



Universidad  
de Alcalá

# SYLLABUS

## European Union Law

**UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN LAW**  
**University of Alcalá**

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**Academic Year 2019/2020**  
**Second Year – Term Two**

**MODULE**

Course Name:	<b>European Union Law</b>
Code:	<b>400012</b>
Degree Course:	<b>Law</b>
Department and Area:	<b>Department of Legal Sciences <i>Public International Law and International Relations</i></b>
Type:	<b>Compulsory</b>
ECTS Credits:	<b>8 Credits</b>
Year/Term/Timetable:	<b>Second Year – Term Two</b>
Course Convener:	<b>Prof. Dr. Francisco Pascual Vives</b>
Office hours:	<b>Personal meetings with lecturer should be arranged in advance. Contact lecturer via email to arrange an appointment: f.pascualvives@uah.es</b>
Language of instruction:	<b>English</b>

## 1. Course Description

“European Union Law” is a compulsory course offered in the second term of the second year of the Law degree. The course studies, first, the institutional framework of the European Union, making particular emphasis in how the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament exercise their competences in the decision-making process.

Secondly, the course analyses the European Union legal framework by distinguishing between primary and secondary law, and systematising the different principles through which these rules are implemented in the member States: the principles of direct effect and supremacy. Particular attention is given to the interaction between European Union Law and the Spanish domestic system.

Finally, the course deals with some of the policies of the European Union being at the core of the European integration process: citizenship, human rights protection, and the European Union external action.

The knowledge gained in this course will be advantageous for any career not only in the field of international law and international relations, but also in multiple practice areas of domestic law, such as administrative law, company law, labour law or criminal law.

## 2. Learning Objectives

The student is expected to gain the following skills through studying this course:

### 2.1. General Skills

1. Researching, selecting and evaluating information and data.
2. Analysing legal texts.
3. Analysing complex problems from an interdisciplinary standpoint.
4. Improving oral and written skills, as well as team working skills.
5. Developing self-regulated learning.

### 2.2. Specific Skills

1. Understanding the basic categories and legal concepts of European Union law.
2. Analysing the fundamental characters of the European integration process and applying them within the legal and political framework of the European Union.
3. Understanding the consequences of the Spanish accession to the European Union and analysing how European Union Law interacts with the Spanish legal system.

### 3. Course Content

Unit I: An Introduction to European Union Law

Unit II: The European Union Institutions

Unit III: The European Union Legal System

Unit IV: The Enforcement of European Union Law

Unit V: The European Union Policies

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Theoretical Sessions</b>	<b>Practical Sessions</b>
<b>Unit I</b> An Introduction to European Union Law	2 theoretical sessions	Practical session No. 1
<b>Unit II</b> The European Union Institutions	5 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions Nos. 2 and 3
<b>Unit III</b> The European Union Legal System	3 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions Nos. 4 and 5
<b>Unit VI</b> The Enforcement of European Union Law	3 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions Nos. 6 and 7
<b>Unit V</b> The European Union Policies	2 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions No. 8

#### 4. Methodology

<b>Total hours of teaching: 200</b>		
<b>Teaching hours</b>		• 75 hours
<b>Self-study</b>		• 125 hours
<b>Learning Activities</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>ECTS</b>	<b>Methodology</b>
<b>Attending theoretical classes</b>	35 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Problem solving</li> </ul>
<b>Attending practical classes</b>	35 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teamwork tasks</li> <li>• Problem solving</li> <li>• Legal argumentation</li> <li>• Written and oral exercises</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>
<b>Taking part in activities organised by the Sub-Department</b>	5 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of legal problems with experts</li> </ul>
<b>Preparation for theory and practice</b>	55 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and understanding the theoretical materials</li> <li>• Researching on the topics discussed in class</li> </ul>
<b>Individual sessions</b>	25 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to meet with lecturer</li> <li>• Resolving queries about the contents already studied</li> </ul>
<b>Self-study</b>	30 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-designed methodology</li> </ul>
<b>Examination</b>	15 hours	
<b>Total</b>	200 hours 8 ECTS (15 weeks)	

Students are strongly encouraged to bring their textbooks to the classroom in order to discuss the relevant topics of each subject and to complete practical exercises.

A language assessment test will be conducted during the first day. It will have no impact in the final grade.

Active participation in class is one of the major components of the continuous assessment method (see section 5.2.1 below for details).

## 5. Assessment

### 5.1. Assessment Criteria

The following areas will be assessed in this course:

1. Understanding the concepts and principal ideas covered in each class.
2. Ability to integrate and apply theoretical concepts to hypothetical real-life situations.
3. Ability to summarise, clarify and correctly use legal language.
4. Giving legal solutions to real situations.
5. Active participation in class, including prior preparation and reading for each lesson.
6. Quality of contributions and comments made in class.

