclips aangeboden waarvan een groot deel ook verzorgd wordt door experts uit de beroepspraktijk. Basiskennis van het personen- en familierecht is voor de meeste rechtsgebieden van onontbeerlijk belang; niet alleen voor het privaatrecht, maar zeker ook voor bijv. het strafrecht, fiscaal recht, notarieel recht en arbeidsrecht.

Course objectives

Het blok beoogt u

- Kennis te laten maken met de bronnen en de inhoud van het personen- en familierecht (PFR);
- In staat te stellen verworven kennis en inzicht te reproduceren alsmede toe te passen op nieuwe casuïstiek;
- Inzicht te bieden in de toepassing van het PFR in de beroepspraktijk;
- Een kritische houding te ontwikkelen ten aanzien van de grondslagen van het PFR, mede in het licht van de maatschappelijke ontwikkelingen;
- In staat te stellen ingewikkelde PFR-casuïstiek te analyseren en hierin onderbouwde standpunten in te nemen en deze te kunnen communiceren;
- In staat te stellen om te adviseren in basis PFR-casus die in de beroepspraktijk spelen.

Recommended reading

- Nuytinck, Personen- en familierecht, relatievermogensrecht en erfrecht, Wolters Kluwer, meest recente druk.

Consumentenrecht in een digitale wereld

Faculty of Law

PRI3024

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

C.N.M.Y. Cauffman

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam

Keywords:

Consumentenrecht, e-commerce, digitale transacties, consumentenkoop, levering van digitale goederen en diensten, Algemene voorwaarden, oneerlijke handelspraktijken, platformeconomie, internationaal privaatrecht, geschillenbeslechting

Full course description

Het consumentenrecht is het gebied bij uitstek, waar onder invloed van de Europese Unie, het privaatrechtelijk vermogensrecht het eerst wordt aangepast aan nieuwe technologische, sociale en economische evoluties.

De digitale wereld is een wereld waarin nationale grenzen vervagen, en er een heel scala aan private regelgeving en buitengerechtelijke geschillenbeslechtigingsprocedures bestaat.

De onderwerpen die in het blok aan bod komen zijn bepaald op basis van hun relevantie voor de bescherming van de *consument* in een *digitale wereld*, waar persoonlijke data als valuta worden beschouwd. Aan bod komen: E-commerce, digitale transacties met bijzondere aandacht voor de consumentenkoop en de levering van digitale goederen en diensten, algemene voorwaarden, oneerlijke handelspraktijken met bijzondere aandacht voor dark patterns en de digitale dienstenverordening, en (online) geschillenbeslechting over digitale transacties ook over nationale grenzen heen (IPR).

Het blok past in een curriculum dat de student voorbereidt op een van de aangeboden Masteropleidingen, namelijk de Master Nederlands privaatrecht. Ook voor studenten die de Engelstalige Master Business Law ambiëren vormt het een goede bouwsteen.

Course objectives

Het blok kent de volgende doelen:

- Student beschikt over kennis en inzicht in het Nederlandse en Europese consumentenrecht met betrekking tot digitale transacties, digitale goederen en diensten, evenals over de doorwerking van het Europese recht in het Nederlandse recht.
- Student beschikt over kennis en inzicht van het IPR met betrekking tot consumentenzaken.
- Student beschikt over het vermogen om een complexe casus op te lossen waarin elementen van consumentenrecht en IPR samenkomen.
- Student draagt actief en constructief bij aan groepsbijeenkomsten en committeert zich aan het groepsproces.

Prerequisites

-

Aanbevolen voorkennis

Het blok Consumentenrecht in een digitale wereld sluit voor wat betreft voorkennis goed aan op de blokken Inleiding privaatrecht (jaar 1), Inleiding Europees recht (jaar 1), Internationaal privaatrecht (jaar 2), Internationaal en Europees recht (jaar 2) en Verbintenissenrecht (jaar 3).

Recommended reading

- Recommended reading
- E-reader
- Wettenbundel Consumentenrecht (printing on demand).
- Ten Wolde, M.H., Handboek Internationaal privaatrecht, (Uitgeverij Paris, 2021) (reeds aangekocht)

Sustainability and Private Law

Faculty of Law

PRI3202

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

B. Akkermans

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Presentation, Portfolio

Keywords:

Sustainability, Private Law, Contract Law, Tort Law, Property Law, Company Law, critical perspectives on law

Full course description

Sustainability and Private Law is an elective course available during the third year of the European Law School bachelor programme. This course focuses on sustainability and the role that private law plays in both promoting and hindering sustainable development policies and initiatives. An important aim of this course is therefore also to teach students how to take a critical perspective when exploring the role of (private) law in sustainable development and how to take a reasoned position on the private law responses to this global challenge.

