



SUBJECT DETAILS

Data on the subject	
Name	European Union Law
Degree	Law
Course	2025-2026
Nature	Fall and Spring
ECTS Credits	6 credits
Department	Public Law
Area	International Public Law
Teaching staff	José María Pernas Alonso

Data on the teaching staff	
Teaching staff	José María Pernas Alonso
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Office	
Tutoring Schedule	Upon request from students

SPECIFIC DATA ON THE SUBJECT

Pre-requisites
None
Contribution of the degree to the professional profile
The subject "European Union Law: institutional and normative system" analyses the configuration and evolution of the European Union, its institutional structure, the basic principles of its legal system and the relationship between this and the national legal systems. The impact of European Union Law on other areas of law can help students to understand other subjects on the syllabus. The knowledge of this subject is essential for any professional in the field of law, business or public management. In fact, in each of these professional areas, both at national and international levels, a

jurist must bear in mind the process of European integration and its impact on national legal systems when resolving legal conflicts, advising on legal conditionings in the design of business strategies in the European market, and exercising public functions at national, European and international levels.

COMPETENCES TO BE IMPROVED

Skills you will gain from this course:

GENERIC COMPETENCES

GC 1: Analysis and synthesis abilities

GC 3: Ability to manage information

GC 8: Critical appraisal skills

GC 10: Ability to develop autonomous learning skills

GC 11: Concern for quality

GC 12: Ability to apply theoretical knowledge into practice

SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

CEA 02 - Knowing and understanding the political, economic and philosophical aspects that have led to the creation and configuration of today's European Union, penetrating its institutional structure and the basic principles of its legal system.

- Analysing and understanding the creation of the institutional structure which guarantees the functioning of the EU and the achievement of its objectives
- Analysing and understanding the EU legal system and its practical implications when guaranteeing the primacy and, if applicable, direct effect of its norms
- Knowing and understanding the functioning of the basic freedoms of the internal market from a practical perspective.

CEA 07 - Understanding complex legal issues. The acquisition of this skill implies understanding legal issues of a certain degree of complexity related to the European Union, taking into account the connections with the legal order of the European Union and the member States, as well as the connections with other sectors of law.

Students will be able to understand questions of European Union Law, through the use of the appropriate resources, considering the connections with other issues. These questions should be identified on the basis of facts which are not legally structured.

THEMATIC AREA AND CONTENT

Unit 1: THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

1.1. International-legal basis of the process of European Integration. International Organisations of integration.

1.2. The European Communities and their evolution. The founding treaties and their amendments.

1.3. The European Union from Maastricht to Lisbon.

1.4. Values, objectives and principles of the European Union. The protection of fundamental rights in the EU.

1.5. The system of competences in the EU.

1.6. EU: Procedures of accession and withdrawal

UNIT 2: THE EU'S INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM
2.1. Features and principles of the EU's institutional system.
2.2. The European Commission.
2.3. The Council
2.4. The European Council
2.5. The European Parliament and the legislative procedures.
2.6. The European Union Court of Justice.
2.7. Other institutions and ancillary bodies.
UNIT 3: THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
3.1. Sources of law: introduction.
3.2. Primary law.
3.3. Secondary law.
3.4. International agreements concluded by the European Union
3.5. The general principles of European Union law.
3.6. Other norms and acts.
UNIT 4: THE POSITION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION LEGAL SYSTEM IN RELATION TO THE LEGAL SYSTEMS OF THE MEMBER STATES.
4.1. The position of the EU legal system within the national legal systems: Introduction.
4.2. The principle of primacy of the EU law
4.3. The principle of direct effect of the EU law.
4.4. The European Union legal system and the Spanish legal system. The Participation of Autonomous Regions in the process of European integration.
4.5. Implementation of European Union Law and liability of the member states for infringements of EU law.
UNIT 5: THE JUDICIAL APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW
5.1. The national judicial system and the judicial system of the EU: Introduction.
5.2. The national judge as EU judge. Special consideration of the Spanish case.
5.3. Judicial procedures before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

Basic Bibliography
Text books and articles
Academic literature on the topics covered by this course is rich, as there has been a plethora of academics, legal specialists and practitioners who have written on the legal system of the EU, the European institutions and the way they work, as well as the jurisdictional system of the EU. However, in spite of the abundance of titles in these fields, most of them come to address similar questions with however differences in insights or perspectives of analysis. Books of this type are numerous, but this course recommends the following titles:

- C. Barnard & S. Peers, *European Union Law*, Oxford University Press, 3rd ed., 2020.
- P. Craig & G. de Búrca, *EU law: text, cases, and materials*, Oxford University Press, 7th ed., 2020.
- R. Schütze, *European Constitutional Law*, Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition, 2016.

For those wishing to deepen their knowledge in particular aspects of the course, the following titles may be consulted:

- K. Lenaerts, I. Maselis, & K. Gutman, *EU Procedural Law*, Oxford EU Law Library, 2015
- D. Hodson & J. Peterson, *The Institutions of the European Union*, Oxford University Press, 2017.

