

## Course Outline

<b>Course number</b>	RMC102					
<b>Course title</b>	Legal Research					
<b>Credit points</b>	3					
<b>Total hours</b>	75					
<b>Contact hours</b>	24					
<b>Independent studies</b>	51					
<b>Course level</b>	Masters					
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None					
<b>Category</b>	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective		Free elective	

### COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Régis Lanneau	Doctor, hab	Visiting lecturer

### COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Régis Lanneau	Doctor, hab	Visiting lecturer

### COURSE ABSTRACT

This course investigates the foundations, methods, and limits of legal research with a strong focus on interdisciplinarity—especially the law and economics tradition. It covers doctrinal and empirical approaches, debates on internal and external validity, and the rhetorical function of legal scholarship. Students will critically examine the methodological choices that shape legal research and explore how interdisciplinary frameworks like economics can enrich legal analysis.

## GRADING CRITERIA

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Participation	10%
Student oral and written presentation	90%

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Main subjects</b>	<b>Planned hours</b>
1	Introduction into Legal Research	2
2	Internal validity of research	2
3	External validity of research	3
4	Functions of rhetorics	1
5	Practical application	4

## COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

<b>Session</b>	<b>Session subjects and readings</b>	<b>Lecture/ Seminar</b>
1	What is legal research? Doctrinal and scientific approaches	L
2	Is there a specific legal methodology? Or why interdisciplinarity is unescapable?	L
3	Internal validity (I): the building blocks of research (the case of law and economics: rationality, efficiency and cost benefit analysis)	L
4	Internal validity (II): research design (questions, hypotheses and methods)	L
5	External validity (I): understanding the issue: the markets for babies	L
6	External validity (II): the critiques of law and economics	L
7	External validity (III): specifying the limits of your research	L

<b>Session</b>	<b>Session subjects and readings</b>	<b>Lecture/ Seminar</b>
8	The function of rhetorics	L
9	Example: the problem of social cost	L
10	Example: the colonial origins of comparative development	L
11/12	Presenting and critiquing research: students presentations of draft projects	S

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course has the following main learning outcomes:

#### **Knowledge:**

1. Understanding of core legal research methodologies
2. Familiarity with foundational concepts in law and economics
3. Awareness of the epistemological and rhetorical dimensions of legal scholarship

#### **Skills:**

4. Ability to design a coherent legal research project
5. Capacity to critically read and evaluate legal literature

#### **Competencies:**

6. Autonomous development of interdisciplinary research
7. Application of legal-economic reasoning to real-world legal problems

***By completing the study course and successfully passing examination, the student will be able to:***

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<b>Evaluation criteria</b>		
	<b>(40-69%)</b>	<b>(70-89%)</b>	<b>(90-100%)</b>
<b>Knowledge</b>	The student has acquired only basic knowledge of the course subject. The student lacks understanding of some of the core issues of the course subject.	Overall, the student's knowledge complies with the expectations. However, there are issues that the student does not fully understand.	The student has demonstrated in-depth knowledge and understanding of the issues related to the course subject.
<b>Skills</b>	The student has demonstrated only basic level of skills.	The student has demonstrated good skills.	The student has demonstrated excellent skills.

<b>Competencies</b>	The student can apply the knowledge only at a basic level. The student struggles with assessment and evaluation of legal issues. The student can identify the relevant legal norms. However, the student cannot correctly apply them.	The student can apply the knowledge at a reasonably good level. However, the student does not have the necessary level to be able to fully apply the acquired knowledge independently. The student has some problems to correctly apply the legal norms.	The student is able to apply the knowledge independently and correctly. The student can assess and evaluate legal issues, identify the relevant legal norms, and correctly apply them.
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**Please analyse the contribution of defined grading criteria to learning outcomes.**  
**Number of grading criteria and learning outcomes should correspond to previously defined one.**

<b>Grading criteria</b>	<b>Learning outcomes</b>						
	<b>1.</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>3.</b>	<b>4.</b>	<b>5.</b>	<b>6.</b>	<b>7</b>
Participation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Presentations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## **COURSE LITERATURE**

### **Compulsory literature**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Author, year, title, publisher</b>
	Ward Farnsworth: The legal analysis, University of Chicago press, 2007
	Ronald Coase, the problem of social cost, Journal of law and economics, 1960
	Acemoglu, Johnson, Robinson, the colonial origins of comparative development, American economic review, 2001

### **Additional literature and sources**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Author, year, title, publisher</b>
	P. Feyerabend, Against Method: Outline of an Anarchistic Theory of Knowledge, Verso, 1993.