

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

Indicative syllabus 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

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

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
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TEACHING METHODS

The module is delivered by means of weekly lectures and seminars.

Lectures highlight the key issues to be covered in the seminars. 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.

Seminars are interactive sessions for groups of smaller groups of students, which take place approximately every two weeks. The students build upon their understanding, gained from the lectures 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.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

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