



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

The Legal Dimension of EU External Relations

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

BLOCKMANS Steven

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

KOLASINSKI Tadeusz

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

EUW

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course aims to equip the student with the knowledge of the legal competences, policies, institutions, instruments and boundaries that shape the European Union's role in the world.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the student will have

- the ability to position the law pertaining to EU external action in several fields (trade & investment, development cooperation, enlargement and neighbourhood relations, strategic partnerships, diplomacy, defence, sanctions, etc.) in relation to the historical development of the European Union;
- a comprehensive understanding of the legal geography of EU external relations law and the use of its specific instruments;
- an analytical grasp of the relationship between EU external relations law, international law and national law of the Member States;
- the ability to address any problem in the field of EU external relations law in a critical and analytically comprehensive and synthetic manner.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Basic course knowledge of EU law and public international law is strongly recommended.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Learning is a student-centred process and students will need to undertake individual reading and research ahead of each lecture. The lectures will be largely based on the analysis of primary sources: EU Treaties, international agreements, secondary legislation and case-law. The course requires students to prepare each session thoroughly. The lectures will focus on discussion of the selected materials and related concepts. Unprepared students may find it difficult to follow and actively participate in the exchanges.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The **30% of the final mark** will be based on a short case-note (950-1,050 words) accounting for which would be due to be submitted in the second week of the course. The instructions on the case note contents will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

An exam will test students' ability to address any problem in the field of EU external relations law in a critical and analytically comprehensive and synthetic manner. The **70% of the final mark** for this course will be determined on the basis of the results of a three-hour, digital, in-class, written exam. It will be open-book (with the use of Safe Exam Browser). The textbook and copies of additional materials may be brought along to the exam. Electronics are not allowed.

The exam will be composed of fictitious or real-life problem descriptions with accompanying questions. In responding to these assignments, students will be required to provide their legal opinion supported by references to primary law, case-law and -where possible- doctrine.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session

COURSE CONTENTS

The body of EU external relations law is the sum of all legal rules that cover the conduct of the EU's action on the international plane, i.e. interactions with third countries and international organisations, as well as unilateral external actions. In part these rules are of a 'constitutional' nature, i.e. laid down in primary law or derived from custom. Many rules are judge-made. They cover such subjects as the division of powers between and among the EU institutions and the Member States, how international agreements are concluded, or the Union is represented abroad. As such, the modules cover the field of both 'high politics', i.e. foreign and security policy, and 'low politics', such as trade, foreign direct investment, transport and the environment.

Module 1 – Powers, institutions and legal boundaries

Module 2 – EU international agreements (scope, legal basis, procedure, effects) and sanctions policy

Module 3 – EU and international law (custom, conventions, courts)

Module 4 – Policy peculiarities

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

See Course Outline.