

**SUBJECT DETAILS**

Data on the subject	
Name	Initiation Course: Legal Research Course – Basic Methods of Legal Research
Degree	Master in International and European Business Law
Year	2018-2019
Nature	Fall Semester
Credit Hours	1
Department	Law
Area	Law

Data on the teaching staff	
Teaching staff	Adam Dubin
e-mail	<a href="mailto:ADubin@comillas.edu">ADubin@comillas.edu</a>
Telephone	2852
Office	ED-402
Tutoring Schedule	Upon request from students

**SPECIFIC DATA ON THE SUBJECT**

Contribution of the degree to the professional profile
The course will serve to teach students basic skills to conduct legal research in an EU business context. In addition, the course will also focus on the development and preparation of students' thesis topics, in satisfaction of the requirement to be eligible for graduation.

**COMPETENCES TO BE IMPROVED**

Generic Competences
Instrumental
GC 10: Ability to develop autonomous learning skills.
Systemic
GC 7: Ability to work in an international context

## Specific competences of the subject

### Professional

SC 15: Mastering the techniques of legal research and developing the ability to present convincingly, in writing and orally, the results of personal, original research

## THEMATIC AREA AND CONTENT

### PART I -

#### Theme 1: Introduction to Legal Research and MIEBL Requirements

- a. Brussels Trip
- b. Overview of Thesis Requirements and MIEBL policies
- c. Plagiarism and Footnoting

#### Theme 2: Using the Comillas Library and Databases

- a. Intro to Comillas Databases: Class taught by Marta Soto Gonzalez , UPC Librarian
- b. Eur-Lex and other databases

#### Theme 3: Trends in European Legal Scholarship

- a. Preparing and developing thesis and research topics
- b. Multidisciplinary Legal Research
- c. Quantitative Legal Research
- d. Abstracts

#### Theme 4: Pulling it all Together: Preparing your Thesis Topic and Research Proposal

- a. In – class final research preparation

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

### Area 1

#### Basic Bibliography

##### Texts

Hesselink, Martijn, The New European Legal Culture, 2001, pages 22 – 33

## Websites

Reading: Research Guide, European Union Materials (skim)

[http://library.law.columbia.edu/guides/European\\_Union\\_Legal\\_Materials](http://library.law.columbia.edu/guides/European_Union_Legal_Materials)

Reading: *Developing a Thesis Statement*, The Writing Center at Georgetown University Law Center (2003), available at:

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/legal-writing-scholarship/writing-center/upload/thesis.pdf>

## SUMMARY OF STUDENT WORK HOURS

Activity	Number of contact hours	Number of independent study hours	Total number of hours
Lecture	4	5	
Practical class	6		
Debate			
In class presentation			
Individual work		10	
Work in collaboration			
Evaluation: one minute paper			
Evaluation: class test			
Evaluation: exam			
Evaluation: exam review			
Others			
<b>ECTS Credits:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>

**GRADE EVALUATION AND CRITERIA AREA 1**

Evaluation Activities	Generic Competences	Indicators
Work in collaboration	<p>GC 10: Ability to develop autonomous learning skills.</p> <p>SC 15: Mastering the techniques of legal research and developing the ability to present convincingly, in writing and orally, the results of personal, original research.</p>	Two short in – class research exercises where students are expected to demonstrate the skills learned during the semester (20% each)
Debate		
Class presentation		
Evaluation: one minute paper		
Attendance		
Evaluation: exam	<p>GC 10: Ability to develop autonomous learning skills.</p> <p>GC 7: Ability to work in an international context.</p> <p>SC 15: Mastering the techniques of legal research and developing the ability to present convincingly, in writing and orally, the results of personal, original research.</p>	Students will have to develop a thesis outline and complete bibliography. The due date will be three weeks after the end of the semester.

