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**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

FOR TAUGHT MODULES AT ALL LEVELS

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| **Name of Module** | European Union Constitutional Law  |
| **Parent School/Dept** | Political Science/International Relations |
| **Programmes where module is offered** | LLM International Law |
| **Status** (compulsory, optional, free choice) | **Compulsory** | **Pre-Requisite Modules or Qualifications** | **Recommended:**  Basic knowledge of Public International Law |
| **FHEQ Level** | **7** | **Unit Value** | **8 ECTS** | **Module Code** (where applicable) | IL 504 | **Module Coordinator** | **Andrea Zubovic** |
| **Semester Taught** | **Spring** | **Applicable From** | SEMESTER/YEAR 2nd semester, 1st year |
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| **Educational Aims of the Module** |
| This module aims to provide a thorough and comprehensive insight into the constitutional order of the European Union (EU) and its main constitutional principles. In addition, this module critically evaluates and analyses the major issues related to the sovereignty, independence and separation of powers in the context of the main EU constitutional principles. The following specific topics will be considered in this module: the respective roles, competencies and powers of the EU’s main political and judicial institutions; foundational legal principles underpinning the EU’s legal framework including subsidiarity, direct effect and supremacy of EU law; the relationship between the EU’s Court of Justice and national courts of the Member States; enforcement mechanisms of EU law; human rights in EU law; EU Citizenship and the legal aspects of the external relations of the Union. At the end of the module, students shall have acquired in-depth understanding of future possible development and Bosnia and Herzegovina’s position in respect of EU.  |
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| **Module Outline/Syllabus** |
| 1. Introduction to the EU law, Legal character and historical development of EU law
2. Sources of EU Law
3. EU Competence: external and internal EU competence, principles of attribution of powers, subsidiarity and proportionality
4. Relationship between the EU law and national legal systems :supremacy, direct effect/indirect effect, enforcement of EU law
5. State liability for breach of EU law
6. Protection of Human Rights in the EU, EU Citizenship and the prohibition of discrimination
7. Actions for annulment and other actions in EU Law, Preliminary rulings
8. Enlargement of the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina
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| **Student Engagement Hours** |
| *Type*  | ***Number per term***  | ***Duration of each***  | ***Total Time*** |
| *Lectures* | 13 | 4 hours | 52 |
| *Seminars* | 13 | 2 hours | 26 |
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| *Total Guided/Independent Learning Hours* | **122** |
| *Total Contact Hours:*  | **78** |
| **Total Engagement Hours** | **200** |
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| **Assessment Method Summary** |
| ***Type***  | ***Number required*** | ***Duration*** | ***Weighting*** | ***Timing/******Submission Deadline*** |
| Mid-semester test (unseen written test in class - multiple choice, conceptual questions, case analysis) | 1 | 1 hour | 10% | Mid-semester |
| Set Assignment (essay) | 1 | 2000 words | 20% | Week 10 |
| Written Report (report on the current state and development of EU integration and cooperation process concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina – selected legal topics pertaining to EU Constitutional Law)  | 1 | 2000 words | 20 % | Week 14 |
| Written Examination (final exam) | 1 | 3 hours | 50% | End of semester |

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| **Module Outcomes** |
| ***Intended Learning Outcomes:***1. Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the history, legal character and sources of the EU Law;
2. In-depth knowledge of the nature of EU law, the formation of rules and the institutional and procedural framework;
3. Critical understanding of the principles of the EU law, such as direct effect, supremacy and subsidiarity, as well as the concepts related to the exercise of EU competence and ability to communicate this knowledge and understanding to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
4. Comprehensive understanding of EU external action, state liability for breaches of EU Law and the system of legal protection within the EU (actions against the EU)
5. In-depth knowledge of the prohibition of discrimination and protection of human rights in EU law
6. Critical understanding of the EU enlargement process and the position of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Lectures provide the core information (ILO: 1-6)
2. Seminars operate as a platform for group discussion, debate, presentations and case-study analysis.(ILO:1-6)
3. Students will be set assignments which complement the lectures and seminars.(ILO:1-6)
4. Short presentations in class will enable students to research and present their ideas on a given topic. Students will be encouraged to debate and tutors will aid the formation of legal arguments (ILO: 3,4)
5. A site visit to the Directorate of European Integration and/or the European Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina will provide students with additional knowledge of the functioning of the EU and the EU enlargement process in Bosnia and Herzegovina

