



Course number	RBB400				
Course title	European Union Law				
Credit points	6 ECTS (4 LV KP)				
Total hours	160				
Contact hours	64				
Independent studies	96				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective		Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Francesco Luigi Gatta	Ph.D	Ph.D

COURSE TEACHERS

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Francesco Luigi Gatta	Ph.D	Ph.D
Viktorija Soņeca	LL.M	LL.M, Ph.D. Candidate
Kristine Ravina	LL.M	LL.M

COURSE ABSTRACT

This course offers a general introduction to European Union law. It aims to give a basic knowledge of the main features of the EU's legal-institutional framework and the most important aspects of the Law of the European Union.

The course covers the principles governing the functioning of the European Union, its objectives and the core values that have inspired and prompted the European integration process. It deals with the European institutions, as well as with other EU relevant institutional bodies, focusing

on their role, mutual interactions and functioning, including the different decisional procedures in place within the EU law-making process. The hierarchical and functional systematisation of the legal sources forming EU law is also addressed, focusing on how EU rules are adopted and enforced at EU and national level.

Additionally, the course provides the basic instruments to approach questions concerning the relationship and the interaction between EU law, national law and other legal systems, especially with regard to the protection of human rights in the European legal context (such as, in particular, the Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights).

Finally, the course provides an introduction to some specific areas of EU law, such as the internal market (free movement of persons, goods, services, capitals, with a focus on the EU digital market), competition law, EU external relations, the Area of Freedom Security and Justice. The course is designed to be interactive: theoretical issues will be confronted with practical cases (i.e. case-law of the EU Court of Justice and the European Court of human rights) in order to allow the students to understand and verify how EU law is actually implemented and understood by major EU actors. Particular attention will be devoted to the recent and current challenges faced by the EU and its Member States (e.g. the refugee crisis, Brexit, the COVID-19 emergency, the conflict in Ukraine, and rule of law issues in Poland and Hungary).

GRADING CRITERIA

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Intermediate written exam – Test No. 1 (in-class exam)	20%
Intermediate written exam – Test No. 2 (in-class exam)	20%
Final written exam (in-class exam – open questions)	60%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no attendance requirements. Attendance in the course is not mandatory, but highly encouraged. The overall evaluation consists of three parts. Two intermediate tests (each weighting 20% of the final grade), which will take place during the course, plus a final exam, once the course is concluded (weighting 60% of the final grade). This will help students to keep up with the studying process and to better digest notions and materials. Each intermediate test will consist of a number of questions requiring one answer (multiple choices a, b, c, d, or true/false). Each test will cover a part of the programme, which students will be informed about accordingly. The third, final part of the evaluation consists of a written exam with open questions: students will have to write their answers by developing legal argumentations and elaborating on topics studied during the course. This final exam constitutes the most relevant component of the final evaluation, weighting 60% of the final grade.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1.	Introduction to European Union Law: origin and evolution of the European integration process; foundations and historical development of the EU the; enlargement process.	4
2.	The founding values and objectives of the EU, the legal principles governing its actions; the EU citizenship and its rights.	2
3.	The institutional system of the EU: institutions and bodies (role, features, functioning mechanisms, competences and powers).	12
4.	The legal system of the EU: the sources of the EU legal order, its hierarchical and functional systematisation, the different procedures of law-making, the principles governing the interrelation between the EU and the national legal systems.	12
5.	The enforcement and control over the implementation of EU law.	4
6.	The jurisdictional system of the EU legal order and the judicial control of the EU Court of Justice.	6
7.	The internal market: main features, relevant legal sources and the principles governing free movement of goods and persons.	8
8.	The digital single market: the EU's digital strategy, online platforms, digital innovations.	6
9.	Human rights protection in Europe (Council of Europe & the EU, the ECHR & the Charter of fundamental rights of the EU, the two Courts: CJEU & ECtHR).	4
10.	The EU facing different crises: migration, COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, Brexit: relevant case-law, practical discussion and exercises.	6