

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	EU CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE		
<b>MODULE CODE</b>	LA4931 (L7)	<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
<b>SCHOOL</b>	SCHOOL OF LAW		

### MODULE AIMS

The aim of this module is to provide the students with a solid grounding in the most relevant aspects of constitutional and institutional law of the EU and the internal and external governance of the EU. This module will consider the theoretical and legal background to the formation and development of the European Union up to today in a global context, including through a review of the amending Treaties up to the Treaty of Lisbon and of the enlargement process to date. Union institutions, legislation and governance, the relationship between EU law and the national law of the member states will also be examined. The module will conclude with emphasis on the judicial process, grounds for review and remedies.

### MODULE CONTENT

#### Indicative syllabus content:

1. Reasons for the establishment and evolution of the EU in a legal and political global context; development of the EU Treaties.
2. The building of the EU legal order and international law.
3. Internal and external governance: institutions, structure and powers.
4. Law and policy making in the EU; instruments and systems of governance.
5. The EU's capacity, powers and competences under the EU Treaties: conferral of powers and principle of subsidiarity.
6. Relationship between EU law and national law; supremacy and sovereignty: political and legal problems; role of the Court of Justice of the EU.
7. Sources of law in the EU legal order; the nature of EU Law: direct applicability and direct effect.
8. The application of EU law: Member State liability and remedies in national courts.
9. Preliminary references and the building of a European judicial system.
10. Challenging Union Acts: review of legality; the liability of the EU and future prospects.

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## INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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**On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:**

1. Provide an in depth analysis and a critical evaluation of the main reasons and context for the establishment and evolution of the EU from its inception up to today in a global context.
  2. Identify the EU internal and external governance structure and methods, and critically asses their effectiveness in realising the EU policy objectives
  3. Describe thoroughly the EU as an entity and its key characteristics in terms of capacity, competences and systems of governance.
  4. Acquire a deep understanding of the impact of EU membership on national sovereignty and explain the principles of supremacy, subsidiarity and conferral of powers.
  5. Research, critically evaluate and present well-structured arguments in written and oral work.
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## TEACHING METHODS

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This module is organised into 2-hour weekly seminars. During each seminar, the tutor will deliver a short presentation and facilitate a discussion of critical issues within the said topic led by the students, either working in groups or individually. Some topics may be divided between two Seminars. Students will be expected to have independently researched the issues for discussion in each seminar and to come to seminars prepared to respond and participate in an open and active critical discussion.

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## ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an individual presentation and a written assignment.

## LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English.