

Law & Safety in Public Service II

Course guide 2025-2026

Semester	Spring (semester 2)
Inholland location(s)	Rotterdam
Inholland faculty	Business, Finance & Law
Language of instruction	English
Cycle	Bachelor level
Number of ECTS	30

Subjects

Subject title	ECTS	Course code
Comparative Public Law	3	1421L&S11Z
International Organisations	3	1421L&S12Z
Law of Diplomatic Relations	3	1421L&S13Z
EU Policy-Making: Current Issues and Strategies	3	1421L&S14Z
EU Common Foreign and Security Policy	3	1421L&S15Z
EU Sectoral Policies	3	1421L&S16Z
Employment of armed forces	3	1421L&S17Z
Use of Force in International Law	3	1421L&S18Z
International and European Law Enforcement Cooperation	3	1421L&S19Z
International Protection of Human Rights	3	1421L&S10Z

Content subjects

Comparative Public Law

The course starts with a general introduction to public administration and provides grounding in the methodology and roots of administrative law. By using a comparative approach, the students will examine the main administrative institutions and analyze striking differences and similarities, by using theories and typologies by taking up the role as a civil servant. The comparison focuses mainly on the governmental structure of the states, including the different models of self-government, organs of central administration, administrative justice, reform, administrative procedural law, access to justice and the Rule of Law. For the comparative element, a selection of European states is chosen. This includes, despite Brexit, the United Kingdom. Students will be examined based on a written test.

International Organizations

International institutions are powerful players on the world stage, and every student of international studies requires a clear understanding of the forces that shape them. For example, with increasing global influence comes the need for internal control and accountability – this overview considers these. Added to that, also other forces that govern international institutions such as UN, EU and WTO and the complex relationship that exists between international organizations and their member states. Even though these organizations differ on many aspects (membership, aims and goals, competences, areas of activity), they share many similar characteristics. The course includes not only a presentation of historical developments, but also a classification of different international organizations. It will analyze in detail the rules and practice of membership, institutional structure, decision-making, financing and correspondence. The comparative method will be complemented by contemporary case studies, namely with the UN, WTO, WHO, EU and other international organizations, international NGOs included.

Law of Diplomatic Relations

The course covers primarily the essential topics of the law of diplomatic relations including the most important definitions used by the area in question, but also legal questions raised by the bilateral and multilateral relations of states. In addition, the students deal with the legal consequences of relations among states and other subjects of public international law. Some

newly emerging issues of the law of diplomatic relations are also discussed within the framework of the course.

EU Policy-Making: Current Issues and Strategies

The aim of the course is to equip students with skills that enable them to identify current policy challenges and to demonstrate suitable strategies to solve them. This course is intended to offer theoretical knowledge and practical skills to analyze a number of current EU policies covering issues of the social and environmental policies, Economic and Monetary Union and the newest Digital EU policy. Students also gain insights into the contemporary debates about the future of EU integration, as well as the latest European agenda. At the end of the course, students can offer suitable advice and develop matching strategies in an academic essay, intended to be used as solutions to problem areas of EU policy.

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

The subject of the course is to give a general overview of the major steps of development of EU external relations, foreign and security policies. The course will start with the presentation of the historical aspects: basic treaties since Rome up to Lisbon. After, the course will follow the concrete provisions endowing the EU with crisis management capabilities. The ESDP was declared operational in 2003 and will be discussed. Students are then offered knowledge about crisis management operations, military missions and civilian alike. By entering into force, the Lisbon Treaty established a new institutional structure for the Common Security and Defence Policy. Students will work on main topics, such as the role of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs, Security Policy, enlargement of the Petersberg Tasks, decisions in the field of CSDP, command and control options, financing and capability development.

EU Sectoral Policies

The aim of the course is to provide up-to-date knowledge about the most important EU policies. This course is a central part of the European Studies education. The course discusses key European Union policies, such as internal market policies, energy policy, agricultural policy, economic and monetary policies, environmental policy, transport and R&D, innovation policy and cohesion policy, and more. It also assesses some of the key elements of the evolution of these policies in a historical and political context. Moreover, this course examines the relationship of various sectoral policies. Some policies have unintended consequences on others which results in inefficiencies and inconsistencies. Therefore, students are presented to them the introduction of the method of impact assessment of policymaking, in order to contribute to their better understanding of sectoral policies.

Employment of Armed Forces, Cooperative and Collective Efforts

The course aims to provide the students with sufficient knowledge and information about the specialities, major principles and processes of employment of Armed Forces in the framework of cooperative and collective efforts and home defence. During the course, students will learn about the needs of military science, as well as the decision-making processes and provide military defence in different circumstances. Special focus will be applied to NATO, NATO-led, NATO-related activities, closely connected with other security actors.

Use of Force in International Law

Students will be presented questions about the use of force in the system of international relations and international law and its legal sources (basics/roots). The students will gain knowledge of the development of international law from the limitation of the use of force to its abolishment. Possibilities to use of force in the framework of the UN – obvious prohibitions and

possibilities are also discussed. In doing so, state practice and its critical approach will be at the core of discussion. International

Protection of Human Rights

In this course, the focus will be put on the protection of human rights globally and regionally. Students are equipped with tools to apply the main principles in concrete human rights situations. There are quite a few differences between the global and regional systems of protection. For that reason, students will dive into those different protection mechanisms, such as the regional human rights courts (EU and Inter-American) and treaty-bodies. Furthermore, the monitoring, implementing, and enforcing of human rights will be discussed with a comparative outlook. Given that there is no global, i.e., world human rights court or tribunal, a deep dive into the different treaty-body mechanisms which operate in a so-called quasi-judicial manner together with (landmark) case law will assist students in legally analyzing human rights violations. Lastly, we will zoom into a couple of specific human rights, such as the prohibition of torture. Given this is a course with a strong legal connotation, the so-called IRAC analysis for legal scholars will be practiced and ultimately examined in a written test.

International and European Law Enforcement Cooperation

The course gives an overview about the international dimension of policing and law enforcement, about its professional network, levels, models and types (universal, regional and bilateral relation), possibilities of international law enforcement cooperation (including cross border law enforcement cooperation and role of police in peacekeeping missions), about theories, legal and institutional background (universal and EU legal documents, international organizations: Interpol, EU agencies: Europol, Eurojust, Frontex and more. The curriculum covers the introduction of the roles of each law enforcement authority (police, prison service, disaster management and topics alike, in international cooperation network as well.

Learning outcomes

See course descriptions

Mode of delivery, planned activities and teaching methods

Lectures, projects and group work

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Appropriate basic knowledge of law, the EU common and security policies, ability to understand the main elements of the principles and rules. Students are equipped with skills to identify current policy challenges and offer suitable solutions to them.

In this course the theoretical knowledge and practical skills are developed parallel. In the short term, students are motivated to contribute with their own ideas to EU policy making. They also learn how to be strategic, critical and effective in a team work. In the long-term, these young individuals are going to become decision-makers and will be able to use their creativity and analytical skills to produce valuable policy proposals. Moreover, debating the current issues and the future of the EU also contributes to motivate our students to be active in policy debates of the Union.

Recommended or required reading and/or other learning recourses/tools

To be announced

Assessment methods and criteria

Written exams, presentation and papers

Lecturer(s)

Coordinator: Irina Rasseino - Irina.Rasseino@inholland.nl