



Bachelor's courses Faculty of Law

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2018-2019

Fundamental Rights in Europe

Course code	R_FunRE ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid
Coordinator	mr. dr. M.C. Stronks
Examinator	mr. dr. M.C. Stronks
Teaching staff	B. Aarrass LL.M., C.H. Slingenbergh, dr. G.N. Cornelisse, mr. dr. M.C. Stronks, T.K. Last
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Study Group
Level	300

Course objective

The general substantive objective of this course is that at the end of this course the student is able to analyze, compare and apply European legal doctrines with regard to fundamental rights, as developed by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). In addition, an important objective of this course is the further development of the skill to read judgments of the CJEU and the ECtHR, to identify the basic rules, and to resolve a case on the basis of these rules. A particular objective of this course is to improve the ability to understand the use of English in legal contexts. Finally, an important objective of this course is to further develop the skill to present (written) legal arguments.

Course content

This course concerns the protection of fundamental rights within Europe. Fundamental rights are of utmost importance for enabling us to live the life we want to live and for a well-functioning democracy. They have a great impact on our daily lives and on our national legal systems. Given the extension of the scope of fundamental rights, they are now visible almost everywhere, from criminal law to company law, and from private law to constitutional law. For that reason, it is important to know and understand the dynamics of interpretation and limitation of fundamental rights in Europe, and to learn how the European courts deal with issues such as diversity, subsidiarity and citizenship.

Fundamental rights protection in Europe co-exist in national, European Union (EU) and Council of Europe (CoE) mechanisms. This co-existence in different legal systems raises important questions as regards the coherence and consistency in the interpretation of rights and the effect of EU and CoE rights in national legal orders.

Form of tuition

This course is being taught in English and consists of weekly lectures and tutorials.

Type of assessment

Your grade is based on a written exam.

Since this is an English course and you will be familiar with the English terminology, we strongly recommend that you answer the questions in English. Answering in Dutch is, however, allowed.

Course reading

The literature and case law will be published on Canvas.

Entry requirements

Entry requirements students Bachelor's degree programme Law (Rechtsgeleerdheid):

- Beginselen staatsrecht
- Beginselen Europees recht

Target group

Apart from regular students, the course is also available for:

Students from other universities/faculties

Exchange students

Contractor (students who pay for one course)

Remarks

This course contributes to the following exit qualifications of the Bachelor of Laws:

The overall aim of the course is to train students to acquire a high academic and intellectual level;

The student graduating with a Bachelor's degree will have the

1. knowledge and understanding of the core doctrines of European fundamental rights law, as well as the systematics of it, including recent developments;
2. knowledge and understanding of European fundamental rights law in their relation to national law;
3. knowledge of English legal terminology;
4. understanding that the law develops and operates in a social context;

In terms of legal skills, the student graduating with a Bachelor's law degree will be able to

Analytical skills

5. read, understand and analyze legal(theoretical) texts and arguments, including case law and legislation on European fundamental rights;
6. critically reflect on rules, case law and literature on European fundamental rights, among others from a legal historical, comparative or legal philosophical perspective; reflect on the boundaries of the field of study;
7. analyze and set up structures of legal arguments.

Problem solving skills

8. extricate the legal key facts out of a text;
9. select legal rules to construct a legal solution for a legal case;
10. solve legal cases, including a systematical approach when applying the legal rules on a specific case;

Communication skills

11. present written (legal) arguments in correct and clear English;
12. take a well-founded and substantiated position in a social-legal debate.

