

MASTER'S DEGREE IN EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND COMMUNICATION

TEACHING SYLLABUS



MODULE NAME: EU INSTITUTION AND LAW

MATERIALS:

1. JURIDICAL – INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE UNION PERFORMANCE
2. LEGAL SYSTEM

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 6 ECTS

1. JURIDICAL – INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE UNION PERFORMANCE (3 ECTS)
2. LEGAL SYSTEM (3 ECTS)

TEACHING MODALITY AND LANGUAGE: Face to Face in English

DESCRIPTION:

This module offers a comprehensive overview of the European Union's institutional framework and the legal principles that underpin its operations. Students will explore the structure and functions of the main EU institutions, such as the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the European Council, and gain insight into their roles in shaping EU policies and legislation. The module also focuses on the practical aspects of European Union law, equipping students with the skills to analyze and apply legal sources, including treaties, regulations, directives, and case law. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, students will develop a strong understanding of the EU's legal system, its decision-making processes, and how EU law is applied within member states. The module will also enhance students' ability to navigate the complex relationship between European law and national legal systems, preparing them for careers in EU law, policy-making, and related fields.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Knowledge of the European institutions, their functioning, and decision-making processes. (Material 1)
- Necessary skills for the search and management of legal, doctrinal, and jurisprudential sources in the field of European Union law. (Material 2)
- Understanding, interpretation, and analysis of legal texts related to European Union law. (Material 2)
- Knowledge of the legal system of the Union and its judicial application. (Material 2)

CONTENT OF THE MODULE

1. *JURIDICAL – INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE UNION PERFORMANCE*

1. Introduction to the European institutions
2. European Council. European Commission. European Parliament
3. Decision-making process
4. Court of Justice and Court of First Instance. Court of Auditors
5. Other institutions
6. Advisory bodies and European Agencies
7. Organization of National Public Administration in relation to the EU
8. Lobbies: the role of stakeholders in the decision-making process

2. *LEGAL SYSTEM*

1. Sources. Primary law and secondary legislation.
2. Nature of the European legal order.
3. Application and administrative rules of Union law.
4. The breach of European law. Infringement proceedings
5. Control of European law: the motion to vacate, the resource default. The advisory jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice.
6. Enforcement by courts. The pretrial motion. Case-law evolution in access of individuals to the European Union courts.
7. The principle of subsidiarity.
8. Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters. Eurojust.

TEACHING APPROACH

- *Lecture/seminar*

The theoretical part of the course consists of both seminars and lectures. Discussions between course attendants and lecturers are essential for this part, therefore participation is encouraged either during or after the lecture to share perspectives and address questions or comments.

- *Practical Case analysis and group discussion*

The second part of the course is comprised of case studies, and experiential. Case analysis is carried out in a group of 3 students.

- *Tutorial*

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Two kinds of tutorials available: (1) Peer-to-peer mentoring, and (2) tutorial with a tutor, where students will reflect on learnings from the course, share questions and understanding, and explore further interests.

LEARNING METHODOLOGY

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES	IN- PERSON	HOURS	NON-CLASS ACTIVITIES	IN- PERSON	HOURS
	%			%	
Theoretical/Practical Classes	100	48	Personal Study	0	20
Academic Tutorials	100	6	Preparation of papers, exercise, problems and/or case studies	0	50
In-class assessment	100	6	Recommended readings and bibliographic Research	0	20
TOTAL	100	60	TOTAL	0	90

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Practices and /or seminars will be evaluated through different assessment methods (exercise, completion and presentation of assignments, practical clases, etc.) that reflect the practical content covered.

In general, the grading system established in R.D. 1125/2003 of September 5th will be followed, which is as follows:

- 0 – 4,9: Fail (SS)
- 5,0 – 6,9: Pass (AP)
- 7,0 – 8,9: Good (Notable)
- 9,0 – 10: Outstanding (SB)

The mention of "Honors" may be granted to students who have obtained a grade equal or higher than 9.0. The number of honors awarded cannot exceed 5% of the students enrolled in a subject in the corresponding academic year, unless the number of enrolled students is less than 20, in which case only one honor may be granted.

Study Recommendations

Students are recommended to dedicate a total of 90 hours of independent work to the course, excluding the time spent in face-to-face classes. Considering a semester of approximately 15 weeks, this corresponds to an average of 6 hours per week for studying, reading, and preparing individual and group assignments.

The e-learning system will serve as the main platform for continuous contact and course management, and it will include the following sections:

- **Resources:** This section will provide students with materials directly related to the course content in PDF format, including theoretical and practical documents, scientific articles, images, templates, and guides to facilitate and deepen learning.
- **Assignments:** Here, students will have access to any mandatory or optional exercises proposed during the course.
- **Announcements:** This section will be used for posting grades, exam calls, and important communications for students.

Teaching Material

For the proper follow-up and successful completion of the course, students must have the following materials and infrastructure:

Virtual Campus

The Virtual Campus will be the main reference platform for the development of the course. Through this tool, students will have access to all the necessary documentation, organized into the following sections:

Modules:

This tab will include:

- The academic guide of the course.
- Thematic folders with supporting material for studying each topic.
- A folder dedicated to seminars, which will include essential resources for active participation in debates and group activities.

Assignments:

This section will contain:

- Detailed instructions for completing each assignment.
- Supplementary materials and guidelines to facilitate the development of practical work.

Announcements:

Through this tab, relevant updates, important dates, and students' grades will be communicated.

Technological Resources

- **Computer with internet connection:**
This will be essential for accessing the Virtual Campus, conducting bibliographic searches, developing individual or group work, participating in practical seminars, and submitting evaluable activities.

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- Resources for videoconferencing:
If participation in virtual sessions is required, students must have the necessary technical means (camera, microphone, and stable internet connection).
- University facilities:
The university provides computer rooms (API rooms) as an alternative resource for those who do not have adequate personal means.

Tutorials

Academic tutoring sessions will serve as a complement to clarify doubts that arise throughout the semester. The main objective of these sessions is to reinforce the theoretical content and practical aspects of the course. Due to their personalized nature, they will address the specific needs of each student with the aim of strengthening those areas of their learning (knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes) that may present greater difficulty. The teaching methodologies used in these sessions will be the same as those regularly employed in class.

Similarly, academic tutoring will include the completion, monitoring, and evaluation of practical assignments, as well as support for the student's autonomous learning.

SCHEDULE:

12 lecture sessions (from 16h00 to 20h00) would be delivered in November-December.