## SUBJECT DETAILS

Data on the subject	
Name	Initiation Course: Basic EU Law Seminar
Degree	Master in International and European Business Law
Year	2018-2019
Nature	Fall Semester
ECTS Credits	1
Department	Law
Area	Law

Data on the teaching staff	
Teaching staff	Juan Diego Ramírez-Cárdenas Díaz
e-mail	jdramirezcardenas@comillas.edu
Telephone	
Office	
Tutoring Schedule	Upon request from students

## SPECIFIC DATA ON THE SUBJECT

Contribution of the degree to the professional profile
An understanding of EU Legal Affairs in order to give you a foundational basis for understanding all subsequent content.

## COMPETENCES TO BE IMPROVED

Generic Competences
<b>Instrumental</b>
GC 6: Ability to work in groups GC 7: Ability to work in an international context GC 10: Ability to develop autonomous learning skills.
Specific competences of the subject
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SC 4: Mastering the main rules of EU Law and international law that are relevant to</li></ul>

international business development.

## THEMATIC AREA AND CONTENT

### PART I -

AREA 1 : Presenting the EU from a historical and theoretical stand point: past, present and...future?

Theme 1: Theorizing on European Integration. Conceptualizing the EU

- 1.1. The meaning of integration. Reasons for integration
- 1.2. The peculiar rationale and dynamics of European integration. Overview of main theoretical models
- 1.3. Attempting to define the EU. The EU, a peculiar legal entity

Theme 2: Milestones in the history of the EU. Predicting the future of the European integration project

- 2.1. The historical roots of European integration. Landmark events up to present
- 2.2. Drivers, catalysts and deterrents of the EU construction process
- 2.3. The future of the European integration projects: difficulties, challenges and opportunities

AREA 2: Introduction to the EU institutional system and the specificities of EU decision-making

Theme 1: The EU and the exercise public policy. Introduction to the EU institutional system

- 1.1 The catalogue of competences of the EU. The interaction between EU and national administrations in the exercise of public policies
- 1.2 The pragmatic rationale of the EU's institutional architecture
- 1.3 Overview of institutions (1): decision-making institutions
- 1.4 Overview of institutions (2): institutions of control

Theme 2: The EU decision-making process. Future institutional reform of the EU

- 2.1 Analysis of the main phases of the EU decision making cycle: proposal, decision and implementation
- 2.2. Overview of the different procedures: legislative procedures, budgetary procedure, conclusion of international agreements
- 2.3 Institutional reform of the EU: equipping the EU with the right tools and instruments to confront new policy challenges

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

Area 1

Basic Bibliography

## Text books

### Theories of EU Integration:

- Rosamond, Ben, Theories of European integration, The European Union series, Houndmills, Palgrave Macmillan, 2000
- Wiener, Antje, Díez, Thomas, European Integration Theory, Oxford University Press, 2009

### History of EU Integration:

- Deadman, M., The Origins and Development of the EU 1945 – 2008, Routledge, 2009
- Gilbert, Mark, European Integration: A concise history, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc., 2012
- McCormick, J., Understanding the European Union: a concise introduction, Palgrave, 2017
- Senior Dello, S., The European Union: Economics, Politics and History, McGraw-Hill, 2012

### On EU Institutions :

- Peterson, John & Shackleton, Michael, The Institutions of the EU, The European Union Series, Oxford University Press, 2012

### On EU decision-making:

- Hardacre, Alan, How the EU institutions work and-, how to work with the EU institutions, John Harper Publishing, 2011

## Websites

Internet resources give us access to a wealth of information on EU affairs which can perfectly complement the research carried out by traditional academic means.

[www.cvce.eu](http://www.cvce.eu) is the website of the CVCE Centre for European Studies. Its consultation is highly recommended for those students with a keen interest in the history of the European integration project. In the digital environment provided by this site, students will find not only a detailed analysis of the landmarks events of this historical evolution, but also a digital archive of relevant European documents (political declarations, speeches, treaty acts, press cuts, etc.) as well as recorded audio-visual interviews with various personalities who, in different capacities, contributed with their efforts to the advancement of the European project.

