



College of Europe  
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

## ECTS CARD

### STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

### YEAR

2022-2023

### COURSE TITLE

**Introduction to Law**

### SEMESTER

1

### COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

VAN ELSUWEGE Peter

### ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

BRESKAYA Maria

### COURSE TYPE

Introductory Course

### MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

### ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

### TEACHING HOURS

### INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

### TUTORIAL(S)

### COEFFICIENT

not applicable

### LANGUAGE(S)

EN

### COURSE OBJECTIVE

- This course aims to introduce students to basic legal concepts, elementary philosophy of law and the main fields of law.
- To explain 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), specific attention will be given to methods of legal interpretation and legal reasoning.
- To introduce 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.
- The course aims to prepare those students without prior knowledge of law for the main course of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students are able to explain the main differences between various legal traditions and categories of law
- Students understand the specific terminology and sources of national, European and international law
- Students understand the basic principles of the relationship between national law, European law and international law
- Students are able to critically evaluate different methods of legal interpretation
- Students are aware of the role of law in tackling global challenges and its interaction with other areas such as economics and politics

### RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

### TEACHING METHOD(S)

Online course + practical exercises.

### ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

No formal assessment.

### COURSE CONTENTS

This course introduces students to basic legal concepts, elementary philosophy of law and the main fields of law. After a brief overview of the different categories of law (e.g. public law vs. private law), the influence of different legal traditions (e.g. common law vs. civil law) and different sources of law (e.g. international vs. domestic sources of law), specific attention is devoted to methods of legal interpretation and legal reasoning. The final part of this introductory course focuses on 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. The course is especially designed for students without a prior knowledge of law.

### COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Reader with articles and book chapters; Power Point slides.