



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies
Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

Introduction to Law

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR(S)

VAN ELSUWEGE Peter

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE TYPE

Introductory Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

0

TEACHING HOURS

0

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

10

TUTORIAL(S)

0

COEFFICIENT

0

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to basic legal concepts, elementary philosophy of law, and the main fields of law. It explains different categories of law (e.g. public v private law), the influence of different legal traditions (e.g. common law v civil law), and different sources of law (e.g. international v domestic sources of law), with specific attention to methods of legal interpretation and legal reasoning. Finally, the course introduces students to the specific features of the EU legal order and its interaction with public international law and the national legal orders of the EU Member States.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- 1) Explain the main differences between various legal traditions and categories of law (A1, B7, MATA1.1);
- 2) Understand the specific terminology and sources of national, European, and international law (A1, A4, B7);
- 3) Understand the basic principles of the relationship between national law, European law, and international law (A1, A4, B7);
- 4) Critically evaluate different methods of legal interpretation (A1, B7);
- 5) Understand the role of law in tackling global challenges and its interaction with other areas such as economics and politics (A1, B7).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

E-learning.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

None.

COURSE CONTENTS

Module 1: What is law?
Module 2: Philosophy of law
Module 3: Legal tradition
Module 4: Legal systems
Module 5: What is EU Law?
Module 6: Evolutions of the Treaties
Module 7: EU Institutions
Module 8: Legal interpretation
Module 9: Legal writing

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Course materials include videos, readings (articles and chapters), exercises, and quizzes.