

Course report: EU Internal Market Law, 15 ECT, Spring term 2022, JU347A and JU347B

Generally speaking this course was appreciated by the cohort of Swedish and exchange students. They engaged in legal studies at advanced level and explored the process of approximation of national legal systems and the shaping a Union legal order based on shared values and fundamental rights. Most students were active during the seminars and succeeded to write good essays and peer-reviews. Some students experienced a rather steep learning curve and someone perceived it to be too challenging. Because of the pandemic, most teaching and learning activities were held via Zoom which some students considered to be an advantage whereas others found it difficult not to meet in person. Normal years, when the teaching and learning activities take place on campus, the students get to know each other better which often makes the seminars and the writing of an essay and a peer-review easier. Historically this has been reflected in even better course evaluations and spontaneous positive comments. For the time being, we are planning to have all teaching and learning activities on site in 2023. We will also focus a bit more on the digital internal market and automation in the context of EU law.

It crystallises from course evaluations and spontaneous feedback from students that the strength of the course is that it provides a deep understanding of the basic framework for regulation in many fields of law. Irrespective of whether the person is interested in environmental law, intellectual property law, digital globalisation, or any other field of approximated law, it is satisfying to know how legal norms are shaped on Union level and how these sources of law interrelate with each other and with domestic law. Furthermore, the study of EU law leads into questions about legal methodologies and about philosophy of law. For some students the course has become an eye opener and a source of inspiration to further specialisation. Most students appreciate the structure of the course, with most of the teaching and learning activities in the beginning, a written exam after six weeks, and four weeks devoted to the writing of an essay and a peer-review. However, some students perceive the first part as being intensive. Indeed, the topic is broad and much knowledge that is examined is obtained at lectures and seminars. A weakness of the course is that those who lag behind from the start and miss several teaching and learning activities have difficulties to catch up. It is not possible to pass the course by reading a book and write an exam. Some students also want to learn more about particular fields of EU law, but at the same time there has never been a demand for more teaching and learning activities, which makes the equation a bit difficult.

In an overall assessment of the course 2022, the results show that the intended learning outcomes were met and that most students were satisfied. It is rewarding for us to see how students from different countries engage with the topic, develop legal skills and work together towards excellence during the course. Indeed, those who put a shoulder to it often get a good result. We look forward to a more interactive form of learning, and to meet in person during 2023.

Welcome to join us 2023!