(ILO: 2,3,4,5)1. Students will be shown films (documentary and historic) that will aid knowledge and understanding of legal practice, further enabling critical evaluation and inciting in-depth discussion on issues arising in EU Law

(ILO: 1-6)1. A class quiz will help students to get concise insight into the degree of their current knowledge and understanding and identify weaknesses (ILO: 1-6)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination: final exam (ILO: 1 -5)
2. Written examination: mid-semester test (ILO:1-3)
3. Set assignment: essay and report (ILO:1-5)
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| ***Practical Skills:***1. Accurately analyse complex and varied legal material relating to EU constitutional law
2. Employ advanced skills to conduct independent legal research and present the results in a coherent and clear format
3. Recognise, interpret and apply the rules of EU Constitutional Law to a given set of facts
4. Advanced ability to search and use specialised on-line resources of jurisprudence in EU Constitutional Law and other specialised on-line resources of literature for tracking recent developments in the field of EU Constitutional Law
5. Ability and skill to write a comprehensive and concise report tracking the current status and most recent developments on various topics of EU Constitutional Law
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Set reading lists will direct students to relevant material and they will be guided through independent study.

(PS: 2)1. Seminars operate as a platform for group discussion, debate and in-depth case-study analysis.(PS:1-2)
2. Students will be set assignments which test knowledge, writing and research skills (PS:1-4)
3. Films (documentary and historic) will aid in the interpretation and application of EU Constitutional Law (PS:1,3,4)
4. Students will practice report writing to develop written skills (PS: 1,4,5)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination – final exam, mid-semester test

(PS: 1-4)1. Set assignments: essay (PS: 1-4) and report (PS: 1-5)
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| ***Transferable Skills:***1. Effective information retrieval skills
2. Ability to extrapolate from incomplete information
3. Ability to formulate reasoned arguments for decisions
4. Presentation skills
5. Ability to identify, summarise and critique theories
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Lectures provide the core (practical) knowledge and are complemented by a set reading list which students are expected to study from. Students are encouraged to prepare for lectures and question material. (TS: 2-5)
2. Seminars discuss key subjects in greater detail and provide a platform for group exercises and debate.

(TS: 2,3,4,5)1. Tutors set topical assignments and guide students through independent study. (TS: 1,2,4,5)
2. Short presentations on specific previously assigned topics and group discussions in class contribute to mastery of transferrable skills (TS: 1-5)
3. Set quizzes in class will test student subject knowledge (TS: 1,2)
4. Guided report writing (TS: 1-4)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination: final exam, mid-semester test

(TS: 2-5)1. Set assignments: essay and report (TS: 1-5)
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| **Key Texts and/or other learning materials** |
| **Key texts:**1. Fairhurst, J., 2012. *Law of the European Union*. 9th ed. London: Longman.
2. Craig, P. and de Búrca, G., 2011. *EU Law Text, Cases and Materials*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Other learning materials:**1. Schuetze, R., 2012. *European Constitutional Law.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Craig, P. and de Búrca, G., 2011. *The Evolution of EU Law*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3. Weatherill, S., 2012. *Cases and Materials on EU Law*. 10th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4. Josephine Steiner and Lorna Woods, 2012. *EU Law.* 11th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
5. Foster, N., 2012. *Blackstone’s EU Treaties and Legislation.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6. EUR-Lex, 2013. *Access to European Union Law.* Available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JURISIndex.do> (Accessed 16 July 2013).
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| **Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the module and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module and programme can be found in the departmental or programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by the University of Buckingham and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency. |
| **Date of Production:** |  |
| **Date approved by School Learning and Teaching Committee** |  |
| **Date approved by School Board of Study** |  |
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| **Date of Annual Review:** |  |