

The European Union from a Legal Perspective			
Course Number	00LE62S-LAS-GO0009	Teaching Period	University semester
Study Area(s)	Governance, Electives	Credit Points	6 ECTS
Module(s) (StuPo 2012)	Advanced Governance I or II, Specialization Option: Law, Politics, Administration	Module(s) (StuPo 2015)	Advanced Governance I or II, Specialization Option: Governance I or II, Regional Governance
Open to Students	Year(s) 3, 4, (2 by request only)	Max. Enrollment	20
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance		
Instructor(s)	Ellen Weaver (ellenweaver@gn.apc.org)		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 17.10.-10.02.: Tue, 12-14h, AU 01036a Thu, 12-14h, AU 01036a		
Course Description	<p>This course examines the European Union's constitutional and legal structures in the context of contemporary issues affecting the lives of EU citizens. While delivered from a legal perspective, this course addresses a broad range of subjects on which the Union's policies have significant impact. Thus, the course addresses students interested in legal concepts, as well as those who want to learn about the EU generally (with such foci as governance, social, political, economic, human rights or environmental interests).</p> <p>The course combines lectures, seminars, presentations and facilitated discussion. Students are expected to invest in preparation and reading, to actively participate in discussions. We hope to include a visit to the EU Parliament in Strasbourg.</p> <p>Students will learn about the work of the key EU institutions, which affect all aspects of life in the EU, including: the European Commission; the Council of Ministers; the European Council; the EU Parliament;</p> <p>the forms of EU legislation, Directives, Regulations, direct and indirect effect;</p> <p>the structure and jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice;</p> <p>the role and impact of the EU Ombudsman;</p> <p>the significance of the EU Central Bank;</p> <p>the intended and actual input of the Committee of the Regions; the purpose and achievements of the European Economic and Social Committee;</p> <p>the importance of the Court of Auditors;</p> <p>and the roles and relevance of other EU Agencies.</p> <p>Having established the necessary understanding of EU structures and procedures, the course will then facilitate students in applying this knowledge to current controversies and questions of interest to participants, such as Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, transparency, lobbying, refugee rights, environmental protection, the controversial role of the European Court of Justice in legislative interpretation, Brexit and Euroscepticism, EU democratic accountability and parliamentary reform, data protection and internet usage, human rights theory and enforcement, subsidiarity and the rule of law.</p> <p>The course will equip students with the necessary factual and conceptual tools with which to investigate particular aspects of the EU for the assessed assignments (a presentation & an analytical paper, or an analytical paper alone) on an approved topic of the students' own choice.</p>		
Remarks	Taking this course in the second year of studies is only possible upon request.		