



Course title: European Union Law

ECTS credit allocation (and other scores): 5

Semester: spring

Level of study: ISCED-7- long-cycle programmes (EQF-7)

Branch of science: Social sciences

Language: English

Number of hours per semester: 15

Course coordinator/ Department and e-mail: dr Michał Pietkiewicz, michal.pietkiewicz@uwm.edu.pl

Type of classes: classes

Substantive content

CLASSES:

1. The evolution and characteristic of the European Union

General overview and the key dates in the history of European

Integration: Treaty of Paris (1951), Euratom (1957), Treaty of Rome (1957), Single European Act (1986), the Maastricht Treaty on EU (1992), the Amsterdam Treaty (1997), the Treaty of Nice (2001), the Convention on the Future of Europe and defeat of its constitution. The way to the Lisbon Treaty and the key innovations in the Treaty. EU: growth in applicants, membership criteria.

Characteristic of European Union now and before the Lisbon treaty reform (characteristic of European Community and three pillars of EU). Principles of conferred powers (legal base), subsidiarity and proportionality.

2. The institutions of the European Union

The European Council, the European Parliament, the Council, the European Commission, the European Central Bank, the Court of Auditors, the Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee (goals, structure).

Lawmaking procedure.

3. Introduction to the system of law

General characteristic of the European Union Law.

The relation of EU law to the sources of international public law; hierarchy.

Overview on human rights protection in EU: EU Charter of

Fundamental Rights (2000) in a relation to the Council of Europe's

European Convention on Human Rights (1950).

4. Sources of EU law

Primary and secondary sources. international agreements, Member states international agreements, acts of the institutions (regulations, directives, decisions), non binding legal instruments.

Direct applicability and direct effect (horizontal/vertical) of the EU Law (Treaty articles, international agreements, directives).

The principle of interpretation in conformity with Community law (indirect effect).

Supremacy of EU law.

5. The enforcement of the EU Law

The role of the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ), the General Court and specialised courts.

Structure of ECJ and GC; procedure.



Actions against Member States
Review of legality of Community acts.
Action for a failure to act.
The plea of illegality.
Non-contractual liability of the Community.

6. The enforcement of the EU Law and judicial cooperation

Preliminary rulings procedure; Courts / tribunals to which the procedure applies; Acte clair and acte éclairé doctrines; Effects of the judgments. Overview of judicial cooperation between EUs courts and national courts in civil and criminal matters.

7. Revision / Exam

LECTURES: -

Learning purpose: The course aims to provide knowledge of the European Union (its origin, goals, principles and characteristics as an international organization), of its institutions, of the various sources of the EU law and its legal effect in the legal systems of Member States.

Particular attention is paid to the mechanism of creation and application of the EU law, as well as to the system of justice and cooperation between European Court of Justice, General Court and national courts.

The module provides study of the principal cases and controversies in the field.

On completion of the study programme the graduate will gain:

Knowledge: The student has knowledge of the institutions and sources of European Union law.

Skills: The student is able to independently work with EU legal acts documents.

Social Competencies: The student is aware of the impact of European Union law on the citizens of the Member States.

Basic literature:

European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, Borchardt, K., *The ABC of EU law*, Publications Office, 2018, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2775/953190>

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Supplementary literature:

D. Chalmers, G. Davies, G. Monti, *European Union Law: Cases and Materials*, Cambridge 2010.

The allocated number of ECTS points consists of:

Contact hours with an academic teacher: 1.5 hour every second week

Student's independent work: analysing the chosen legal texts