### 5.2. Evaluation procedure

There are two evaluation options for determining whether a student passes the course:

- A) Continuous evaluation
- B) Final evaluation

Under both options, students have two final exam possibilities: a normal final exam and an extraordinary final exam (second chance).

#### **A) Continuous Evaluation:**

This procedure follows the ECTS credit system, particularly focussing therefore on monitoring students' work and inciting reflective, critical and autonomous learning.

- *Class attendance*

Regular class attendance is a prerequisite for learning and for being able to properly monitor student progress. To pass the course under the continuous evaluation option, students must attend at least 90% of all classes. Lecturers keep a record of attendance.

- *Examinations and Grading Criteria*

The continuous evaluation option requires the work done by students throughout the term to be evaluated. For this purpose, evidence of student learning is gathered through different exams showing how well students have developed the different skills, based on the evaluation criteria.

The final grade for the course is the result of applying the following grading criteria:

**30%** (3 points out of 10) Two theoretical exams are administered during the term. Each exam consists of 10 short questions on course content to be completed in 40 minutes.

**20%** (2 points out of 10) This is an in-depth practical activity on issues of public international law and international economic law. It is a collaborative-group activity is defined in accordance with the characteristics of the group.

**20%** (2 points out of 10) Contributions made by the student in class and in interdisciplinary activities, which evaluate student preparation of course content, readings and the case studies.

**30%** (3 points out of 10) A final written exam of practical nature. It is given on the official date set for such examination. Students are given one hour and fifteen minutes to resolve a case study and may consult the recommended course handbook as well as any other materials the lecturer considers appropriate.

A passing grade under the continuous evaluation option requires a minimum grade of 5 points (Pass) out of 10, in all the abovementioned categories.

A student may only be considered a “no show” under the continuous evaluation option if he or she did not perform or turn in any of the different learning and/or evaluation activities.

## **B) Final Evaluation:**

Students who opt for the final evaluation must necessarily apply in writing to the Dean of the School of Economics within the first two weeks of the course term, explaining the reasons preventing them from being able to comply with the continuous evaluation option. Although this is determined on a case-by-case basis, some reasons that would enable the final evaluation option to be applied would be not being able to attend sessions in person, work obligations, family obligations, health reasons or disability.

Students opting for the final evaluation must show that they have acquired the general and specific competencies set forth in the course guide by means of a **FINAL EXAM** consisting of two written parts:

- *Theoretical exam*: 20 short questions to be answered in one hour and fifteen minutes. Each correct answer is worth 0.5 points and the grade will be the sum of points from all the correct answers. To take

this test, students MAY NOT have the recommended handbook or any other materials available.

- *Practical exam:* Students have one hour and fifteen minutes to resolve a practical case. To do so they may use the recommended handbook as well as any other materials as approved by the lecturer.

To pass the course, students must receive a minimum grade of 5 (Pass) out of 10, *on each exam*. Once this requirement is met, the final grade will be the average of the grades from each exam.

### **C) Extraordinary Final Exam (second chance):**

Students under both the continuous evaluation and final evaluation options who did not receive a passing grade during the regular evaluation period in accordance with the grading criteria set forth in previous sections, may take a final and extraordinary theoretical-practical exam to be held in May/June.

This extraordinary exam has a similar format than the final exam under the final evaluation (see Section 5.2.B of the Course Guide).

## **6. Bibliography**

The following textbook will be used during the classes:

- **SCHÜTZE, R., *An Introduction to European Law*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Cambridge 2015, Ed. Cambridge University Press.**

In order to compare the legal contents studied in English, students may consult the Spanish textbook:

- MANGAS MARTÍN, A. y LIÑÁN NOGUERAS, D.J., *Instituciones y Derecho de la Unión Europea*, 9<sup>a</sup> ed., Madrid 2016, Ed. Tecnos.

The following texts are recommended as additional reading:

- CHALMERS, D., DAVIES, G. y MONTI, G., *European Union Law Text and Materials*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Cambridge 2014, Ed. Cambridge University Press.

- HARTLEY, T.C., *The Foundations of European Law*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed., Oxford 2014, Ed. Oxford University Press.

- JIMÉNEZ PIERNAS, C. (ed.): *The Legal Practice in International Law and European Community Law. A Spanish Perspective*, Leiden 2007, Ed. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

Recommended Websites for documentation and teaching materials:

- European Union: <http://europa.eu>
- European Court of Justice: <http://curia.europa.eu>
- Official Journal of the European Union: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>
- Links to other websites: <http://dip.uah.es/docencia>