

Multidisciplinary Analyses of the Law (B001756)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (Year)	English	Gent	group work	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Lievens, Eva	RE21	lecturer-in-charge
Tison, Michel	RE21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Master of Laws in Laws	4	A
Exchange Programme in Law	4	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Technology, artificial intelligence, innovation, entrepreneurship, law, multidisciplinary

Position of the course

This course starts from the concept of a "hackathon" in which teams of participants come up with a solution to cases or "challenges" within a short period of time ("challenge-based education"). More specifically, this course aims to have students from different backgrounds work together on a proof-of-concept, using (information) technology to solve a legal and socially relevant challenge. They present the final result to a professional jury, which evaluates the proposed solution. In this way, they learn to apply the knowledge they have already acquired to a specific problem, acquire skills that are important in practice (such as teamwork, design thinking, brainstorming, pitching) and learn to engage in dialogue with colleagues from different backgrounds. As legal problems and processes become increasingly complex and often require input from different disciplines to solve them, being able to cooperate in a multidisciplinary context is an increasingly necessary skill. Furthermore, this course also aims to encourage students' interest in and familiarity with entrepreneurship.

Contents

The course consists of (1) preparatory sessions, (2) the hackathon or 'Legal Techathon', and (3) an intervention.

1. Preparatory sessions:

During a series of plenary sessions, students are introduced to a number of substantive topics and competences needed to participate in the techathon:

- Design thinking & prototyping
- Collaborative learning & brainstorming
- Technical introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- Introduction to legal tech
- Business planning and feasibility studies
- Pitch training

2. Legal Techathon:

Students work in teams of 4-5 students, from different academic backgrounds (including law, economics/commercial sciences and computer science/informatics).

The teams work for 36 hours on certain challenges that address concrete needs of societal actors. During the creative process, they apply the skills acquired in the preliminary phase and are supported by coaches for the various sub-aspects. They present their proof-of-concept during a final pitch in front of a professional jury, which will judge them on creativity, feasibility and persuasiveness.

3. Intervision:

After completing the preparatory sessions and the Legal Techathon, students submit a written record of their proof-of-concept. During a concluding intervention moment, students reflect on the process, the realised learning effects and whether the intended learning objectives were achieved.

Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge is required. A general interest in technology and innovation is recommended.

Final competences

- 1 Understand and be able to apply the general principles of design thinking, prototyping and pitching
- 2 Analyse legal and socially relevant challenge and provide a possible solution for it together with team members
- 3 Prepare and give a clear pitch in front of a jury
- 4 Recognise the importance of and understand the interdependence between law and (information) technology
- 5 Gain insight into the basics of innovation and entrepreneurship

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Group work: the students work together on a legal challenge and devise a proof of concept for it. The individual group members start from their own academic background and work together in a multidisciplinary context.
- Lectures: prior to the actual Legal Techathon, students attend a preliminary programme with plenary sessions explaining concepts such as design thinking, pitching and prototyping. Students acquire the necessary knowledge and skills during these sessions, so that they can apply them during the Legal Techathon.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Course Material Legal Techathon
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Reader Legal Techathon
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Intensive coaching by lecturers and coaches with specific expertise.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

- Participation (50%): attendance and participation in the discussions during the preliminary process, the legal techathon and the intervision moment are mandatory.
- Presentation (30%): students pitch their proof of concept at the end of the Legal Techathon, questions will be asked by the jury after the presentation. The assessment includes the creativity and feasibility of the idea as well as the quality and persuasiveness of the oral presentation.
- Paper (20%): students describe their proof-of-concept in a written paper and also reflect on their experience and the process, the learning effects achieved and whether the intended learning objectives were achieved.

Calculation of the examination mark

- Presentation: 30% of the final score
- Participation: 50% of the final score
- Paper: 20% of the final score

Students who do not participate in all evaluations will not be able to pass this course. Specifically, if the final score would still be a mark of ten or more out of twenty, the final score will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful mark.