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COURSE GUIDE

European Union Law

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN LAW
DOUBLE DEGREE IN LAW AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Universidad de Alcalá

Academic Year 2026/2027
Second Year – Second Semester

COURSE

Course name:	**European Union Law**
Code:	**400012**
Degree programme:	**Undergraduate Degree in Law / Double Degree in Law and Business Administration**
Department: Areas of Knowledge:	**Department of Legal Sciences** **Area of Administrative Law**
Type:	**Basic Training**
ECTS Credits:	**8 credits**
Year, semester, group:	**Second Year – Second Semester**
Teaching staff:	**To be determined**
Office hours:	**By appointment with the student**
Language of instruction:	**English**
Maximum number of students:	**25**

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

European Union Law is one of the basic-training courses taught in the second year of the Undergraduate Degree in Law and forms part of the Public Law block, together with Constitutional Law and Administrative Law. The course examines the main features of the European integration process, its institutions and the European legal order.

The relevance of this subject is beyond dispute, given the advance of the integration process and the progressive conferral of greater competences upon the Union: the legal systems of the Member States increasingly depend on the content of the rules adopted within the EU institutions, and it is therefore essential to understand the basic features of that legal order and how it interacts with national legal systems.

The knowledge acquired in this course is essential for professional practice, research or entry into national and international public service, in particular for diplomatic careers, or public service within the European Union, the Council of

Europe or the United Nations, with a growing demand for human resources in an increasingly globalised and interdependent world.

No prior course is required in order to take European Union Law, although it is recommended that students have previously taken Constitutional Law and Public International Law.

2. COMPETENCES

Generic competences:

a) Consolidation and deepening of the learning of techniques for information searching, selection and evaluation of documentation.

b) Introduction to the critical analysis of basic doctrinal texts.

c) Analysis of complex and interdisciplinary problems and search for solutions from different perspectives.

d) Improvement of oral and written expression skills and of collaborative teamwork, developing advanced argumentation skills.

e) Development of self-regulated learning.

Specific competences:

a) To master and understand the legal categories and basic theoretical knowledge of European Union Law.

b) Ability to critically analyse the essential features of the European integration process and to apply the theoretical knowledge acquired to the legal and political context of the Union.

c) Critical understanding of the consequences of Spain's accession to the European Union and of the way in which EU law and Spanish law interact.

3. COURSE CONTENT

Unit I: Introduction to European Union Law.

Unit II: The institutional system of the European Union.

Unit III: The legal order and the judicial system of the European Union.

Unit IV: Basic aspects of EU Administrative Law.

Unit V: Fundamental rights in the European Union.

Units	Theory classes	Practical sessions

Unit I Introduction to European Union Law	2 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions No. 1
Unit II The institutional system of the European Union	5 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions Nos. 2 and 3
Unit III Legal order	3 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions Nos. 4 and 5
Unit IV Basic aspects of EU Administrative Law	3 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions Nos. 6 and 7
Unit V Fundamental rights in the European Union	2 theoretical sessions	Practical sessions No. 8

4. LEARNING METHODOLOGY. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Distribution of teaching and student's own work:

Total number of hours: 200	
Number of contact hours:	• 75 hours
Number of hours of student's own work:	• 125 hours, distributed as follows: - Number of hours of study, reading and independent work: 85 - Number of hours devoted to preparing theoretical/practical classes, solving case studies and producing assignments: 40

The following methodologies will be used in the in-person classes:

Theoretical classes:

These will consist of the presentation and discussion of the subject matter by both the lecturer and the students. The students, with the lecturer's support, will present and debate the contents of the course, which they will have prepared in advance, and will raise any questions that arise. Students' presentations may be delivered in Spanish and will essentially be aimed at demonstrating their learning and understanding of European Union Law, as well as the progressive development of legal reasoning. The lecturer, in turn, will complete the presentations and will set out for the students the problems

that the relevant legal regime may raise, together with the difficulties of its interpretation and application.

In this way, the student takes on a leading role in the classes, which become a space for dialogue, exchange, problem-solving and debate.

Practical classes:

These will consist of the students' presentation of judgments or documents previously provided by the lecturer. The aim is for the student to become accustomed to working directly with legislation, judicial decisions and other documents.

For the resolution of case studies, the lecturer provides students with the key facts of a problematic practical scenario, and the student must identify the relevant aspects of the case and the legal issue at stake, as well as locate the applicable legal regime and interpret and resolve the specific situation.

