



Universidad
de Alcalá

SYLLABUS

European Union Law

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN LAW
University of Alcalá

Academic Year 2025/2026
Second Year – Term Two

MODULE

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

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

Themes	Sessions
Unit I An Introduction to European Union Law	2 theoretical and practical sessions
Unit II The European Union Institutions	5 theoretical and practical sessions
Unit III The European Union Legal System	3 theoretical and practical sessions
Unit VI The Enforcement of European Union Law	3 theoretical and practical sessions
Unit V The European Union Policies	2 theoretical and practical sessions

4. Methodology

Total hours of teaching: 200	
Classroom	• 75 hours
Autonomous learning	• 125 hours

4.2. Methodological strategies

The teaching staff has designed a series of different strategies aimed at student acquisition of projected competencies (see Section 2 of the Course Guide).

The learning/teaching process is viewed from a constructivist perspective, in which the student is not a mere recipient of information, but rather an active participant in the learning process, with the lecturer acting as his or her guide.

To this end, students should have a proficient knowledge of the English language

Students participate in classroom activities and must also work individually or in groups outside the classroom. All activities are aimed at developing a series of aptitudes and involve putting into practice different skills and competencies (such as oral and written expression, teamwork, social and communication skills, ability to work on one's own).

In addition, the collaboration with the personnel of the CRAI-Library will be strengthened in order to enhance the development of computer-related skills and the use and management of information by students.

4.2.1. Classroom sessions

All the activities students engage in throughout the term are part of the learning process and will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation and grading criteria set forth in Section 5.2.

Active participation by students is essential in this process

Large group sessions: For the large group sessions, students must have thoroughly read the handbook and other materials as indicated by the lecturer.

As a result of the above, a dynamic class session is expected, with lecturer-student as well as student-student interaction. Students are encouraged to comment on current events and relate them to the course content already studied. The goal is for students to be actively involved in the classroom session.

Small group sessions: Small group sessions are devoted mainly to case studies.

Just as in the large group sessions, in order for small group sessions to be interactive, students must attend having already prepared the study of a case proposed by the lecturer. There will be classroom discussion on the solutions offered by the student, and concepts will be explained and questions answered. The lecturer may pose other issues pertinent to the case to stimulate classroom discussion.

4.2.2. Educational activities outside the classroom

Academic activities organized by the Department: Each year, the Section of public international law and international relations organises seminars and conferences on Public International Law, European Union Law, and International Relations. These activities give students a broader view of the issues studied in the classroom and complement the knowledge acquired in the academic setting. Participation in at least one of these activities is required. Students may be asked to write a short paper on each activity.

Individual and/or group tutorials: Throughout the term, the lecturer holds individual and/or group tutorials with students, as determined by specific needs.

Autonomous learning: The autonomous work constitutes an important part of the learning process (see Section 4.1. of the Course Guide).

For classroom sessions to advance properly in accordance with the methodology as set forth in this Course Guide, students must do the reading and prepare the case studies and/or other activities as indicated by the lecturer prior to each session.

Students must also participate in group and/or individual activities outside the classroom, in addition to preparing for theoretical exams and the final practical exercise.

4.3. Course Materials and Resources

Students must bring the recommended course handbook with them to the classroom. In compliance with copyright regulations, no *handbooks* may be photocopied or downloaded from webpages without appropriate author permission.

Other complementary materials may be recommended, and are made available to students through the course's virtual classroom. Students are advised to regularly consult the virtual platform.

5. Assessment

5.1. Evaluation Criteria

1. Acquisition and comprehension of basic knowledge covered in the course.
2. Appropriate use of this knowledge in problem solving and analysis of new situations.
3. Ability to express in English theoretical and practical content succinctly, clearly and correctly, both orally and in writing.
4. Ability to correlate and apply acquired concepts to practical situations.
5. Appropriate use of legal resources and case law applicable to the practical cases presented.
6. Class attendance and full completion of assigned work and exercises.
7. Legal reasoning based on reflection, and comprehension of knowledge acquired both in writing and orally in class activities.

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 or multiple choice questions on course content.

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 (theory and practice) 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 Faculty of Law 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).

The teaching-learning methodology and the assessment process will be adjusted when necessary, following the guidance of the Diversity Unit, to implement curricular adaptations for students with specific needs.

During the assessment tests, the guidelines set forth in the Regulations Establishing the Rules of Coexistence of the University of Alcalá must be followed, as well as the possible implications of irregularities committed during said tests, including the consequences for academic fraud according to the Student Disciplinary Regulations of the University of Alcalá.

6. Bibliography

The following textbook will be used during the classes:

- **SCHÜTZE, R., *An Introduction to European Law*, 4th ed., Oxford 2023, Ed. Oxford 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*, 11^a ed., Madrid 2024, Ed. Tecnos.

The following texts are recommended as additional reading:

- CHALMERS, D., DAVIES, G. y MONTI, G., *European Union Law Text and Materials*, 3rd ed., Cambridge 2014, Ed. Cambridge University Press.
- HARTLEY, T.C., *The Foundations of European Law*, 8th 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>