



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 36728
Name: European Union Institutions
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	3	First quarter, Second quarter
1930 - Double Degree Programme in Law and Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Facultat de Dret	4	First quarter, Second quarter
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Facultat de Dret	5	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Instituciones de la Unión Europea	COMPULSORY
1930 - Double Degree Programme in Law and Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Asignaturas obligatorias de cuarto curso	COMPULSORY
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Asignaturas obligatorias de quinto curso	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

GIMENO FERNANDEZ CLAUDIA

CERVERA VALLTERRA MARIA

SUMMARY

This course introduces students to the political and legal system of the European Union through four main sections: the development of the European integration process and the general aspects of the functioning of the European Union, the institutional and governmental system, the legal and judicial system, and external action. The contents of this subject are part of the training process for students of Political Science and Administration. Therefore, the analysis of the European political system will use the theoretical and conceptual tools acquired in the Political Science subjects of the previous courses. It will also be complemented with other tangential approaches of the Degree, in order to offer a multidisciplinary vision of the European integration process and its main components.



PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Saber analizar la estructura y funcionamiento de los sistemas y procesos políticos, sus elementos, así como su dimensión histórica, con especial atención al sistema político español y al de la Unión Europea.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

LESSON 1: THE DYNAMICS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

European integration from a political science perspective. Historical background. The logic of progress from the Treaty of Paris to the Treaty of Lisbon: deepening and enlargement of the European integration process. Future perspectives and the debate on the idea of Europe.

LESSON 2: THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL NATURE OF THE EU

The EU: concept, legal nature, values and objectives. EU Member State status. The competences of the EU: foundations, categories and areas of competence, guiding principles and enhanced cooperation. The EU and its citizens: Fundamental Rights in the EU and European citizenship.

LESSON 3: THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE EU

Introduction. The institutions of the EU: the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice of the EU, the Court of Auditors, and the European Central Bank.

LESSON 4: THE EU SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

The bodies and agencies of the EU. Political science aspects of the EU institutional system: political actors and decision-making processes (multilevel governance, democratic deficit, electoral behaviour and political parties, interest groups, public opinion).

LESSON 5: THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS

The system of sources of EU law: the founding treaties, the general principles of law, international treaties, acts adopted by the EU institutions, and other sources of EU law. Characteristics of EU law: autonomy, primacy and direct effect. The application of EU law within Spanish law.

LESSON 6: THE EU JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Introduction. The contentious jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU). The advisory jurisdiction



of the CJEU. Cooperation between the CJEU and national courts: the preliminary ruling procedure. The impact of the EU judicial system on national judicial systems.

LESSON 7: THE EU AS A GLOBAL ACTOR

The EU as a subject of international law. The EU's external relations. The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	3,00
Individual or group project	10,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	20,00
Resolution of case studies	10,00
Total hours	93,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The different lessons will be delivered throughout the course. They will combine weekly theoretical sessions with workshops, seminars, and/or participatory assignments. The teaching methodology will integrate traditional lectures with complementary and applied activities.

Presentation of theoretical content.

The lecturer will present and explain the essential elements that should guide students in the study and understanding of the subject. Students, in turn, are expected to engage actively in the learning process. They are required to prepare for theoretical classes through reading and, where necessary, researching the materials indicated by the lecturer, particularly the recommended textbooks and legal texts. These face-to-face sessions are a key tool for transmitting knowledge in an orderly and coherent manner. Emphasis will be placed on the most fundamental and structural issues, while also providing deeper analysis of more complex topics or those requiring further attention or explanation.

Applied activities and practical work.

The teaching methodology will also include applied activities and the resolution of practical cases related to the subject content, through which students will be expected to develop the relevant competences.

The assignments to be completed by students will correspond to the different parts of the course, as



follows:

- **TASK 1** on the development of the European integration process and general aspects of the functioning of the European Union.
Examples: a reflective debate on "Rethinking the European Union", European citizenship, European Citizens' Initiatives, or current issues related to Part I of the course.
- **TASK 2** on the EU institutional and governance system.
Examples: group presentations on the institutional system of the EU, analysis of political and electoral behaviour in European Parliament elections, motions of censure in the European Parliament, etc.
- **TASK 3** on the EU legal and judicial system.
Examples: practical cases based on CJEU case law concerning the principles of direct effect, supremacy and autonomy; short questions on the EU judicial system; or other current legal issues.
- **TASK 4** on the EU as a global actor.
Examples: critical commentary and/or debates on current topics in the EU's external action; attendance at seminars or conferences on the topic; press commentary, etc.

