## 置The Journal for Digital Legal History 屬



Publishing license: <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/</a> CC-BY 4.0

Title:	Short notice: Roman Law MOOC
Author(s) and contributors:	Jean-François Gerkens
Issue:	1
Year:	2023
DOI:	10.21825/dlh.87549
Abstract:	This (French) MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) of Roman Law has been imagined to help the law students of the University of Liège to study Roman law. Due to the fact that the Roman Law course is a compulsory second year course, it brings together a large number of students, which largely prevents the practical possibility of organising an interactive course.

## **MOOC of Roman Law**

This (French) MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) of Roman Law has been imagined to help the University of Liège law students study Roman law. Due to the fact that the Roman Law course is a compulsory second-year course, it brings together a large number of students, which largely prevents the practical possibility of organising an interactive course. For this reason, I imagined changing my way of giving lessons and replacing some of the courses given in class, with courses registered in the form of a MOOC. For the other part of the courses, I can then subdivide the class into two groups to discuss texts of Roman law with less numerous groups of students. Some of these excerpts from Justinian's Digest and Gaius' Institutes are discussed in the MOOC, but for the most part, their discussion is reserved for face-to-face courses.



Figure 1 Landingpage of the MOOC. <a href="https://www.fun-mooc.fr/fr/cours/les-romains-un-peuple-de-juristes-introduction-au-droit-romain/">https://www.fun-mooc.fr/fr/cours/les-romains-un-peuple-de-juristes-introduction-au-droit-romain/</a>

The MOOC is, therefore, for the most part, a relatively general presentation on Roman private law. It consists of 43 videos with an approximate duration of 15 to 20 minutes. These videos are divided into 10 modules that each have between 3 and 6 videos. They are designed to give a general introduction to Roman Private Law.

## The plan followed is as follows:

- Module 1: History of Roman Law
- Module 2: Sources of Roman Law
- Module 3: The Second Life of Roman Law
- Module 4: Procedure and Roman world
- Module 5: The right to property
- Module 6: Dismemberments of the right to property
- Module 7: Obligations
- Module 8: Delicts
- Module 9: Contracts
- Module 10: Obligations of various sources

The Romans invented the law. They are the first to have clearly separated law and religion. They were, therefore also the first to criticise the rule of law, with a view to improving it. It could therefore be said that knowing Roman law is of the same importance to the jurist as knowing the theorem of Pythagoras for the mathematician and Aristotle for the philosopher.

Studying Roman law makes it possible to understand much better the rules that we apply today in modern law. This MOOC will focus primarily on private law. It is in private law that the Roman roots of our modern law appear most clearly. The evolution of Roman law during Roman history is also explained in this MOOC.

Some practical exercises are available after each module, to verify whether the students have understood the content of the videos. A discussion forum is also available for the students to ask any questions. To obtain a certificate of successful completion of the MOOC, the students must obtain an average grade of 50% or higher.

Jean-François Gerkens

Professeur de Droit romain et Droit privé comparé

(Faculté de Droit, de Science politique et de Criminologie – Université de Liège)