



Syllabus

Academic Year	2026/2027
Program	Global Law
Course	The Law of EU External Relations
Term	I semester
Year	3
SSD	IUS/14
Credits	6

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

The course aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of legal basis, principles and institutes governing the European Union's external relations as well as the ability to grasp the policy objectives and priority guiding them, including trade, diplomacy, development, and human rights. The ultimate goal is to equip students with the skills to apply legal principles and precedents to real-world scenarios and case studies in EU external relations.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

They describe what a learner is expected to know, understand and be able to demonstrate after completion of a learning path.

Knowledge and understanding: Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the European Union's external relations law, also examining it in the light of international law. In addition to the foreign policy of the Union as a whole, they will focus on profiles related to the development of world trade, the protection of the environment and human rights.

Applying knowledge and understanding: Students, through their acquired theoretical knowledge, will be able to identify the most important techniques and tools available to the EU in its external action.

Making judgments: Students will gain the ability to understand and critically evaluate the scope and objectives of EU external relations.

Communications Skills: Students will acquire appropriate language and vocabulary and they will be able to communicate their analyses and findings clearly and persuasively, either in writing or orally, regarding the law of EU external relations.



	Learning skills: Students will gain the ability to critically evaluate the legal and policy implications of EU external relations decisions, as well as to assess the effectiveness and coherence of EU policies in the international arena. These skills will prepare students for careers in international law, diplomacy public policy, and other fields where an understanding of EU external relations is essential.
Pre-requisites	Knowledge of the general principles and the main institutions of EU law
Course content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the law of EU external relations• Treaty-making: the principle of conferral, the EU as an international actor• The principle of unity and exclusive external competence• Shared competence, the duty of cooperation and mixed agreements• EU Trade and Investment Policy: scope and decision-making; objectives and sustainable development• The EU and international organisations• The Common Foreign and Security Policy• The EU policy on the protection of environment• EU external relations and human rights
Reference Books	P.J. Kuijper, J. Wouters, F. Hoffmeister, G. de Baere, T. Ramopoulos (2021), <i>The Law of EU External Relations - Cases, Materials, and Commentary on the EU as an International Legal Actor</i> (Oxford University Press). Slides and other teaching materials on Luiss Learn.
Teaching Methods	Frontal lectures Guest speakers Case discussion
Assessment	Final paper (70%) Final oral exam (30%)