The aim is for students to develop their ability to search for information and to handle legislation, as well as to reason on the basis of the rules of legal logic. Solving cases at the same time as studying the subject also helps the student to learn and retain the most relevant aspects of the legal regime, paying particular attention to its nuances.

This activity may be carried out individually, so that each student must address the legal problem using their own abilities and resources. This method has the advantage of offering the student the opportunity to gauge their level of understanding of the subject and to identify their own difficulties and gaps, which the lecturer's individualised guidance and explanations will help to overcome. However, a teamwork-based methodology may also be used, by forming small groups of students who must work together to solve a case. The advantage of this method is that it fosters dialectics and debate among the members of the group, since they must arrive at a single solution to the case or to the different issues it raises. The solution must subsequently be presented by a spokesperson before the rest of the class, in order to share the interpretation, argumentation and techniques used to resolve the case.

This method also enables students to realise that groups frequently reach different conclusions, or the same conclusions through different lines of argument. The lecturer will then lead a "group" debate explaining the reasons for the differing interpretations, the existence of errors in the search for information or in the use and application of the rules of legal logic, or even, in certain cases, the open, contentious or debatable nature of the case. In that situation, the lecturer may also prompt a debate on the different interpretive options from the perspective of the values underlying them, or of their greater or lesser effectiveness in serving the general interest or in protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals.

The reproduction and re-enactment in class, in teams, of legal disputes. The activity consists of the lecturer providing the facts of a legal problem or a judicial decision to be read, in which those facts must be identified, so that each group is then assigned a different position in the dispute. One group may take the position of the Administration. Another that of a private party. And, finally, a last group that of the judge or court. Each group must identify and present the legal arguments supporting its position. This identification is

carried out by each group as a team and is subsequently presented by the spokesperson they have chosen. Dynamic oral presentation will facilitate the comparison of arguments and will ultimately lead to assessing what the final solution to the dispute could be.

Oral presentation and debate of work previously prepared by students, either individually or in teams, on specific topics indicated by the lecturer.

Drafting of court pleadings, administrative submissions or litigation documents on the basis of templates. Resolution of cases by drafting the corresponding document.

Debate sessions on current affairs or news items that have appeared in the press and are related to the content of the course.

Student's independent work:

a) Reading and studying the bibliography of the discipline.
b) Studying and assimilating the concepts, institutions and principles explained in lectures, by producing their own notes, concept maps and outlines.
c) Reading the materials (legislation, judgments, legal news, articles or other documents).
d) Searching for legal information.
e) Preparing case studies and any notes needed to participate in the in-class debate.
f) Producing short essays or written assignments on topics selected by the lecturer or proposed by the student and approved by the lecturer.
g) Preparing assignments, written or oral, as a team for presentation in class.

Individual tutorials will consist of one-to-one attention to students in order to guide them on the progress of their learning, resolve queries, fill gaps in knowledge, make suggestions, and so that the lecturer can obtain more direct information about the students' views. These traditional tutorials may be supplemented by electronic or virtual tutorials.

Materials and resources

a) Textbooks on European Union Law, as an essential tool for learning the course.
b) Electronic resources and legal databases.
c) Case studies.
d) Documentation: judgments, legislation, legal news, press clippings, other documents.

5. ASSESSMENT

5.1 Assessment criteria

The following criteria will be taken into account when assessing students:

a) Regarding theoretical knowledge:

- Understanding of the concepts, principles and institutions of European Union Law.
- The ability to relate concepts and institutions.
- The capacity for synthesis.
- The ability to express oneself orally or in writing with clarity, coherence and substantive depth.

b) Regarding practical skills:

- The ability to identify and understand the legal controversy.
- The ability to search for legal information.
- The ability to identify the legislation, case law and legal principles applicable to the legal controversy in question.
- The ability to analyse and interpret legislation and case law.
- The capacity for logic, argumentation and legal reasoning.
- The ability to express oneself in writing and to present orally, particularly in rhetorical and dialectical terms.
- The ability to engage in debate, dialectical argumentation and oral presentation (clarity, rigour, engaging the audience, etc.).
- The capacity for critical analysis.
- Originality in producing written work or oral presentations in class.

5.2 Grading criteria

Students to whom the continuous assessment system does not apply will be graded according to the score obtained in the final exam.

