



Course title	GEN201 1 Skills Course Rhetoric and Mock Trial
Course Code	GEN 201.1
Category (core/elective)	Core
Level	LLB in European Law
Duration (semesters)	1
Semester when taught (autumn/spring)	Autumn
ECTS	6
Prerequisites	None
Responsible	Professor Flora Goudappel
Course objectives	
<p>This course aims to help students develop key transferable skills that are imperative for any academic and future professional career. As opposed to “knowledge”, which is acquired through taught classes and independent research, skills, or “know-how” focus on means and methods and are developed through practical implementation. This objective of this course is to introduce students to rhetorical and strategic skills that they will need to become better students but also better legal practitioners. Since the whole course will be a preparation in the context of a mock trial competition, through participation students will gain an insider’s perspective on courtroom procedures, the capacity to analyse problems critically, think strategically, develop their listening skills, their skills in oral presentation and extemporaneous argument, their skills in preparing and organizing material and finally get their first exposure to the everyday life of a law-related career (lawyer, judge). The course aims also to build transferable skills such as team work and public speaking, which will enable students to achieve their goals, adapt faster in a future work environment and excel in whatever career they choose to follow after graduation.</p>	
Course Description	

The course focuses on learning the practical skills of pleading before a court, both written and oral pleadings. On the basis of a case, the students prepare their pleading, which will be a mock trial of the General Court of the Court of Justice of the European Union. They will have to prepare their case file, write the written pleadings, do the oral pleadings, and prepare for answers to questions by the court and other parties. In order to do so, they will have to find the relevant information about the contents of the case and learn to value what is important and what is not, for their pleadings at hand.

Course Outline

The students will be given the case and will be assigned the party they represent. They will then start preparing their pleadings under supervision. In the week of the lectures for the course, they will first discuss the work done so far, practice debating and pleading, and finally present their written and oral pleadings in a court setting.

Educational Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be equipped to: (1) organise a case file (2) engage in a legal debate by defending their legal arguments and responding to relevant questions (3) deliver in a timely manner properly structured pieces of written work (4) to conduct basic bibliographic and case-law research (5) communicate their ideas while working as a team and (6) develop a character that is able to undergo a stressful procedure such as as a court trial.

<p>Basic Bibliography</p>	<p>D. o'Dempsey, 'Litigating before the European Court of Justice: practical issues to consider' (2009) Speech delivered at the Academy of European Law, available at: http://www.era-comm.eu/anti-discrim/TheRoleoftheJurisdictions.html</p> <p>Court of Justice of the European Communities, 'Notes for the guidance of Counsel in written and oral proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Communities', February 2009</p> <p>General Court of the EU, 'Practice Rules for the Implementation of the Rules of Procedure of the General Court (Consolidated Version)', July 2016</p> <p>V. Miller, 'Taking a complaint to the Court of Justice of the European Union', Commons Briefing papers SN05397, March 2010</p> <p>M. Rhimes, 'The EU Courts Stand Their Ground: Why Are the Standing Rules for Direct Actions Still So Restrictive?' 9 (2016)European Journal of Legal Studies</p>				
<p>Teaching Methodology</p>	<table> <tr> <td>Lectures</td> <td>15 x 2 = 30 h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tutorials</td> <td>Total = 30 h</td> </tr> </table>	Lectures	15 x 2 = 30 h	Tutorials	Total = 30 h
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Evaluation	<table> <tr> <td>Final Exam</td> <td>80 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Course Participation</td> <td>20 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In total:</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </table>	Final Exam	80 %	Course Participation	20 %	In total:	100%
Final Exam	80 %						
Course Participation	20 %						
In total:	100%						
Language	English						
Traineeship	No						
Location	Legraina Campus						
General note	While the 'Course Objectives' and 'Educational Outcomes' above remain immutable, the 'Course Content' and 'Course Outline' may be altered in order to accommodate students' needs and individual professors' approaches. Bibliography and reading materials may vary accordingly.						