During the first two weeks of the course, in their groups students will develop a theoretical framework that will then guide their investigation into sustainability and private law throughout the course. From the third week onwards, the students will continue working together and apply this framework to two or more case studies. These case studies have been carefully selected to enable students to explore the complexity of sustainable development and the various aspects of private law (such as contract, tort, property, company and private international law) that emerge in the legal frameworks that implement and govern sustainable development initiatives.

The course Sustainability and Private Law offers an innovative approach for exploring questions of sustainability and of sustainable development, with a focus on private law and private relations in society. At the end of this course, students will have acquired in-depth knowledge on the functioning of private law and how private law can serve to achieve the public value of sustainability through sustainable development.

The course will likely be examined through a portfolio of materials and writings the student prepares themselves, followed by a presentation.

Course objectives

1. The student has advanced understanding of the core principles, functions, and limitations of private law that emerge in the context of sustainability and sustainable development.
2. The student can explain and critically assess the role of private actors (e.g. corporations, consumers, and other stakeholders) in the development, implementation and enforcement of sustainable development measures as well as the role of private actors in preventing the adoption of such measures.
3. The student can identify and critically assess how private law institutions (e.g. contracts, private property, liability) can either enable or hinder sustainability objectives.
4. The student can develop and defend a normative argument concerning private law approaches to sustainable development.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite:

Private law (PRI2201)

Recommended prior knowledge:

Substantial knowledge of private law, for example through the courses introduction to private law, private law, philosophy of private law and business and company law in a globalising world is recommended. Students with substantial knowledge in national private law are also very welcome.

Recommended reading

TBD

International and European Tax and Customs Law

Faculty of Law

TAX3013

Period 5:

13 Apr 2026

12 Jun 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

A. Draghici

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Written exam

Keywords:

International tax, double tax treaties, EU fundamental freedoms, VAT, customs law

Full course description

This course addresses the key areas, topics and sources of law relevant to international taxation. In the first half of the course, we focus on the taxation of cross-border income-generating activities under double tax treaties and EU law. We will address the treatment of international business, investment and employment income, including the incidence of double taxation and the application of mechanisms for its relief. Anti-tax avoidance legislation will also be discussed at a basic level. In the second half of the course, we cover issues of indirect taxation, with a focus on EU value added tax ('VAT') and customs law. We address the legal nature, architecture and functioning of the EU VAT and customs law frameworks, with an emphasis on application to real-life scenarios. The course combines the discussion of legal instruments and legislation with topical policy discussions (e.g., the impact of the digitalization of the economy on tax matters and the role of taxation in regulating environmental protection).

Course objectives

Students should gain a basic understanding of principles of international tax law and EU law in connection with aspects of direct and indirect taxation.

Prerequisites

This course builds on knowledge established in the course Concepts of Income and Business Taxation (TAX3009) and it is therefore not intended to provide a pure introduction to tax law. For this reason, we firmly recommend that students only register for this course after having completed the Concepts of Income and Business Taxation (TAX3009) or an equivalent introductory course to tax law.

Recommended reading

Provided via Canvas and the UM e-library

Course reader with legislation

Bachelor's internship ELS (6)

Faculty of Law

LAW3306

Year:

1 Sep 2025

31 Aug 2026

Credits:

6.0

Coordinator:

C.A.E. FranssenK.G.M. Mertens

Teaching methods:

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Full course description

The Maastricht Faculty of Law considers the internship to be a fully-fledged programme component of law school. A practical internship provides students with work experience that is tightly connected to their studies. It supports students in developing the necessary legal and social skills. The internship is not compulsory but many students use the opportunity of an internship to gain practical experience.

Bachelor's internship ELS (12)

Faculty of Law

LAW3312

Year:

1 Sep 2025

31 Aug 2026

Credits:

12.0

Coordinator:

C.A.E. FranssenK.G.M. Mertens

Teaching methods:

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Full course description

The Maastricht Faculty of Law considers the internship to be a fully-fledged programme component of law school. A practical internship provides students with work experience that is tightly connected to their studies. It supports students in developing the necessary legal and social skills. The internship is not compulsory but many students use the opportunity of an internship to gain practical experience.

