



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
EXTERNAL RELATIONS LAW OF THE EUROPEAN UNION	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: lect. dr. Manfredas Limantas Other(s): -	Public Law Department, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, LT-10222, Vilnius, Room 411, tel. (85)2366175; e-mail: vtkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Second	Optional

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	1 st semester (autumn)	English/Russian

Prerequisites and co-requisites	
Prerequisites: Knowledge of basic principles of public international law and EU law is preferable	Co-requisites (if any): -

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed

The course unit aims at providing in-depth knowledge about the main principles and particularities of EU external relations law, legal and institutional mechanisms for maintaining the EU's external relations with third parties in the global world, the relationship between EU and international law; developing the ability to systemically analyse the main legal and policy features of the Common Commercial Policy (CCP), Development Policy, Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement policies, critically to interpret key provisions of the EU Treaties and case law of the European Court of Justice related to EU external relations, along with relevant international agreements, EU secondary legislation and policy documents. Besides an in-depth legal perspective, it will offer an insight into a wider policy context for a better understanding of the phenomenon of European integration in the area of external relations. Students will develop interpersonal and communication skills.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
- Students will be able to understand the key legal principles underpinning external relations of the EU and its international legal status.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Class participation (discussion and case solving), presentation, final examination (case studies)
- Students will be able to identify, characterise and critically analyse EU external competences, instruments and institutions involved in the establishment and maintenance of EU external relations.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Class participation (discussion and case solving), presentation, final examination (case studies)
- Students will be able to interpret and independently apply major sources of EU external relations law, including the EU Treaties, EU international agreements with third parties, secondary legislation and the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU in providing arguments for legal decisions and developing innovative solutions taking into consideration possible social, ethical and legal consequences.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Class participation (discussion and case solving), presentation, final examination (case studies)
- Students will be able to understand legal-institutional foundations of the EU's representation and participation in international organisations and treaty bodies, as well as the legal-institutional features of the key EU external policies.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Class participation (discussion and case solving), presentation, final examination

- Students will be able to take critical (and self-critical) approach, orally or in written to provide their opinion in a coherent, argumentative and logic manner and to evaluate the current position assumed by others.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Class participation (discussion and case solving), presentation, final examination
- Students will be able to enhance acquired knowledge and abilities independently, inter alia, to use legal information data bases and other sources, to select relevant theoretical and practical material, and to substantiate their own conclusions by the achievements of jurisprudence.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Class participation (discussion and case solving), presentation, final examination

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Self-study: hours and assignments		
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical sessions	Laboratory activities	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. Nature of the EU as an international actor: legal-constitutional foundations and international legal personality of the EU	2		1				3	4	Analysis of study materials
2. Institutional framework of EU external relations: key actors and their inter-relations	3		1				4	5	Analysis of study materials
3. Nature and typology of EU external competence (powers), key principles underpinning its existence and exercise, legal effects of EU external competence	4		2				5	6	Analysis of study materials, case studies
4. Legal instruments in EU external relations: internal legal acts and international treaties, typology of EU international agreements, treaty-making procedures, relevance of soft law	4		2				5	6	Analysis of study materials, case studies
5. Relationship between EU and international law, effect of international law within the EU legal order	3		2				5	5	Analysis of study materials, case studies
6. International representation and status of the EU in international institutions, including the World Trade Organisation and the UN	2		2				5	5	Analysis of study materials, case studies
7. Legal-institutional foundations and characteristics of the Common Commercial Policy, Development Policy, CFSP, EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement policies.	2		2				5	5	Analysis of study materials, case studies
8. Individual presentation on a selected topic								30	Preparation for presentation during the seminar
								35	Preparation for the examination
Total	20		12				32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Active participation during seminars	20	During the seminars	During the seminars, selective legal problems will be discussed and case studies solved. The case studies shall be presented before the seminar providing some time for preparation of their solutions. It will be evaluated the providing of correct answers to questions, formulating problems and suggesting (searching for) solutions, offering thoughtful critical remarks, contributing to other participants' ideas, etc.
Presentation	30	During the seminars	A power point presentation of 15-20 minutes followed by Question and Answer session. Students will be able to choose a topic of their interest or from a list of suggested topics. Assessment consists of: - presentation content (comprehensive problem analysis, proper source application, critical analytical thinking,

			conclusion/recommendation formulation); - presentation form and structure (concentrated work presentation, adhesive scientific language, the use of informative visual aids).
Examination	50	At the end of the course	A written exam will consist of several case studies. EU Treaties and other legal acts may be used during the exam. When answering, students should provide all the necessary information in an argumentative, coherent and clear manner.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of periodical or volume of publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
RAMSES A WESSEL, JORIS LARIK	2020	EU External Relations Law. Text, Cases and Materials	Second edition	Hart Publishing
FRIEDRICH ERLBACHE	2017	Recent Case Law on External Competences of the European Union: How Member States Can Embrace Their Own Treat	2017/2	Asser Institute Centre for the Law of EU External Relations, accessible at: https://www.asser.nl/media/3485/cleer17-2_web.pdf
J. WOUTERS, A. RAINA, V. HEGDE	2020	The Future of Global Economic Governance: The European Union, the World Trade Organisation and the Crisis of Multilateralism	219/2020	Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, accessible at: https://ghum.kuleuven.be/ggs/publications/working_papers/wp219-wouters.pdf
Recommended reading				
BART VAN VOOREN AND RAMSES A. WESSEL	2015	EU International Relations Law	Second edition	Hart Publishing
PIET EECKHOUT	2011	EU External Relations Law	Second edition	Oxford University Press
STEPHAN KEUKELEIRE AND TOM DELREUX	2014	The Foreign Policy of the European Union	First edition	Palgrave Macmillan
BART VAN VOOREN, STEVEN BLOCKMANS, JAN WOUTERS	2013	The EU's role in global governance: the legal dimension	First edition	Oxford University Press
CHRISTINE KADDOUS (ED.)	2015	The European Union in international organisations and global governance: recent developments	First edition	Hart Publishing