

Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



ESPO1122 Foundations of Law

[40h] 3 credits

Teacher(s): Gilberte Marchal, Henri Simonart, Marc Verdussen
Language: French
Level: First cycle

Aims

This course aims to give a clear picture of the institutional and legal environment of Belgian society through the legal provisions in place, to enable students to understand the difference between Law imposed by public authority and Law that individuals are permitted to draw up for their own needs, through legal acts and contracts.

The focus of the course is on analyzing and understanding a range of texts currently in force (international treaties, Belgian Constitution, laws, decrees and prescriptions) and understanding the reasons behind the solutions they impose and the mechanics behind their implementation.

In this way, students should gain an initial overview which, because it is about Law, should alert them to certain basic realities: precise concepts (cancellation, abrogation, suspension), relevance (not to confuse the thing involved, its causes and its consequences) and correct analysis and expression (how is a federal law different from a regional decree?).

Main themes

The first part of the course examines the institutional environment by examining the various legal provisions applicable. This involves identifying regulations (international Treaties, regulations and European Community directives, the Belgian Constitution, federal laws, decrees and prescriptions of the communities and regions#), the authorities from which they emanate (who makes the international treaties? Where do Community and regional decrees come from?#), their development (how are these regulations drawn up and published?), and their material field of application (what is the competence of the federal authority? what is the field of action of the communities and regions?).

The second part is primarily focused on fundamental issues relating to legal transactions, through which the individual is able to implement his/her legal right to freedom of action (autonomy of will, consensualism, conditions of validity of an act, proof, implementation). Students will be taught the basic principles governing civil liability (conditions of implementation, fault, compensation)

Content and teaching methods

Introductory chapter

The concept of Law

The branches of Law

Part I: the sources of general and abstract rules

Systematic study of the rules of national law (Constitution, laws, decree, prescriptions, collective agreement, habit, case law, etc#) and international law (European Union, European Communities, European Convention of human rights).

Part II: Introduction to private law

General theory of legal transaction (Concepts, classifications, constituent components, irregularity sanctions , criminal and contractual responsibility).

Method

The course consists entirely of lectures: there is no accompanying practical work or review sessions.

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Course entry requirements: there are no particular entry requirements. Students should however possess an accurate knowledge of the French language and some idea, however elementary, of how society is organized.

Evaluation: students' acquisition of the subject matter is tested through an examination

Course materials: there is a course handout summarising the course. This summary is built on in the lectures.

The course also makes reference to a number of texts (Code, etc#) and students are expected to become familiar with these texts in order to fully understand the subject matter.

Other credits in programs

ACTU21MS	Première année du master en sciences actuarielles, à finalité spécialisée	(3 credits)	Mandatory
COMU11BA	Première année de bachelier en information et communication	(3 credits)	Mandatory
CRIM1PM	Année d'études préparatoires au master en criminologie	(3 credits)	Mandatory
CRIM21	Première licence en criminologie	(3 credits)	
CRIM22MS	Deuxième année du master en criminologie, à finalité spécialisée	(3 credits)	
ECGE11BA	Première année de bachelier en sciences économiques et de gestion	(3 credits)	Mandatory
FSA12BA	Deuxième année de bachelier en sciences de l'ingénieur, orientation ingénieur civil	(3 credits)	
HUSO11BA	Première année de bachelier en sciences humaines et sociales	(3 credits)	Mandatory
INGE11BA	Première année de bachelier en ingénieur de gestion	(3 credits)	Mandatory
SINF12BA	Deuxième année d'études de bachelier en sciences informatiques	(3 credits)	
SOCA11BA	Première année de bachelier en sociologie et anthropologie	(3 credits)	Mandatory
SPOL11BA	Première année de bachelier en sciences politiques	(3 credits)	Mandatory
TRAV1PM	Année d'études préparatoires au master en sciences du travail	(3 credits)	Mandatory