



Universidad
de Navarra

European Union Law (RRII)
Teaching guide 2025-26

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PRESENTATION

Description: IIRR students need to be introduced into the inner legal layer of certain international actors because the systemic view of international relations remains too broad of an analysis. Since the EU wields the might of 27 European States, including that of the one hosting this university, an introduction to it is unavoidable.

When opening the EU and looking into its inside, we will find that its institutional machinery is one of the most sophisticated the World knows of. The particular history of the European continent combined with the ambition of the goals to be achieved has required such a degree of creativity that in the EU the traditional concepts that structure power (e.g. Democracy, Sovereignty) have been pushed to their limits. All this is done through public law.

In this class, we will learn how the latter –public law– shapes the former –the EU–. The goal is that students understand the architecture and functioning of the institutional laboratory that the EU is through its most fundamental element: EU law.

- **Degree:** International Relations
- **Course:** European Union Law
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Year, semester:** second year, second semester
- **Type:** compulsory
- **Professor:** Prof. Dr. Mr. Joseba K. Fernández Gaztea
- **Language:** English
- **Classroom, schedule:** Mondays from 17:30 to 19:30 h. in classroom B2 of the Amigos Building; Wednesdays, from 17:30 to 19:30 h. in classroom 15 of the Amigos Building.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (Competencies)

The basic competences to be acquired are:

- CB 02: To be able to implement theoretical knowledge in practical professional life and to demonstrate the capacity to elaborate, pose and defend arguments, as well as to solve problems falling within the scope of the area of study.
- CB 03: To be able to gather and interpret relevant data generally related to their area of study in order to draw reflective judgments on important social, scientific or ethical issues.



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- CB 04: To be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solution both to a general audience and to a specialized audience.
- CB05: To develop the learning skills required to engage in further studies with a high degree of autonomy.

The general competences to be acquired are:

- CG 01: To analyze, value, and rationalize the varying conditions of the international arena in light of the acquired knowledge.
- CG 03: To draft and interpret legal texts, particularly international law texts.
- CG 05: To be able to correctly and adequately discuss international issues.

The specific competences to be acquired are:

- CE 02: To be able to analyze the nature and features of the relations among international actors, particularly among states.
- CE 03: To be acquainted with and understand the principle elements defining the external policy of states.
- CE 04: To connect historical processes and events with the current international order.
- CE 06: To be able to differentiate the competences and functions of states, NGOs and NSAs (non-state actors) acting in the international system.
- CE 09: To understand the structure, competences and functioning of international institutions and organizations.
- CE 10: To understand EU institutions, norms, decision procedures and policies.
- CE 17: To be able to analyze legal and social issues connected to international relations taking into account the principles and norms of international law.

SYLLABUS

Part I – Introduction

Lesson 1 – Introduction & constitutional history of the EU

Part II – EU institutions

Lesson 2 – EU institutions

Part III – EU law sources and its relationship with national law

Lesson 3 – EU legislative competences and procedures



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Lesson 4 – Sources of EU law and its relationship with national law

Part IV – EU law implementation and control

Lesson 5 – The executive action of the EU

Lesson 6 – Jurisdictional control of EU law

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The goals we aim at are:

- That students know the history, nature, and institutions of the EU.
- That students understand the main concepts building the institutional complex of the EU.
- That students grasp that the EU as a political project is founded upon and developed using the law. Students will be provided the tools to link EU political activity with the legal instruments framing them.

The learning method includes:

- **Student's personal and constant study:** students will only succeed if they read and study materials personally, thoughtfully, and timely.
- **Lectures:** in the lectures the teacher will expose and analyze the main contents.
- **Discussion sessions:** during these the same content of the lectures will be approached but from an angle that connects it with close-to-real exemplifications of the institutional-political life of the EU.

ASSESSMENT

ORDINARY

Student performance is assessed according to these percentages:

- mid-term exam (20% of the final grade)
- final exam (50% of final grade)
- class participation (30% of final grade)

Mid-term exam: one mid-term will be sat. Students scoring **7.5 or higher** will be exempted from the mid-term content in the final exam. The precise schedule will be announced.

Final Exam: it will be oral and will be voice-recorded. Two to four concise questions will be asked.

Class participation: During the semester notes on the quality of student participation and attendance will be taken. Contributions to class will be graded between 0 and 3; grades may be expressed with decimals.



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Important: both of the next two conditions need to be met in order to pass the course: at least a score of 5/10 should be achieved in the final exam, and at least a score of 5/10 should be achieved in the global grade.

EXTRAORDINARY

Student performance is assessed based on the oral exam, which is worth 100% of the grade.

In order to pass, students must achieve a global score of, at least, 5 out of 10.

Legal note on the recording of the oral exam

Please take into account this note regarding the recording of the oral exams:

"La Universidad de Navarra tratará sus datos personales (datos identificativos, imagen, sonido, datos de conexión a Internet, utilización del dispositivo y sus aplicaciones) con la finalidad de permitir la realización de exámenes orales. El tratamiento es necesario para la prestación del servicio contratado, así como para el cumplimiento de una obligación legal aplicable al responsable del tratamiento (ley Orgánica 6/2001, de 21 de diciembre, de Universidades). Los datos personales indicados anteriormente **se conservarán durante un mes**, para atender posibles reclamaciones de los interesados. Puede acceder a sus datos, rectificarlos, solicitar su supresión, o ejercer el derecho de oposición, entre otros derechos que se enumeran en la página www.unav.edu/proteccion-de-datos, donde podrá encontrar más información sobre la Política de Privacidad de la Universidad de Navarra. Para cualquier duda sobre la misma o ejercer sus derechos, por favor envíe un correo electrónico desde su cuenta Alumni a la dirección dpo@unav.es, indicando en el texto de mensaje el grado, curso y asignatura del examen. Deberá hacer saber a las personas que conviven con Vd. que la prueba va a ser grabada, recomendándoles que no accedan al entorno durante la realización de la misma. Queda prohibido captar imágenes del profesorado, o de otros compañeros o compañeras durante el proceso de evaluación. La Universidad de Navarra queda exenta de cualquier responsabilidad en caso de que no se sigan estas recomendaciones."

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be on **Thursdays from 12:00 to 14:00 h.** The office of the professor is number **1631 of the Ismael Sánchez Bella building.**

Should anyone want to meet at another time, please send an email to jfergaz@unav.es and arrange a meeting.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Both a textbook and the notes that the professor provides will be used as study material. Students need, therefore, both resources.

1. Textbook

The textbook is the last edition (fourth, 2023) of **Robert Schütze's** *Introduction to European Law*, published by Oxford University Press. The complete version of this text is in **Robert Schütze's** *EU Law*.



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2. Notes

It will be announced where to buy the notes. They will not be posted online to nudge students to reading and working on paper.