

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	EUROPEAN UNION LAW		
MODULE CODE	LW2503(L5)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF LAW		

MODULE AIMS

- Examine the constitutional foundations of the European Union
- Outline the main areas of EU substantive law and emphasise the pervasive presence of EU law.
- Evaluate the main procedures for EU law making and critically assess the democratic credentials of EU power brokers.
- Assess the effectiveness of the centralised and de-centralised mechanisms for the enforcement of EU law.
- Analyse landmark judicial interpretations of the EU foundation Treaties.
- Examine the contribution of national courts to the effectiveness of the EU legal order.
- Develop students' ability to interpret, evaluate and apply case law, legislation and academic commentary in this area and to communicate their understanding and analyses both orally and in writing.
- Promote the use of electronic resources in the research and presentation of workshop activities, online quizzes, and examination answers.

MODULE CONTENT

1. Introduction to EU Law: Treaties and Terminology
2. European Union: Scope of the Treaties
3. Treaty Reform, Democracy and EU Law Making
4. The Commission as Law Enforcer: Infringement Proceedings Against Member States
5. The Authority of EU Law – Its Status Within The Member States
6. The Court of Justice and National Courts: The Preliminary Reference Procedure
7. Enforcing EU Law Before The National Courts: Direct Effect
8. Enforcing EU Law Before The National Courts: The Doctrine of Consistent Interpretation (The Von Colson Principle of Indirect Effect)
9. Enforcing EU Law Before The National Courts: The Francovich I principle

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.	Determine the structure of the EU, identify the main areas of substantive law and identify the relationship between the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
2.	Critically evaluate the democratic credentials of EU law making and assess the impact of past and potential reforms to the original EEC Treaty (now the TFEU)
3.	Identify the status of EU Law within the national legal order and compare and contrast the supremacy case law of the CJEU with that of the national courts
4.	Critically evaluate the mechanisms (both centralised and de-centralised) for the enforcement of EU law highlighting the importance of direct effect, indirect effect and the Francovich I principle within the enforcement process.

5.	Interpret relevant legal source materials and apply the legal principles to factual situations
6.	Explain and evaluate critically the development of EU law
7.	Communicate their understanding and analyses both orally and in writing

TEACHING METHODS

The module will utilise a variety of learning strategies designed to place the student at the centre of the learning process. Student learning will be encouraged by participation and independent research as well as by enhancing problem solving and analytical skills.

One-hour face-to-face lectures highlight the key issues to be covered in the workshops and the electronic workbooks. The primary object of lectures is to impart the information and elicit the understanding, which students can use as a base for their independent study directed to the requirements of the workshops.

Workshops are interactive sessions for groups of around 20 students, which take place fortnightly. The students build upon their understanding, gained from the lectures, e-lectures, and interactive workbook, by reading specified cases, Treaty provisions, journal articles, and textbooks. The aims and learning outcomes of each individual workshop set out clearly for students the workshop tasks and activities.

Workshops will take the form of a tutor led Q & A Session followed by group activities in the form of comprehension exercises, moots and mini-presentations. Use of case studies and discussion points, further enhances the student's ability to solve problems, investigate, and communicate solutions, arguments, and ideas clearly and analytically. The workshop activities will develop presentational reasoning, criticising and persuading skills. They will also encourage students to make reasoned judgement based on an informed understanding.

The online workbook is designed for use in conjunction with the lectures and encourages an interactive approach with self-test questions and reading exercises.

The eLearn facility is utilized to full effect to make available: e-lectures & workbook; further reading materials; quizzes; the online chat facility (which is used for Q&A sessions by module tutors).

Formative, online assessments will assess the student's ability to accurately state the relevant legal principles, their ability to apply these principles to the question under review and their ability to extract information from advanced materials.

All students will be encouraged to submit at least one practice essay in preparation for the examination. The examination will combine a mixture of essay style questions with a compulsory problem question, which will test the student's ability to spot the legal issues, explain and apply the law with clarity.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an examination and a written assignment.