Grades will be awarded in accordance with Royal Decree 1125/2003, distinguishing between:

a) Fail (Suspenso): from 0 to 4.9.
b) Pass (Aprobado): from 5 to 6.9.
c) Merit (Notable): from 7 to 8.9.
d) Distinction (Sobresaliente): from 9 to 10.
e) Distinction with Honours (Matrícula de Honor): exceptional performance among students awarded a Distinction.

The grades will be awarded as follows:

a) Fail: when the student shows significant deficiencies and gaps in acquiring the basic knowledge of the discipline, or when their level of understanding is low and they have not participated in practical classes and seminars, or have not demonstrated in them the expected acquisition of competences.
b) Pass: when the student shows knowledge and practical skills adequate to be able to operate independently in the future in studying and applying administrative legislation in the performance of their professional duties.
c) Merit: when the student has mastered the contents of the discipline and has developed and acquired the competences associated with practical classes and seminars to a medium-high level, demonstrating critical capacity, capacity for reflection and, above all, for interpreting and applying the law to resolve cases.
d) Distinction: a high level both in the conceptual understanding of the course and in the production of assignments, presentations and resolution of cases. Conceptual clarity, ability to make connections, extensive knowledge of the discipline. Rigour in the use of legal terminology. Depth and originality in case studies and assignments.
e) Distinction with Honours will be awarded to students who, having achieved a Distinction grade, stand out particularly for their dedication to the course and the brilliance of the activities carried out. Initiative and the depth and originality of their work will be especially valued.

5.3 Assessment procedure

A) Continuous assessment.

A.1 Ordinary examination period:

For students following the continuous assessment system, the final grade will result from the grades obtained in the activities and tests carried out throughout the course, on the following terms:

a) The grading of tests and activities carried out during the semester represents 100% of the grade.
b) The following percentages will apply: 60% participation, production of assignments and class presentations; 40% two multiple-choice exams, short-answer questions and/or case studies.

In grading active participation, account will be taken, among other things, of the legal knowledge demonstrated by the student in their contributions; the accuracy of their answers to the lecturer's questions; the success of their case-law searches; the correct understanding of legislation and case law; and adequate oral expression. Particular value will be given to constructive contributions that demonstrate the student's work and interest.

A.2 Re-sit examination period:

A student who wishes to opt for this final assessment system must apply in writing to the Dean of the Faculty within the first two weeks of teaching of the course, explaining the reasons that prevent them from following the continuous assessment system.

Students who have opted for the final assessment system must take a written theoretical-practical test which may cover any point of the topics included in the course syllabus.

B) Final assessment

Students to whom the continuous assessment system does not apply will be graded according to the score obtained in the final exam.

B.1 Ordinary examination period:

Written or oral exam, depending on the Lecturer, of theoretical and/or practical content. Maximum duration: three hours.

B.2 Re-sit examination period:

Written or oral exam, depending on the Lecturer, of theoretical and/or practical content. Maximum duration: three hours.

The teaching-learning methodology and the evaluation process will be adjusted, when necessary, with the guidelines of the Diversity Attention Unit, in order to apply curricular adaptations to students with specific needs.

During the assessment tests, students must follow the rules set out in the Regulations on the Standards of Coexistence of the *Universidad de Alcalá*, as well as observe the possible implications of any irregularities committed during such tests, including the consequences of academic fraud under the Disciplinary Regulations for Students of the *Universidad de Alcalá.*

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended textbooks for studying the course (latest available edition):

SCHÜTZE, R., *An Introduction to European Law*, Cambridge University Press.

CRAIG, P. and BÚRCA, G., *EU Law: Text, Cases, and Materials*, Oxford University Press.

CHALMERS, D., DAVIES, G. and MONTI, G., *European Union Law Text and Materials*, Cambridge University Press.

HARTLEY, T.C., *The Foundations of European Law*, Oxford University Press.

MOLINA DEL POZO, C. F., *Derecho de la Unión Europea*, Reus.

MANGAS MARTÍN, A. AND LIÑÁN NOGUERAS, D. J., INSTITUCIONES Y DERECHO DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA, TECNOS.

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

ALONSO GARCÍA, R., *Sistema jurídico de la Unión Europea*, Civitas.

SARMIENTO, D., *El Derecho de la Unión Europea*, Marcial Pons.

Websites of interest for the course

European Union: www.europa.eu
Court of Justice: www.curia.europa.eu
European Documentation Centre of the Universidad de Alcalá: www.uah.es/biblioteca/biblioteca/cde04.html
Official Journal of the European Union: http://eur-lex.europa.eu

Other links: http://dip.uah.es/docencia