

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>EU CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>		
<b>MODULE CODE</b>	LA4931 [L7]	<b>CREDIT VALUE</b>	10 ECTS
<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

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.

### INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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.

Identify the EU internal and external governance structure and methods, and critically assess their effectiveness in realising the EU policy objectives

Describe thoroughly the EU as an entity and its key characteristics in terms of capacity, competences and systems of governance.

Acquire a deep understanding of the impact of EU membership on national sovereignty and explain the principles of supremacy, subsidiarity and conferral of powers.

Research, critically evaluate and present well-structured arguments in written and oral work.

## TEACHING METHODS

Preparation for the workshops will involve extensive research and reading, to consider and critically analyse the set topics and the discussion questions, set in advance, arising from those topics. Students are expected to prepare answers to the discussion questions and present these to, and discuss with, the workshop tutor and workshop group members. In addition to the skills of analysis and research, students are expected to develop and apply skills of analytical discussion, oral expression and writing. Students will engage with other students and staff in online activities, and synchronous and asynchronous workshops, to consider and critically analyse particular sources and engage in discussion leading to development of these skills.

The workshops also give students the opportunity to synthesise in a more dynamic way the independent learning already undertaken and apply principles from various themes covered in the workshop activity sheets.

One workshop may be run online, two weeks before the module starts, to introduce students to module themes and principles in advance of the campus-sessions. The final workshop will take place two-weeks before the submission deadline for coursework and run as a revision session.

## ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an Essay (75%) and a Presentation / Online Activity / Essay Plan (25%).