



STUDY PROGRAMME

1. European Legal Studies Programme

2. Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2019-2020

SEMESTER

Second

COURSE TITLE

Economics of Competition Law

COURSE PROFESSOR

W. Bishop and L. Coppi

COURSE ASSISTANT

S. Forderer

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Optional

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

5

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to provide students not having an economic background with an introduction to economic theory underlying EU Competition Law. The course links hence well with the other Competition Law courses in the curriculum. After having introduced the basics of microeconomic theory such as supply and demand, cost concepts, elasticity and barriers to entry, the professors discuss economic concepts which are highly relevant to competition law such as market definition, market power, oligopoly theory, cartel co-ordination, co-ordinated and non-coordinated effects in the assessment of mergers, vertical restraints and dominant firm behaviour. On completion of the course, students will be expected to be able to master the key economic concept relevant to competition law. The students will also become familiar with the economic analysis of mergers, cartels, abuse of dominant position, and vertical restraints, and will be able to understand and evaluate the economic analysis of competition cases.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **European Legal Studies** :



- 1.1. Possess advanced knowledge of the European Union (EU), its institutions, competences, substantive principles and legal doctrines;
- 1.2. Possess general knowledge on the main elements of the EU's law and policy at large;
- 1.3. Possess in-depth, scientific knowledge on specific areas of EU law;
- 1.4. Possess knowledge of findings of other social sciences to the field of European studies that frame and steer the EU legal order, in particular international politics and economics.
- 2.2. Be able to think dynamically, to understand the constantly changing and evolving nature of the European integration process and to provide constructive commentary on its possible future development;
- 2.3. Be able to think critically, formulating an independent opinion and interpretation of complex legal problems, contextualising findings and weighing a multitude of different factors, including findings from other disciplines;
- 2.4. Be able to process a large amount of information within a short amount of time and to deliver accurate and reflective outcomes;
- 2.5. Be able to work with primary sources of law, such as judgments and legislation, and to reflect independently on their significance and interpretation;
- 2.6. Be able to work in a multi-cultural context, understanding and mediating different legal systems, legal traditions and normative frameworks in a constructive way;
- 2.7. Be able to develop, research, discuss and critically answer questions regarding a scientific research question of EU law in a scientifically responsible way;
- 2.10. Present and defend orally an issue relating to EU law on the basis of legal argumentation or a personal position;
- 2.11. Be able to study and work in the area of EU law in English and French, including through interaction with native speakers;

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **Transatlantic Affairs** :

- 1.1 The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, Economics, International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, Legal Studies and/or Political Science relevant for the analysis of transatlantic affairs;
- 1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States;
- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of transatlantic affairs and of different related disciplines (such as Economics, International Relations, Legal Studies, Political Science) as well as to adopt both a European and a US perspective on transatlantic affairs.
- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way;
- 2.5 The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.



3. COURSE CONTENTS

See Outline of the course

4. TEACHING METHOD

The seminar consists of lectures given by the professors and short presentations by the students during which they briefly have to analyse a competition law case in the light of the economic theory studied in class. The students receive a comprehensive syllabus at the beginning of the semester which mainly consists of thoroughly selected extracts from economics textbooks and articles from economic journals.

5. FURTHER DETAILS ON THE TEACHING METHOD

All students are required to review a competition case. Normally students form groups of four, whereby two students present the parties' arguments and two present the arguments of the Court. The group has to prepare a short presentation on the economic analysis of the case. As the students are 20 and the chapters taught are 5, the presentations are organised for every class except the first one, where the professor makes a short introduction. The possibility to avoid doing a presentation is not foreseen.

6. COURSE MATERIAL

See Syllabus of the course

7. EVALUATION

The evaluation is based on a combination of a written 2-hour open-book exam and an oral exam. For the latter, the students do not have any preparation time. The oral can only lead to a higher mark, of maximum 3 extra points, and is generally used to explain orally any points which were not clearly answered in the written exam. However, questions can cover the entire syllabus and are not necessarily limited to the specific topics included in the written exam. The short presentation will be also taken into account, without it having a fixed weight in the overall mark- again, it can only be beneficial.

Exams organised in second session period are 100% written exams.