UCLouvain

Idroi1503

2017

Natural Law

5 credits 30.0 h Q1

Teacher(s)	Lazaro Christophe ;				
Language :	French				
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve				
Main themes	The objective of this course is to introduce students to the concept of natural law and to highlight the specific ways in which this concept and its various philosophical interpretations question the normative foundations of law. More broadly, this course aims at grasping the potential meaning and relevance of natural law in modern secular societies, as a tool to evaluate the legitimacy of some contemporary legal decisions and policies. After having explored the history of this legal concept (from the ancient world through modernity, until the emergence of human rights), the course will take a more practical dimension. The contemporary relevance of natural law will be critically assessed by examining a series of epistemic figures which drastically question the legal implications derived from the very idea of (human) nature: the animal, the stranger, the woman, the worker, the rebel, the double, and the monster. In particular, the analysis of these figures will allow to question the model of the rational, free and autonomous (legal) subject. The analysis of the issues raised by these marginal, if not marginalized figures, will enable students to develop critical thinking on various legal issues marked by a strong axiological dimension.				
Aims	After having successfully completed the course the student is expected to be able to: - Discriminate between different types of arguments (empirical, ontological, normative, etc.). - Master the core categories of natural law, its conceptual tools and its key theories - Apply these theories to concrete cases - Demonstrate autonomy in the way of thinking - Articulate thoughts effectively in written form and orally. The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".				
Evaluation methods	The final evaluation will take into account: The completion of the reading assignments and feedback comments: 10% The oral presentation made in class and based of the compulsory readings: 20% At the end of the semester, the oral exam based on a reflection proposed by the student about one of the figures examined in class + an open question asked by the professor 60%				
Teaching methods	The teaching method of the course will be highly interactive. The course is designed to foster active participation of students on the basis of compulsory readings (articles, courts decisions, legislations), individual comments on the readings and one obligatory presentation during the semester. The link to the course materials is to be found on Moodle along with a detailed bibliography for each theme analyzed during the class.				
Faculty or entity in charge	BUDR				

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)						
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Aims		
Bachelor in Philosophy	FILO1BA	5		٩		
	LODRT100I	5		٩		
Additionnal module in law	LDRT100P	5		٩		