

## Course Outline

<b>Course number</b>	RBB401				
<b>Course title</b>	EU Institutional Law and Decision Making				
<b>Credit points</b>	3 ECTS (2 LV CP)				
<b>Total hours</b>	80				
<b>Contact hours</b>	32				
<b>Independent studies</b>	48				
<b>Course level</b>	Bachelor				
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None				
<b>Category</b>	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective		Free elective

### COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Inga Reine	Mag.iur	Visiting lecturer

### COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Inga Reine	Mag.iur	Visiting lecturer

### COURSE ABSTRACT

The course offers a targeted study of the European Union Institutional Law and decision-making process, following the course of European Union Law that the students will have already completed. At the beginning of the course, students will be expected to already have a solid knowledge of main principles governing EU competences and the role and powers of main EU institutions and bodies. Before the beginning of the course, students will be requested to complete a quiz. The quality of answers will not be graded. However, the absence of answer or abusive answers will be taken into account when grading the course.

The main objectives of the course are to allow students to understand the cornerstones of interaction between EU Member States and EU institutions on the following issues:

- Defining EU internal and external priorities and policies
- Laying down EU legal norms
- Implementing EU law

To achieve these objectives, students will be offered a deeper insight into the competences of the main EU institutions and Member States, selected EU agencies, as well as their mutual

interaction. The course will outline main challenges related to defining EU competences and determining appropriate action. The course will offer an overview of the main steps of the policy-making and legislative process. In addition, the course will give a general overview of the process of interpretation and application of the EU law.

First, the course will offer an overview of the EU policy-making process (top-down and bottom-up), highlighting specifics between exclusive competences and shared competences; internal and external policies; the role of Member States and EU institutions.

The course will further detail the specifics of laying down EU legal norms. In particular, the course will offer an overview of the main stages of legislative process, as well as adoption of non-legislative acts and other acts.

In addition, the course will offer an insight into complex interaction between layers of EU legal norms and main principles governing their interpretation and application, as well its interaction with the national law and international law.

In addition, the course will provide an introduction to the principles of EU administrative law and main principles governing the application of the EU Fundamental Rights Charter.

Before some lectures, students will be requested to complete mini-quizzes to determine the level of their knowledge and, consequently, determine issues that will require particular attention during the lecture. The quality of answers will not be graded. However, the absence of answer or abusive answers will be taken into account when grading the course.

The course will offer a number of seminars to allow the students to apply their knowledge through practical discussions. Students will be offered either questions or case studies for discussion. Students will be allowed to work in groups. Speaking time will be strictly limited to allow students experience the real-life challenges related to participating in the work of EU institutions. Each seminar will be graded.

Students will receive one written take home assignment during the course, which will be graded.

The assignment will be distributed before Christmas break.

At the end of the course, students will have to complete a take home written exam consisting of two questions.

## GRADING CRITERIA

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Compulsory introductory quiz	0%
A mid-term short paper/case study (take-home exercise)	20%
Participation in seminars (oral presentation)	5% x 5 = 25%
A final exam consisting of two questions (take-home open book exam)	35% + 20%

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of introductory quiz to be admitted to the course.

## COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Main subjects</b>	<b>Planned hours</b>
	Overview of the main competences and decision-making process before the EU Institutions	10
	Laying down EU legal norms	8
	Interaction between EU legal principles and rules	2
	Application of EU law	2
	Seminars	10