

Basic EU Law Seminar & Legal Research Course

SUBJECT DETAILS

Data on the subject	
Name	Basic EU Law Seminar: EU Institutions and Policies After Lisbon “(Introduction to EU legal affairs)”
Degree	Postgraduate in Master in International and European Business Law
Year	2016-17
Nature	Fall
ECTS Credits	1 credit
Department	Law
Area	Law
Teaching staff	Juan Diego Ramírez-Cárdenas Díaz

Data on the teaching staff	
Teaching staff	Juan Diego Ramírez-Cárdenas Díaz
e-mail	jdramirez_cardenas@hotmail.com
Telephone	+34.692.887.719; +352.621.408.201
Office	
Tutoring Schedule	Upon request from students

SPECIFIC DATA ON THE SUBJECT

Pre-requisites	
None	
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

What skills you'll gain from this class:

- To identify, by means of a number of theoretical models, the factors underlying European integration as a process and, once these factors are determined, facilitate predictions of how integration is likely to proceed
- To define the EU as a legal and political entity and respond to the following questions: can the EU be assimilated to any of the traditional categories of actors operating in international relations? Is it, on the contrary, a particular legal and political 'animal', vested with a number of *sui generis* features?
- To trace the historical origins of the European unification process and follow up its landmark events up until present
- To discuss and debate the challenges and opportunities the EU is currently facing in its evolution towards further convergence and political integration

THEMATIC AREA AND CONTENT

AREA 1: Theories and models explaining European Integration. The EU, an attempt of definition

Theme 1: Theorizing on European integration

- 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. Contesting the validity of traditional concepts and theories. Why is it so difficult to define the EU?

Theme 2: Conceptualizing the EU – The EU as a peculiar legal entity

- 2.1 The EU vis-à-vis the traditional legal actors in IRs: International Organisations and States
- 2.2 Attempting to define the EU: federation? Confederation? Association of States or else?
- 2.3 The EU as a peculiar legal entity. Fundamental features: legal personality, powers and competences, etc.

AREA 2: Concise History of European Integration

Theme 1: The origins of the idea of a united Europe. History of European Integration (I): from the European Communities to the European Union

- 1.1. Tracing the origins of the European unification project. The impact of the Second World War
- 1.2. The 'founding fathers' and their master plan for European integration: the Schuman declaration and the creation of the ESCC, EEC and EURATOM by the treaties of Paris and Rome
- 1.3. Stagnation and re-launch of the European project. The Treaty of Maastricht and the creation of the EU

Theme 2: History of European Integration (II): the European Union, the process of EU enlargement and treaty reform. Future challenges and perspectives

- 2.1. Amending the founding treaties: review of the various treaties up until the Treaty of Lisbon
- 2.2. The reasons for EU treaty reform: enlargement of the EU and EU institutional reform
- 2.3. The future of EU construction project: difficulties, challenges and opportunities

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

Basic Bibliography
Text books
<p><u>Theories of EU Integration:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <p><u>History of EU Integration:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gilbert, Mark, European Integration: A concise history, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc., 2012
Websites
<p>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.</p>
Notes
<p>The explanations of the professor during the course are supported on extensive PP presentations which will be accessible by the students beforehand.</p> <p>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 for the exams</p>
Other material
<p>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</p>

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

General methodological aspects of the subject
Contact hours methodology: Activities
<p>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).</p> <p>In addition, each of 2 content areas composing the course will feature an interactive element. They will be, respectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A collective analysis of a number of citations from statements (speeches, interviews) of key figures of the EU construction process

- A group debate on some current European news, and its future implications for the EU

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

Activity	Number of class hours	Number of independent study hours	Total number of hours
Lecture	4	2	6
Practical class	2	1	3
Debate	2	0	2
In class presentation	2	2	4
Evaluation: exam review		10	10
ECTS Credits:	1		

GRADE EVALUATION AND CRITERIA

Evaluation Activities	Generic Competences	Indicators	Evaluation Weighting
Individual work & participation		Interest in the course, nature of questions posed, relevance and pertinence of student's opinions and views	10%
Debate		Logic and persuasiveness of the student's arguments, reactivity to other students; opinions and ability to listen	15%
Class presentation		Oral presentation skills, and clarity of statements and content presented	15%
Evaluation: exam (final)		Degree of assimilation of course contents and capacity to present own analysis	50%
Attendance		Presence	10%

SUBJECT DETAILS

Data on the subject	
Name	Legal Research Course: Basic Methodologies of Research
Degree	Master's in International and European Business Law
Year	2015-16
Nature	
ECTS Credits	1
Department	Law
Area	Law
Teaching staff	Adam Dubin, M.A., J.D., Ph.D.

Data on the teaching staff	
Teaching staff	Adam Dubin, M.A., J.D., Ph.D.
Group	International Public Law Department
e-mail	adubin@comillas.edu
Telephone	91 452 2800 Ext 2852
Office	ED-234
Tutoring Schedule	Upon request

SPECIFIC DATA ON THE SUBJECT

Pre-requisites
None
Contribution of the degree to the professional profile

This course will provide students with an understand of research tool and methodologies, which will help both in a professional and academic setting.

THEMATIC AREA AND CONTENT (See handout for more specific discussion of class content)

AREA 1:

Theme 1: Thesis Overview

1.1 Thesis expectations: Research and writing

Theme 2: Online Research

2.1 Introduction to Online European Research Tools

Theme 3: Trends in Legal Methodology

3.1 Multi-disciplinary research

3.2 Introduction to Empirical Research

Theme 4: Putting it all together

4.4 Thesis research and outlining case study

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

Basic Bibliography

Text books
Chapters of books
Articles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hesselink, New European Legal Methodology

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

General methodological aspects of the subject
Contact hours methodology: Activities
Independent study methodology: Activities

SUMMARY OF STUDENT WORK HOURS			
Activity	Number of contact hours	Number of independent study hours	Total number of hours
Lecture	2		
Practical class	8	35	
Debate			
In class presentation			

Individual work			
Work in collaboration			
Evaluation: one minute paper			
Evaluation: class test			
Evaluation: exam			
Evaluation: exam review			
Others			
ECTS Credits:	10	35	45

GRADE EVALUATION AND CRITERIA

Evaluation Activities	Generic Competences	Indicators	Evaluation Weighting
Individual work	A series of research short exercises.	Reflects classroom discussion, readings and notes.	40%
Work in collaboration			
Debate			
Class presentation			
Evaluation: one minute paper			
Attendance			10%
Evaluation: exam	Development of a thesis outline	Incorporates methodological research tools discussed in class.	50%