



## Elements of Competition Law Course Descriptor

Course Title	Elements of Competition Law	Faculty	Law
Course Code	NCHLW656	Course Leader	Stephen Dnes
Credit Points	15	Teaching Period	Either
FHEQ Level	6	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Optional for undergraduate combined and single honours students		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisite	None		

### COURSE SUMMARY

This course aims to provide an advanced understanding of modern competition law, through a selection of the most current and relevant aspects of competition law. As with the main course, the elements course will seek to provide practical knowledge of issues most likely to be encountered in international legal practice, but over a selected subset of topics chosen with reference to contemporary developments.

### COURSE AIMS

- To provide an introduction to the theory of competition and allied economic concepts that are used to define and interpret legal concepts.
- To gain critical appreciation and evaluation of the scope of laws designed to prevent and manage strong market positions.
- To develop skills in dealing with large and open-ended legal assignments, e.g. through the review of a hypothetical commercial transaction or recent case law developments where the frontier of knowledge may be unknown.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

#### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1c Understand core concepts used in competition law, e.g. the relevant market, market power, demand differentiation, substitute products, etc.

K2c Appreciate the role of regulatory subjects like competition law in modern business law practice, especially as relates to cross-border capital formation and the business law that relates to it.

K3c Gain a thorough understanding of the core elements of competition law as debated and practiced, notably the cartel prohibition, reviews of restrictive agreements, and prohibitions on the abuse of a dominant position.

### **COGNITIVE SKILLS**

C1c The ability to deal with guidance, policy and law from a variety of sources, and to resolve areas where these sources conflict.

C2c The ability to work with large data sets and complex documents, including large regulatory documents and complex cases.

C3c An introduction to interdisciplinary elements of legal practice, e.g. the interaction of competition law with economic policy.

### **TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

T1c Development of skills relevant to international commercial law practice including the review of mergers and acquisitions.

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 Engagement with policy questions relating to the economic and consumer protection elements of competition law.

T3c The ability to give advice based on legal issues posed.

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Teaching and learning strategies for this course will typically include:

- 15 hours of lectures and seminars<sup>1</sup>
- Two 45 minute two-to-one or one-to-one tutorials<sup>2</sup>

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.

---

<sup>1</sup> typically split evenly between lectures and seminars but with scope for the course leader to change the balance to reflect teaching strategies

<sup>2</sup> this depends on which part of the academic year the course runs

## EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- The course addresses core needs for practicing lawyers, especially research, communication, and presentation skills.
- The course teaches skills allowing continuing professional development.
- The course enables students to work with large data sets and allied disciplines, e.g. economics and finance, as part of their assessment of complex cases.

## 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 one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Written assignment	100	Yes	N/A	3,000 words

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 is provided on summative assessment and 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

The course leader reviews the currency of text and casebooks and makes a recommendation based on the currency and relevance of the materials at the start of the course. In recent years, Graham, *EU and UK Competition Law* has been used, but this is no longer being updated and may need to be replaced.

## JOURNALS

The leading law journals are referred to in the course, e.g. Modern Law Review, Cambridge Law Review, and the Law Quarterly Review. Sometimes, continental, Commonwealth and U.S. journals are referred to, guided by the needs of the topic. Economic materials may also be assigned where relevant, e.g. work from leading economic journals.

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Westlaw, Lexis and Bailii provide access to the main cases. Additional materials are drawn from the websites of the UK Competition and Markets Authority and other relevant regulators.

## INDICATIVE TOPICS

Students will study a selection of the topics from the competition law course, reflecting current trends. It is likely that these would cover the following topics. In some years, an alternative focus, e.g. cartels or dominance law, might be substituted for the transactions element.

- An introduction to competition law, policy, and economics
- Merger control in the EU and UK
- Multijurisdictional merger control
- Contemporary case study 1
- Horizontal and vertical agreements -- introduction

<b>Title: NCHLW656 Elements of Competition Law 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
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Dimitrios Kyriazis	April 2025	