Complementary activities.

Finally, the course foresees the organisation of additional sessions led by the teaching staff, in which complementary activities such as seminars, talks, guest lectures or conferences will be carried out. These will be scheduled in the context of the course and will preferably focus on topics directly related to the subject matter or have an interdisciplinary or cross-cutting nature.

EVALUATION

A. Final assessment will be calculated as the sum of the following components:

- Continuous assessment, consisting of activities carried out throughout the semester.
- Final assessment, consisting of a written test to be taken at the end of the semester.

B. Continuous assessment will account for 30% of the final grade for the course and will be composed of the following components:



- Ongoing assessment of in-class work.
Attendance and active participation in class form part of the continuous assessment. This component will be based on the student's engagement and performance in the various activities and short practical exercises carried out during class sessions throughout the semester. This component is non-recoverable.
- Attendance at complementary activities.
This component will be assessed on the basis of attendance and active participation in the various seminars, talks, lectures, conferences, etc. organised by the teaching staff. As a general rule, these activities are non-recoverable.
- Thematic unit practical assignments.
This component includes the completion of practical assignments proposed by the teaching staff. Each assignment will correspond to one of the thematic blocks into which the course is divided in this syllabus.

The final assessment will consist of a written examination covering the knowledge acquired during the course. It will account for 70% of the final grade. In order for the continuous assessment mark to be included in the final grade, the student must pass the final exam (i.e. score at least 5 out of 10).

Regardless of the general assessment method established for the entire student body (written or oral examination), the lecturer responsible for the course may specify in the annex to this syllabus the possibility of modifying the type of final examination, with due justification, in cases where the exam must be held on a date other than the official one, pursuant to the rules applicable in cases of exam schedule conflicts as laid down in the Regulations on Assessment and Grading of Bachelor's and Master's Degrees of the University of Valencia, or for any other officially recognised reason (e.g., duly justified force majeure). In such cases, the new examination format must maintain the same level of demand and difficulty as the general one taken by the rest of the group.

Students who have followed and been assessed through continuous assessment but do not attend the final exam on the official date (whether in the first or second sitting) will receive the grade ABSENT (No Presentado).

REFERENCES

Basic bibliography:

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MANGAS MARTÍN, A. (2024), *Instituciones y Derecho de la Unión Europea*, Tecnos.
BOU FRANCH, V. (dir.), (2014), *Introducción al Derecho de la Unión Europea*, Civitas.

Complementary references:

GARCÍA GARCÍA, M.J.; OTERO MARTÍNEZ, J. (2020), *Lecciones de Derecho de la Unión Europea*, Tirant-lo-Blanch.
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ELORZA CAVENGT, J. (2023), Una pica en Flandes: la huella de España en la Unión Europea, Debate.

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GUTIERREZ ESPADA, C. (2016), La Unión Europea como actor global de las relaciones internacionales, Tirant lo Blanc.

GUTIÉRREZ ESPADA, C.; CERVELL HORTAL, M.J.; PIERNAS LÓPEZ, J.J., (2019), La Unión Europea y su derecho, Trotta.

JIMENA QUESADA, I. (2006), Dret de l'Unió Europea, Publicaciones de la Universitat de València.

MANGAS MARTÍN, A. (2022), Tratado de la Unión Europea, Tratado de Funcionamiento de la Unión Europea y otros actos básicos de la Unión Europea, Tecnos.

MARTÍNEZ PÉREZ, E.J.; SALINAS ALCEGA, S. (Coord.), Lecciones para el estudio del Derecho de la Unión Europea, Prensas de la Universidad de Zaragoza, 2019.

MORATA, F. (2007), Unión Europea: Procesos, actores y políticas, Ariel.

SÁNCHEZ SÁNCHEZ, V.M. (2017), Dret de la Unió Europea, Huygens.

SARMIENTO, D. (2022), El Derecho de la Unión Europea, Marcial Pons.

Regardless of the edition and year of publication indicated, all references shall be understood as referring to the latest edition of the respective textbooks.