



## Law of the European Union Course Descriptor

Course Title	Law of the European Union	Faculty	Law
Course Code	NCHLW634	Course Leader	Alice Schneider
Credit Points	30	Teaching Period	Both
FHEQ Level	Level 6	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory for undergraduate combined and single honours students, and for Senior Status students		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

### COURSE SUMMARY

The European Union, now comprising 27 Member States, has evolved from relatively modest origins into an economic, social and political Union. The EU of today is comprised of a number of institutions which collectively possess a range of powers (or competences) to enact legal rules in policy areas that affect citizens' everyday lives. Therefore, an understanding of the European Union and its legal system is a crucial component of legal education in every Member State.<sup>1</sup>

This course aims to give students a comprehensive understanding of the key constitutional and substantive elements of EU Law. It will start by introducing the structure of the EU by examining its founding treaties, identifying its institutions and understanding their roles. Students will then consider the constitutional principles of EU Law, such as the doctrines of direct effect and supremacy. This material is important in order to critically consider the relationship between the EU and its Member States, whilst also providing an important foundation for understanding the substantive law of the EU. In this regard, this course will cover: the EU's rules on human rights; the EU's internal market; and the rules on the free movement of goods.

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<sup>1</sup> The SRA/BSB still define EU Law as a foundation of legal knowledge subject, so while that is the case it must be included in the curriculum of any qualifying law degree.

## **COURSE AIMS**

The course aims to:

The primary aim of the course is to fulfil the key elements and general principles of the Law of the European Union (EU) as required by the SRA/BSB Academic Stage Handbook for a Qualifying Law Degree. Within that parameter the aims of the course are to:

- Provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the institutional, constitutional and key substantive areas of the EU.
- Encourage students to critically evaluate the relationship between EU and national law.
- Ensure that students understand how to locate, and are familiar with, the EU's treaties, secondary legislation, jurisprudence and other relevant documents.
- Develop students' ability to formulate, analyse and evaluate legal arguments concerning matters of EU Law.
- Develop students' skills in applying their knowledge of the rules and principles of EU Law to problem scenarios in order to provide realistic and comprehensive advice to a client.
- Stimulate critical legal thinking about the role of the EU today.
- Encourage wider reading and independent legal research in pursuit of acquiring wider knowledge of matters of EU Law covered by the course's syllabus.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

### **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

- K1c Critically discuss legal theories, principles, doctrines, values and rules which underpin the law of the European Union, including those of supremacy, direct effect, state liability and the relationship between EU and national law.
- K2c Critically discuss the institutions and constitution of the European Union.
- K3c Critically discuss the treaties and secondary legislation of the European Union, particularly legislation concerning the single market and free movement of the factors of production.

### **COGNITIVE SKILLS**

- C1c Apply knowledge and critical understanding to determine solutions to complex problems involving European Union law.
- C2c Critically analyse factual information, selecting and prioritising from possible alternatives, using reasoned judgment and recognised legal arguments applying to European Union law.
- C3c Recognise ambiguity with and understand limits of their knowledge when dealing with the law of the European Union.

## **TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

- T1c Communicate accurately and effectively, using a variety of media and technological resources whilst demonstrating care and accuracy in use of English and legal terminology, including terminology relating to the civil law framework of the European Union.
- T1c Utilise an advanced level of technical proficiency of written English, while effectively applying scholarly terminology, to critically evaluate, analyse and make judgements and apply these appropriately to a range of diverse contexts.
- T2c Demonstrate a high level of ability to manage personal development by effective use of feedback, reflection, determination of needs, acquisition of knowledge and skills and collaborative working.
- T3c Undertake self-directed research using a wide range of legal and other information sources, evaluating and selecting information based on reasoned criteria.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Teaching and learning strategies for this course will typically include:

- 22.5 hours of full-cohort lectures
- 8 hours of seminars
- Two x 45 minute two-to-one tutorials
- Two x 30 minute one-to-one tutorials
- One x 90 minute revision session

Note: the seminars and lectures may be interchanged at times, depending on the needs of the course.

Course information and supplementary materials are available on the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Students will attend Collections (formal meetings) in which they receive comprehensive and collated feedback on their performance.

Students are required to attend and participate in all the formal and timetabled sessions for this course. Students are also expected to manage their directed learning and independent study in support of the course.

## **EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

- The course addresses core needs for practicing lawyers, especially research, communication, and presentation skills.
- The course teaches skills allowing continuing professional development.

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **FORMATIVE**

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback, helping students to become more sophisticated in their analysis of statutes and case law.

## SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in two forms:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Written assignment	40	Yes	N/A	2,000 words
2	Examination	60	N/A	2 hours	N/A

The examination will consist of a number of questions from which the student will have the choice of answering a specified number. Both the examination and the written assignment will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

## FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly through discussion during group tutorials. Student's will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their performance.

Feedback on examinations is provided through generic internal examiners' reports and are made available to the student on the VLE. For all other summative assessment methods, feedback is made available to the student either via email, the VLE or another appropriate method.

## INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

### BOOKS

Craig & De Burca, *EU Law: Text, Cases, and Materials* (Oxford University Press, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2015).

### JOURNALS

Modern Law Review

Cambridge Law Review

Law Quarterly Review

Common Market Law Review

European Law Review

European Law Journal.

### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Westlaw, Lexis and Bailii provide access to the main cases.

## INDICATIVE TOPICS

- An Introduction to the European Union

- EU Institutions, Policy and Law-Making
- Actions before EU Courts (Part I): The Preliminary Reference Procedure (Article 267 TFEU)
- Supremacy of EU Law
- Rights, Procedures, and Remedies (Part I): Direct Effect of EU Law
- Rights, Procedures, and Remedies (Part II)
- Equivalence, Effectiveness and State Liability
- Actions before the EU Courts (Part II): Actions for Annulment (Article 263 TFEU) and Enforcement
- Proceedings (Article 258-260 TFEU)
- Human Rights in the EU
- The Free Movement of Goods: Fiscal Barriers to Trade
- The Free Movement of Goods: Non-Fiscal Barriers to Trade
- The Free Movement of Workers & EU Citizenship

<b>Title: NCHLW634 Law of the European Union Course Descriptor</b>					
<b>Approved by: Academic Board</b>					
<b>Location: Academic Handbook/Programme specifications and Handbooks/ Undergraduate Programme Specifications/LLB (combined honours) Programme Specifications/Course Descriptors</b>					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Proposed next review date	Modification (As per AQF4) & category number
2.0	February 2022	March 2022	Alice Schneider	April 2025	Category 3: Changes to Learning Outcomes
1.1	June 2021	June 2021	Dimitrios Kyriazis	April 2025	Category 1: formatting change
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