Course code: LAW101P

Introduction to International and European Law

Number of ECTS credits: 7.5 ECTS

Contact Details for Professor
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E-mail: Marc Cogen, marcgcogen@gmail.com

Course Description

The course introduces the student to both general international law and to EU law. The first part deals with an introduction to general international law. The major fields of international law are explained: sources of law, fundamental rights and duties of states, human rights, international organizations, international legal regimes governing particular subjects (the atmosphere, Antarctica, the high seas). The second part deals with EU law. It explains the sources and the hierarchy of EU law, the principles governing the powers and the division of powers in the EU and between the EU and its member states, democratic governance and human rights, the EU institutions, and the internal market.

Course Prerequisites (if any)
None

Learning Objectives

The numbers between brackets refer to the International Affairs Major Programme Objectives

A. Learning objectives in terms of knowledge

- To understand basic concepts of international law and European law (1)
- To find the sources of international law (1)
- To understand the difference between national law and international law and how the two interact (1)
- To understand difficult questions such as law enforcement, treaty law and the sometimes complicated networks among the contracting parties, different interpretations of international law, the necessity of codification (2)

B. **Learning objectives in terms of skills**

- To incorporate knowledge from different disciplines (especially learning outcomes from courses of the International Affairs program) into this course (6)
- To write a comprehensive paper on a topic of international and European law, with emphasis on legal sources, applicable treaties and protocols, major case law. (7)

C. **Learning objectives in terms of attitude**

- To gain an understanding of the necessity for life-long learning, commitment to research and the need to update acquired knowledge in a constantly changing international environment (10)
- To engage in class debate on the topics of the course (11)
- To follow current events and assess them in a multidisciplinary way using the tools learned in related courses (11)

**Course schedule**

Week 1   sources of international law
Week 2   the state and its rights and duties, the global commons
Week 3   human rights and the rights of the individual
Week 4   diplomatic and consular law
Week 5   the law of treaties
Week 6   international organizations
Week 7   Midterm Exam
Week 8   timeline of European integration
Week 9  the sources of EU law
Week 10 the division of powers in the EU, the Lisbon reform
Week 11 the institutions of the EU
Week 12 the institutions of the EU - continued
Week 13 the internal market of the EU
Week 14 home affairs and justice, the common foreign and security policy of the EU
Week 15 Final Exam

Course Materials

Reader of the professor (200 pages) based on


Additional readings:

  - UN Charter
  - International Court of Justice – judgments and advisory opinions
  - Treaty on the European Union and Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
  - Court of Justice of the European Union – judgments and preliminary rulings

Course Assessment

The students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance as follows:

- Activity 1  20%
- Activity 2  25%
- Midterm examination  25%
- Final examination  30%

TOTAL  100%

Grading Scale of Vesalius College
Vesalius College grading policy, in line with the Flemish Educational norms, is now as stated follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Scale of 20</th>
<th>Scale of 100</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>17.0-20.0</td>
<td>85-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>16.1-16.9</td>
<td>81-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>15.3-16.0</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>14.5-15.2</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>13.7-14.4</td>
<td>69-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>13.1-13.6</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>12.3-13.0</td>
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Further description of assessment activities and Grading Criteria

The following criteria will be applied in assessing your written work:

**Activity 1**

1. paper of 1,800 words on a topic of international law; paper topics are chosen on consultation with the professor; presentation of paper in class.
2. Explain the major elements of the topic
3. Attention to legal sources: treaties, international customary law, case law
4. Attention to use of correct legal terms
5. Make use of footnotes with correct references to the consulted sources
6. Format of the paper:
   1. short introduction – maximum half a page
   2. analysis: explaining the major elements of the topics – use separate paragraphs per topic
   3. conclusion: maximum half a page
7. Submission of paper in last class before midterm exam and by e-mail marcgogen@gmail.com
8. Course assessment: 20% of total assessment

**Activity 2**

1. paper of 2,500 words on a topic of EU law and policy; paper topics are chosen on consultation with the professor and will be presented in class
2. Use correct references in footnotes; correct use of legal terms and policy terms
3. Format of the paper:
   1. A short introduction: maximum half a page
   2. Analysis: exposition of the major elements – use paragraphs per element of the subject
   3. Conclusion: maximum half a page
4. Submission of paper in hard copy in class and by e-mail marcgcogen@gmail.com

Course assessment percentage: 25% of total assessment

**Additional Course Policies**

Students are required to attend all classes without an exception unless justified by exceptional circumstances (health, family, …)

**Academic Honesty Statement**

Academic dishonesty is **NOT** tolerated in this course.

Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity.

Following the College policy, cheating and plagiarism cases will be communicated in writing to the Associate Dean for Students and submitted to the Student Conduct Committee for disciplinary action.

If you refer to someone else’s work, appropriate references and citations must be provided. Grammar, spelling and punctuation count, so use the tools necessary to correct before handing in assignments.