

**Tel Aviv University**

**European Studies Programme**

**Course**

**European Union Law**



## **SYLLABUS**

**Instructor: Dr. Frédéric Krumbain**

**1st Semester 2023/2024**

## Course description

The course offers an introduction into the law of the European Union. It provides an overview of a) the institutional framework of the European Union; b) the EU's legislative and decision-making processes; c) the application of EU law by the Court of Justice and national courts; d) the relationship between EU law and national law; e) legal aspects of the single market and the four freedoms; f) fundamental rights in the EU.

## Course requirements

1. Each student should write one **essay** (1500-2000 words). The essay should be submitted until 31 March 2024. For the **essays**, please select a topic of the presentations in the syllabus at your discretion (but not the same topic as for your presentation). Criteria for grading are content, structure, and style/ability to use correct English in an academic paper. The essay will account for 40% of the final grade. The essay should be submitted via Moodle.
2. Each student should conduct a **presentation** about one of the topics for presentations in the syllabus. You can choose one of the topics in the course outline or suggest a topic for a presentation to the instructor. The length of the presentation should be about 15-20 minutes. The presentation will account for 40% of the final grade.
3. There will be **three online quizzes** in the seminar. You will take the quizzes at home via Moodle. The **deadline for all three quizzes is 15 March**. The quizzes will solely refer to the content of the uploaded presentations in Moodle and not to the texts. Naturally, there is a lot of overlap between the content of my presentations and the reading material. But for the quizzes it is sufficient, if you revise the slides that I upload in Moodle. The result of the quizzes will account for 20% of the final grade.

After the semester is over and all assignments have been submitted by you and graded by me, I will write you an email with your final grade and comments on your assignments (until the end of April 2024 at the latest).

## Course reading material

- Borchardt, Klaus-Dieter (2016): The ABC of EU Law (in Moodle, a short overview of EU law)
- Schütze, Robert (2023): An Introduction to European Law, Fourth Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press (a good overview of EU law)
- Please also check Moodle for further reading material for some of the sessions

## Course outline

<b>The creation of EU Law</b>	
3 January	<b>Introduction</b>
	Text: Borchardt 2016: pp. 11-24, 37-42
10 January	<b>The institutions of the European Union</b>
	Text: Borchardt 2016: pp. 57-88; Schütze 2023: Chapter 'Union Institutions'
17 January	<b>European legislation and decision-making processes</b>
	Presentation topics:
	1) What is in your opinion the most important institution in the EU and why? Text: Borchardt 2016: pp. 111-119; Schütze 2023: Chapter 'Union Legislation'
24 January	<b>Catching up and revision of the first three sessions</b>
	1) What are proposals and ideas of the Conference on the Future of Europe to increase efficiency and transparency of the EU? 2) What are advantages and disadvantages of the European Citizens' Initiative?
31 January	<b>Competences and legal instruments of the EU</b>
	Presentation topics:
	1) What are strengths and weaknesses of the EU's political system? 2) How does the Court of Justice of the EU work?  Text: Borchardt 2016: pp. 89-110; pp. 43-56; Schütze 2023: Chapter 'Union Competences'
7 February	<b>Fundamental rights in the EU</b>
	Presentation topics:
	1) Which EU institutions protect how human rights of people living in the EU? 2) How does the EU protect minorities from discrimination through legislative acts and policies? (you can choose one minority as an example)  Text: Borchardt 2016: pp. 25-36; Schütze 2023: Chapter 'Fundamental Rights'
<b>Application and enforcement of EU Law</b>	
14 February	<b>The effect and application of EU Law and the relationship between EU Law and national law</b>
	Presentation topics:
	1) Why have the European Court of Justice and most constitutional courts of the member states different opinions about the hierarchy of EU and national law? 2) How could the EU become more democratic?  Text: Borchardt 2016: pp. 133-144; Schütze 2023: Chapters 'Direct Effect' and '(Legal) Primacy'
21 February	<b>Preliminary rulings</b>
	Presentation topics:
	1) What role play national courts in the application of EU Law?  Text: Borchardt 2016: pp. 122-124, 126-129; Schütze 2023: Chapter 'National Actions'

28 February	<b>Enforcement actions against member states</b>
	Presentation topics: 1) What can the EU do when a member state violates EU Law? 2) What are instruments of the EU to protect rule of law in member states (rule of law mechanism, rule of law conditionality, rule of law framework, article 7 TEU) and how effective are they?
	Text: Borchardt 2016: pp. 120-122; Schütze 2023: Chapter 'European Actions'
<b>Substance of EU Law</b>	
6 March	<b>The single market and the four freedoms</b>
	Presentation topics: 1) What are the fundamental legal principles of the free movement of goods? 2) What are the fundamental legal principles of the free movement of workers?
	Text: Schütze 2023: Chapter 'Internal Market: Goods I'
13 March	<b>Concluding session</b>
	Revision and discussion of the main topics of the seminar
<b>Deadline for the essay: 31 March 2024</b>	