

Teacher(s)	Frison Christine ;Romainville Céline ;Sibony Anne-Lise ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	French. Passive knowledge of English and Dutch is necessary for reading texts in English and Dutch.
Main themes	<p>The aim of this course is to introduce students to the methodologies of legal research in order to prepare them for the dissertation seminar and their final dissertation. After a general introduction explaining why it is important to learn about legal research methods, we will cover the following points:</p> <p>What are the main theoretical trends in law (legal positivism; natural law; realism and sociology of law; critical theory of law; etc.)?</p> <p>What are the different legal research methodologies? Positivist methodology; empirical methodology (quantitative or qualitative: surveys, interviews, focus groups, participant observation, etc.); methodological pluralism;</p>

	<p>In this module, students are not asked to produce a research note containing these various elements. They will have to identify one in the thesis seminar during the second term. The aim is to grasp what these stages mean in concrete terms. This will be achieved by actively observing authors' writings and using a guide that we will provide.</p> <p>The third module, taught by Anne-Lise Sibony, will be devoted to introducing interdisciplinarity. The starting point will be the question 'What can lawyers use contributions from other disciplines for?' Drawing on the knowledge acquired in the first two modules and the guidance provided in the third part of the course, students will read interdisciplinary scholarship and be guided to identify postures, research questions, methods and tools that can be used by legal scholars. Examples will be drawn from the economic analysis of law, the behavioural analysis of law and empirical legal studies. Other interdisciplinary areas may be covered, depending on academic guests of the Louvain Global College of Law and the Doctoral School.</p> <p>Finally, the fourth module is dedicated to writing. This is a unique opportunity to discover how to use AI to improve your writing skills. This will be invaluable in particular for the research note (work on the dissertation support seminar in Q2) and, of course, when writing the dissertation itself. This module is organised in partnership with the team responsible for the 'Planning, writing and revising academic writing' research project. Some writing tips will be offered during the course. Students will have to complete learning activities online. These must be completed in order to register for the exam.</p>
<p>Inline resources</p>	<p>Students will have online access to various readings for this course: books to which the library provides electronic access and articles posted on Moodle.</p> <p>Module 4 (Writing) will take place entirely online.</p>
<p>Bibliography</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. Jamin et Ph. Jestaz, <i>La doctrine</i>, Dalloz, Coll. Méthodes du droit, Paris 2004 • H. Dumont, A. Bailleux, "Esquisse d'une théorie des ouvertures interdisciplinaires accessibles aux juristes", <i>Droit et Société</i>, 75/2010, pp. 275 et seq. • V. Champeil-Desplats, <i>Théorie générale des droits et libertés</i>, Paris, Dalloz, 2019 • V. Champeil-Desplats, <i>Méthodologies du droit et des sciences du droit</i>, Paris, Dalloz, 2022 • O. Corten, <i>Méthodologie du droit international public</i>, Brussels, Editions de l'ULB, 2009. • L. Kestemont, <i>Handbook on legal methodology: from objective to method</i>, Intersentia, 2018 (accessible via StradaLex) • M. Van Hoecke, "Preface" and "Legal Doctrine: Which Method(s) for What Kind of Discipline?", in M. Van Hoecke (ed.), <i>Methodologies of Legal Research: what kind of method for what kind of discipline?</i>, Hart Publishing, 2013, pp. 1-18. • Uwe Kischel, <i>Comparative Law</i>, OUP 2019
<p>Other infos</p>	<p>The main aim of this course is to better equip students for the dissertation support seminar and the dissertation itself. In this sense, the assessment of learning from this course will be fully realised during the assessment of the research note (at the end of the dissertation support seminar) and the dissertation itself. The MCQ is designed to assess the acquisition of a basic foundation that will be put to good use later on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for reading time (knowing that you may need more time for readings in English or Dutch) • Read the assigned materials very carefully • Come to class (both lectures and practical sessions) • Be prepared to participate in class discussions and practical exercises. • Read critically and think comparatively: write down the questions you would like to raise in class and think critically about the sources and arguments analysed. Are the arguments convincing or not? Why or why not? • Engage in discussions with colleagues outside the classroom, help each other

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in Law	DROI2M	2		