

**Public Participation in the Institutions of the  
European Union**

Code: 102257  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500786 Law	OT	4	0

### Contact

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### Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)  
Some groups entirely in English: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

### Prerequisites

Students enrolling this course need to have prior notions of law. It is not necessary to have specific prior knowledge of European Union law, but if not, students will have to do some additional reading before the course. Please contact the lecturer for further details about the specific bibliography on EU law.

Students need to have at least a C1 level in English.

### Objectives and Contextualisation

- Understanding and analyzing political rights linked to European citizenship.
- Understanding European Union law through case-law developed by the CJEU.
- Analyzing the institutional architecture of the European Union as well as its inter-dynamics from the perspective of democratic legitimacy and its legal conceptions.
- Understanding the means of communication that EU citizens have before the institutions of the European Union from a legal perspective.

### Skills

- Apprehending the necessary mechanisms in order to know, assess, and apply the legislative reforms as well as to follow the changes produced in a concrete subject.
- Arguing and laying the foundation for the implementation of legal standards.
- Demonstrating a sensible and critical reasoning: analysis, synthesis, conclusions.
- Drawing up and formalising works, reports, documents, rulings.
- Identifying and solving problems.
- Identifying, assessing and putting into practice changes in jurisprudence.
- Identifying, knowing and applying the basic and general principles of the legal system.
- Memorising and utilising legal terminology.
- Orally and clearly defending ideas, works, reports, documents and rulings in a structured way.
- Searching, interpreting and applying legal standards, arguing every case.

- Students must be capable of demonstrating the unitary nature of the legal system and of the necessary interdisciplinary view of legal problems.
- Students must be capable of learning autonomously and having an entrepreneurial spirit.
- Working in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.

## Learning outcomes

1. Applying an interdisciplinary and integrated vision of the legal problems in an international environment.
2. Assessing legislative changes and reforms in a context of plurality of systems.
3. Building a legal reasoning or discourse in the field of Public International Law, Private International Law and European Union Law.
4. Demonstrating a sensible and critical reasoning: analysis, synthesis, conclusions.
5. Drawing up and formalising works, reports, documents, rulings.
6. Identifying and assessing the changes and evolution of jurisprudence in a context of plurality of systems.
7. Identifying and knowing the basic contents of every stipulated speciality.
8. Identifying and solving problems.
9. Memorising and using the specific terminology of Public International Law, Private International Law and European Union Law.
10. Orally and clearly defending ideas, works, reports, documents and rulings in a structured way.
11. Students must be capable of learning autonomously and having an entrepreneurial spirit.
12. Working in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.

## Content

Section 1. - Concept and limits of European citizenship

Rights / obligations of a European citizen. - Obtaining European citizenship. - Difference between citizenship and nationality. - Origins and history of European citizenship. - European citizen categories. - Development of the concept of citizenship by the ECJ.

Section 2 - Political rights of European citizens

The electoral procedure. - The voting rights of European citizens. - Conditions to vote in municipal elections and in EP elections. - Case law of the ECJ and ECHR. - Electoral systems in Member States.

Section 3. - The powers and functions of the European Parliament

Increased powers of the EP. - Basic functions of PE. - Parliament as a legislator: co-decision with the Council, the legislative initiative and control of non-legislative acts. - Fast-track procedure. - The parliamentary control.

Section 4. - Members of the European Parliament

Temporary staff. - General Secretary. - MEPs: the European status and the role of individual MPs. - EP President. - Assistants of MEPs. - The parliamentary committees. - Temporary committees of inquiry. - The European political groups. - The figure of the rapporteur.

Section 5. - The role of national parliaments in the EU

The participation of national parliaments along the Treaties of the European Union. - Consultation of national parliaments on respect for the principle of subsidiarity. - Cooperation between the European Parliament and the parliaments of the Member States. - Functions of the national parliaments since the Treaty of Lisbon. - The early warning procedure.

Section 6. - Referendums on EU issues

Referendums accession or withdrawal of the European Union. - Referendums of ratification of treaties. - Referendums on EU policies.

## Section 7. - The EU citizens' initiative in the Treaty of Lisbon

The right of citizens to ask for new legislation. - The applicable procedure. - Conditions of background. - Study of past and present initiatives.

## Section 8. - The participation of civil society: The Economic and Social Committee

Members of the Economic and Social Committee. - ESC categories. - President of the ESC. - Powers of the ESC. - Areas of consultation of ESC.

## Section 9. - The petitions and complaints of EU citizens

The right to petition before the Parliament. - Procedural issues. - The European Ombudsman: Origins and evolution. - Limits of the European Ombudsman. - Differences between the Ombudsman and the ECJ.

## Section 10. - The principle of transparency

Access to documents of the institutions and bodies of the EU. - Publicity of meetings of the institutions. - Clarity of European regulations.

## Methodology

ECTS Hours

Classes

Theoretical classes 30 1'2

Practical classes 15 0'6

Supervised

Tutorials 2 0.08

Autonomous

Study 30 1'2

Reading texts 22 0.88

manual reading 22 0.88

Preparation and drafting

Work 22 0.88

Research Documentation 7 0.28

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Practical lectures	15	0.6	1, 7, 3, 4, 8
Search of documents	7	0.28	11, 12
Theoretical lectures	30	1.2	7, 3, 9, 2

**Type: Supervised**

Private tutoring	2	0.08	1, 3, 6, 5, 2
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**Type: Autonomous**

Book reading	22	0.88	7, 6, 9, 2
Essays drafting and preparation	22	0.88	1, 3, 10, 4, 5
Reading of academic journals and case-law	22	0.88	7, 6, 2
Study	30	1.2	7, 9, 11

**Evaluation**

The final grade will be the result of combining continuous assessment with the final exam. The final test will weight 70%, whereas the essays and attendance will count 30%.

Reevaluation: Students who do not pass the test by the method described, but have at least a 3 (out of 10) may be eligible for the reevaluation, which will consist of another test. Students who for justifiable reasons have not been able to deliver one of the works (not both) on the date specified may have the possibility to do an extra work at home.

The material and language of the course is English. Therefore, the final test will be written in English too.

**Evaluation activities**

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Assignments	20%	0	0	1, 7, 3, 10, 4, 6, 5, 11, 12, 2
Attendance and interaction	10%	0	0	1, 7, 10, 4, 6, 9, 8, 11, 12, 2
Final Test	70%	0	0	1, 7, 6, 9, 2

**Bibliography**

Elsbeth Guild and Valsamis Mitsilegas, "Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy in Europe", Brill | Nijhoff, Boston, Massachusetts (USA), April 2015, ISSN: 1568-2749

David M. Farrell and Roger Scully, "Representing Europe's Citizens? Electoral Institutions and the Failure of Parliamentary Representation", Oxford University Press, May 2007, ISBN: 9780199285020

Ulrike Liebert, Alexander Gattig and Tatjana EVAS, "Democratizing the EU from Below? Citizenship, Civil Society and the Public Sphere", Ashgate, 2013, ISBN 9781472408303

Fernando Mendez, Mario Mendez and Vasiliki Triga, "Referendums and the European Union. A Comparative Inquiry", Cambridge Studies in European Law and Policies, June 2014, ISBN: 9781107034044

The European Ombudsman: Origins, Establishment, Evolution, Dictus Publishing, December 2010, ISBN-10: 3843343403.

Cristina Blasi Casagran, Global data protection in the field of law enforcement: An EU perspective, Routledge. Taylor & Francis Group, Oxfordshire, UK, June 2016.