Students are also encouraged to get quickly acquainted with the European Union's portal on internet hosted at <http://europa.eu>. This portal gives access to many interesting topical sections referring to the EU and its institutions, policies, the legal system, etc.

In addition, students are strongly invited to visit each of the institutions' respective web site:

- Council of the European Union: [www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)
- European Council: [www.european-council.europa.eu](http://www.european-council.europa.eu)
- European Parliament: [www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)
- European Commission: [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)
- Court of Justice of the European Union: [www.curia.europa.eu](http://www.curia.europa.eu)
- Court of Auditors: [www.eca.europa.eu](http://www.eca.europa.eu)

All throughout the MIEBL, students will need to retrieve EU legal instruments and case-law, for their latter consultation. The quickest way to find these legal texts is consulting the electronic repository of EU law, hosted at [www.eur-lex.europa.eu](http://www.eur-lex.europa.eu)

Summaries of EU legislation in almost all policy fields plus commented accounts of EU action in each can be consulted in the following site: [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/index.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/index.htm)

These list is completed with a reference to a series of websites which will help the student to keep the pulse on EU's news and current policy and legal debates:

- [www.euractiv.com](http://www.euractiv.com) (this site has versions in all of the 23 EU official languages)
- [www.europeanvoice.com](http://www.europeanvoice.com)

#### Notes

The explanations of the professor during the course are supported on extensive PP presentations which will be accessible by the students beforehand.

These presentations will be projected during lessons. However, they should not be exclusively regarded as visual aids for the course explanations and discussions. In addition, students are invited to use them as reference instruments and study tools. Due to the completeness of their content, they can be very useful for course revision in preparation of the exam

#### Other material

EU legal instruments, case law, newspaper clips and other material could be handed out before / during classes as complementary material, or as background information to be used by the students for the practical components of the course

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

### General methodological aspects of the subject

#### Contact hours methodology: Activities

The course will follow an interactive format, combining presentations analysing legal contents, with participation of the students (exchange of views and discussions, and Q & A periods).

In addition, each of 2 content areas composing the course will feature an interactive element. They will be, respectively:

- A group debate on the future of European Integration (students will read the European Commission's White Paper on the future of Europe in preparation of the debate)
- A workshop proposing the analysis of a number legal texts (conclusions of the European Council, speeches, political statements) in order to determine the number of institutional changes to be operated in the EU so that it can meet new policy challenges in areas such banking policy, migration, environment, etc.

At these two interactive elements of experiential learning, participation of the students is required, who will intervene under the guidance of the professor, who will provide comments and final feedback.

#### Independent study methodology: Activities

Although each student is supposed to structure his / her individual study autonomously, using the



course syllabus as a guideline, and taking into consideration the advice of the professor on the first day of the course, the following recommendations can be formulated:

- In preparation to each lesson, students are invited to read and examine the corresponding part of the PP course presentations. Any type of background material which could be the basis of the course exercises must also be revised in advance;
- After each lesson and / or the conclusion of the course, revision of course content and notes taken during lessons. Students are invited to check the titles cited as basic bibliography. The professor could provide additional references for supplementary research if required.

SUMMARY OF STUDENT WORK HOURS AREA 1			
Activity	Number of class hours	Number of independent study hours	Total number of hours
Lecture	6	2	8
Debate	2	1	3
Workshop	2	2	4
Evaluation: exam review		10	10
ECTS Credits:	1		

### GRADE EVALUATION AND CRITERIA AREA 1

Evaluation Activities	Generic Competences	Indicators	Evaluation Weighting
Debate	GC 6: Ability to work in groups  GC 10: Ability to develop autonomous learning skills.		20%
Workshop	GC 6: Ability to work in groups  GC 10: Ability to develop autonomous learning skills.		20%
Evaluation: exam (take-home final essay)	GC 7: Ability to work in an international context.  Sc 4: Mastering the main rules of EU law and international law that are relevant to international business development.		50%
Attendance			10%