

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	EU TRADE LAW AND POLICY		
MODULE CODE	LA4950 [L7]	CREDIT VALUE	10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

This Module's main aim is to investigate and analyse EU external trade and commercial transactions as well as the role of the EU as an international actor in external relations with various geographic regions. The EU's economic and political strategic interests as expressed in various legal documents and agreements with third Countries will be the main focus, as well as relevant EU policies, decision-making and practices in areas relevant to trade and commercial transactions, within the EU and with respect to EU external trade relations. The module will also offer an in-depth analysis of the Union's relations with other trading blocs and with the WTO as well as a review of the legal effects of international trade agreements, instruments and dispute settlement mechanisms in the EU legal order. It will conclude with a comparison of EU instruments in EU external relations, especially under the Common Commercial Policy, the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Neighbourhood Policy and Development Policy. The module aims to engender a critical approach to understanding the control of key economic and political factors in the EU and their impact on EU and non-EU business and government strategies and operations in the EU and internationally. This critical understanding will take account of the global economic environment and the European integration context of the legal provisions under review.

MODULE CONTENT

The module will consider:

- Doing business in the EU in the 21st century: market integration and critical issues of economic governance
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- The EU in international trade negotiations: EU external competence
- EU Common Commercial Policy: the practice of express, conferred and implied powers
- EU Common Foreign and Security Policy
- EU Neighbourhood and Development Policy
- Reception of international law in the EU legal order
- EU as an actor in external relations and in regional economic development

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1.	Demonstrate substantial in-depth knowledge of the EU as a commercial regulator and negotiator of global trade issues.
2.	Examine the past and present of European Union's relations with various geographic regions and critically analyse the impact of EU commercial law and transactions on economic, social and policy decisions of governments and businesses in third countries.
3.	Critically evaluate the development, implementation and enforcement of the measures relating to economic governance in the EU in general and specific to commercial transactions.
4.	Acquire a critical comparative understanding of the various EU instruments in external relations
5.	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%).