

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: EUROPEAN SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES
Status: Definitive
Code: **6500LAWEU** (107929)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2020

Owning School/Faculty: Law
Teaching School/Faculty: Business and Management

Team	Leader
Alexandra Pimor	Y
Bleddyn Davies	
Carlo Panara	

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24
Total Delivered Hours: 36
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 204

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	20
Seminar	6
Tutorial	10

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	3,500 words	50	
Report	AS2	3,500 words	50	

Aims

European Socio-Legal Studies is a year-long module designed to present students with a bigger picture of the EU. The aim is to host a forum for the exploration and critical discussion of different approaches, policies and issues, which affect and define the structure and development of the Union, and which shape the identity of

the European people. The variety of topics covered in the module may therefore be addressed from a legal and social, economic, cultural, political, philosophical, and/or international perspective.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate a firm grounding and knowledge of the wider issues of EU law, building on the knowledge gained in the level 2 core LLB module EU law 1. These issues will focus, for instance, on how the Justice & Home Affairs Commission legislates for and introduces policies on dealing with serious criminal activity; on how the EU is transforming itself from a 'common market' to a 'Peoples' Europe', as a Union that endeavours to be 'closer to its citizens'.
- 2 Demonstrate an awareness and depth of contextual understanding of the main policy and doctrinal issues related to EU law in general, and in particular in the areas of democracy, governance, personal liberties, free movement rights, and serious crime in the EU.
- 3 Demonstrate a basic ability to identify accurately research issues, identify and retrieve up-to-date information both primary and secondary, using a wide variety of sources from paper to electronic in the preparation and writing of the written essay assessment.
- 4 Demonstrate an ability to apply gained legal knowledge to problems of relative complexity, to reflect upon and evaluate this application, and to draw logical reasoned conclusions that are supported by arguments and legal authority.
- 5 Demonstrate a basic ability to bring together information and materials of different sources to produce a synthesis of relevant EU law doctrinal and policy issues, and make a critical judgement of the merits of a particular argument.
- 6 Demonstrate an ability to use appropriate legal terminology and language, in written format, to read and discuss legal and other relevant materials, and present knowledge or an argument in a way that is comprehensible to others.
- 7 Demonstrate independent learning by taking responsibility in planning for assessment; managing personal study time; and establishing a research plan for collating and using a wide variety of information sources.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	1	3	4	7
Report	2	5	6	

Outline Syllabus

Given the flexible and topical underpinning of this module, there is no definite syllabus. However, below is an indication of some of the topics that may be covered by the teaching team:

*Crime and Justice in the Union
- Criminal Law and the EU*

- *Police and Judicial Co-operation between the Member States*
- *International terrorism and Counter-Terrorist Investigations*
- *Drug and Human Trafficking*

Democracy, rights and citizenship in the Union

- *EU constitutionalism and integration process*
- *Union democratic deficit, initiatives and citizenship*
- *Civil society and the development of a Peoples' Europe*

EU multi-level Governance

- *Multilevel Governance in the EU (MLG)*
- *Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU (CFSP)*

Learning Activities

The module is delivered through a series of large and small group sessions; and will incorporate the use of virtual learning environment and various electronic resources (e.g. Blackboard, legal databases, key websites, etc.) to enhance student learning.

Notes

The module is assessed by two pieces of coursework (one in each semester).

Coursework: a coursework assignment could range from an essay or problem question, through to document analysis, literature synopsis or commentary, case-law commentary, or case study.

'Literature' is broadly interpreted to include academic articles, monograph extracts, primary and secondary legislation, case law, governmental documents, policy documents, and any other relevant documentation.

The module is EU law like you have never known it before – it is the Union and its law in context. It covers topical issues such as

- Criminal activity (and we mean really serious criminal activity, more than simple shoplifting); terrorism and counter-terrorism in the EU;
- The construction of a Peoples' Europe through an increasingly constitutional and political integration process (e.g. Lisbon Treaty with a heavy emphasis on promoting democracy in the Union).
- Multi-governance issues in the EU

This module goes beyond the black letter EU Law and examines the wider social and political implications of the law in the areas mentioned above. It explores what the EU is trying to achieve; how it is extending its competence and involvement in previously uncharted areas; why there is ambivalence or resistance from some of the Member States and citizens towards the European project and socio-political integration process; and why it is important that individuals and law students living in the Union become aware and develop an understanding of these issues.

The point of the module is to encourage and foster student engagement and interest

in EU affairs; therefore, the delivery of the module aims to promote discussion and expand ideas. In addition, this interactive dialogue between students and their peers, and tutors, will guide them towards deeper understanding and awareness of this subject area to enhance the completion of their assessments.