For specific aspects, consultation of scientific journals specialized in EU law may also be useful:

- ☐ *Cambridge Yearbook of European Legal Studies*
- ☐ *Common Market Law Review*
- ☐ *EUI Working Papers*
- ☐ *European Constitutional Law Review*
- ☐ *European Journal of International Law*
- ☐ *European Journal of Legal Studies*
- ☐ *European Law Review*
- ☐ *European Papers*
- ☐ *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*
- ☐ *Jean Monnet Working Papers*
- ☐ *Yearbook of European Law*

Websites

European Union: https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en
 European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm
 Council of the European Union: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/homepage?lang=en>
 European Council: <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/home-page.aspx?lang=en>
 European Parliament: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>
 European Economic and Social Committee: <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.home>
 Committee of the Regions: <http://www.cor.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx>
 Court of Justice of the European Union: http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/j_6/UOT
 European Ombudsman: <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/home/en/default.htm>
 European Court of Auditors: <http://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/ecadefault.aspx>
 European Investment Bank : <http://www.eib.org/UOT>
 European Central Bank: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/UOT>
 Permanent representation of Spain: <http://www.en-ue.org>
 EURLEX: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>
 The Publications Office of the European Union: <http://publications.europa.eu/en/home>
 DOUE: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/direct-access.html?locale=en>
 SCAD PLUS: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/index_en.htm

Legal documents

In preparing and following each session and the whole course, students will need to handle the EU Treaties (consolidated versions of the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, available in Eur-lex: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties.html>), as

well as the case-law of the European Court of Justice (to be accessed through Curia website: https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/j_6/en/).

Notes

The explanations of the professor during the course are supported on PP or Word presentations which will be accessible by the students beforehand. Students are strongly encouraged to read through them in preparation for each session.

Other material- Jurisprudence

EU legal instruments, case law, newspaper clips and other material could be handed out before / during classes as complementary material, or as background information to be used by the students for the practical components of the course.

Due to the importance of the oral presentation of jurisprudence from European Court of Justice, we include here examples of relevant rulings from EU Court of Justice which is advisable to consult:

05-02-1963- case 26/62

15-07-1964- case 6/64

05-04-1979- case 148/78

06/10/1982- case 283/81

07/07/1987- case 281/85

05/03/1996- case 46/93

30/09/2003- case 224/01

09/12/2003- case 129/00

05/10/2004- case 397/01

12/05/2005- case 278/03

30/11/2006- case 32/05

01/10/2009- case 370/07

09/07/2009- case 319/07 P

26/01/2010- case 118/08

17/07/2008- case 207/2007

29/09/2021- case T-279/19

16/02/2022- case 156/21

30/06/2023- case 204/2021

24/11/2011- case 379/10

19/11/2019, A. K. and Others, C-585/18, C-624/18 and C-625/18

04/10/2024- cases-779/21 P and C-799/21 P.

26/09/2024- case 792/22

19/11/2024- case 814/21

24/06/2019- case 619/18

20/04/2021- case C-896/19.

28/06/2022 case 278/20

30/06/2023 case 204/2021

10/09/2024 case C-48/22 P

07/09/2023 Case C-216/21

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

General methodological aspects of the subject

Contact hours methodology: Activities

- **Master classes:**

The teacher will explain the main contents of each unit of the subject, developing the most relevant concepts and arguments, explaining the connections between them and trying to clarify any doubts or questions that may arise during the class or that may have been raised by the students during prior preparation.

- **Oral presentations in the classroom:**

During the course, each student will make a brief oral presentation of a subject previously assigned by the teacher. Presentations may consist of comments on a judgement of the EUCJ, legal act or document of relevance, a brief case study or replies to guided questions on the subject matter. The student must deliver to the professor, at the beginning of his presentation, a written outline of the same, which must necessarily include a bibliographical section that records the sources used by the student in the preparation of his presentation. These individual presentations will not preclude the possibility that all or some of the materials, specified by the teacher, must be read and/or studied by the group as a whole. The teacher will encourage the active participation of the rest of the students in the discussions that may arise with regard to the individual presentations of their fellow students.

- **Knowledge testing:**

In order to verify the level of understanding of the subject, facilitate studies and identify any conceptual gaps, knowledge is tested when each subject is completed. The test will consist of multiple choice and/or short questions.

Independent study methodology: Activities

- Preparation of the oral presentation by the designated student.
- Reading of the materials and notes entrusted to the group as a whole.
- Studying of the subject matter.

SUMMARY OF STUDENT WORK HOURS

Activity	No. face-to-face hours	No. non-face-to-face hours	Total hours
Master class	52	52	104
Classroom presentation	5	2	7
Assessment: classroom tests	3	11	14
Assessment: written exam	(+1)	25	25
Assessment: exam review	(+1)	0	0
ECTS CREDITS: 6	60	90	150 (+2)

GRADE EVALUATION AND CRITERIA

Evaluation Activities	Generic Competences	Evaluation Weighting
Oral participation in workshops/debates	GC 1: Analysis and synthesis abilities GC 8: Critical appraisal skills GC 12: Ability to apply theoretical knowledge into practice	15%
Knowledge testing	GC 1: Analysis and synthesis abilities GC 3: Ability to manage information GC 8: Critical appraisal skills GC 11: Concern for quality	15%
Final take-home exam	GC 1: Analysis and synthesis abilities GC 3: Ability to manage information GC 8: Critical appraisal skills GC 10: Ability to develop autonomous learning skills GC 11: Concern for quality GC 12: Ability to apply theoretical knowledge into practice	70%

- ❖ The final exam will consist of two parts, one consist on 10 multiple choice questions over the five sections of the course, and the second part will consist on three theoretical-practical cases in order that the student can demonstrate the knowledge of the legal principles applicable to the relations between EU legal order and national legal orders and the legal remedies in EU law. Students are required to pass 40% of the exam to be entitled to take the grades obtained in the other evaluation activities into consideration.