

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** History of International Institutions and European Integration
- **Code:** LLB5
- **ECTS:** 5
- **Hours per week:** 3
- **Academic Year:** 1st
- **Teaching Period:** Winter Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

The course aims to introduce students to the development of international institutions, as a means of safeguarding world peace and deterring war through the peaceful settlement of international disputes, crisis management and the use of sanctions in case of aggression. The course examines the setting-up, functioning and ultimate failure of the League of Nations, the setting-up of an International Court of Justice (preceded by the International Court of Arbitration), the breakdown of peaceful international relations during the 1930s, the Second World War and the setting-up of the United Nations Organization, the major milestones in the history of the UNO during the Cold War and its aftermath, the response of the new superpowers (the United States and the Soviet Union) as well as the traditional European great powers to post-war challenges, early forms and schemes of European co-operation, and the qualitative leap in inter-state relations that was gradually taken through the process of economic and political

integration among liberal democratic European states. It covers the period from the Treaty of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (1951) to the Treaty of Lisbon (2007), which consolidated the European Union in its current form. The course offers indispensable historical background and context to courses related to Public International Law and European Union Law.

3. Keywords

nation-state, balance of power, multipolarity, international organizations, peaceful settlement of disputes, aggression, international sanctions, League of Nations, World War, United Nations, Cold War, bipolarity, European integration, European Communities, European Union, intergovernmentalism, supranationalism, functionalism

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

(a) Remembering

1. Recall key concepts of world politics, such as sovereignty, nationalism, balance of power, hegemony, multipolarity, bipolarity, international organization, peaceful settlement of disputes, aggression, international sanctions, integration.
2. Identify relevant milestones in the historical process that led from the traditional “anarchic” states system to various forms of international organization and, in the case of Europe, integration.
3. Define the root causes of major developments, e.g the impact of two World wars, the Cold War and the post-Cold War challenges to the international system, with particular emphasis to Europe.
4. Recall key events and turning points in the course of international relations since the end of the First World War, both in their studies of International and European Law and in their future practice.

(b) Understanding

5. Explain the shift from loose and selective forms of bilateral or multilateral co-operation between states to the universally accepted framework of international organizations and, in the case of European states, the novel, binding regime of the European institutions with their tint of supranationality.

6. Summarize the main issues facing statesmen and governments at each stage of progress towards or retreat from international organization and co-operation and, in the case of Europe, integration.
7. Interpret core legal texts, such as the League of Nations Covenant, the United Nations Charter and the Treaties establishing the European Institutions, on the basis of historical knowledge.
8. Describe the, mainly qualitative, differences between each stage of international co-operation/organization, at the international and the European levels.

(c) Applying

9. Draw and apply appropriate historical analogies between past developments and current challenges facing the international lawyer.
10. Use appropriate terminology and citation conventions in written and oral communication.
11. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts and events in framing answers to legal and/or political questions.
12. Employ critical and historically-informed reasoning to support a position in moot court or simulated legal argument.

(d) Analysing

13. Distinguish between competing interpretations of international relations and norms (e.g the conflicting principles of non-interference and self-determination) and identify underlying assumptions.
14. Compare and contrast differing modes of international co-operation and crisis situations which test the efficacy and cohesion of international institutions.
15. Break down complex current international questions into component parts to identify the salient issues.
16. Examine the relevance and/or soundness of legal reasoning in the light of historical experience.

(e) Evaluating

17. Critically assess the effectiveness of legal rules or doctrines in achieving their stated objectives in the light of particular historical circumstances.
18. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the norms, structures and organs of international institutions.
19. Assess the implications of alternative responses to major challenges taken by states during the relevant periods.
20. Formulate a reasoned opinion on controversial legal or political precedents using appropriate sources.

(f) Creating

21. Construct well-structured arguments in essays, position papers, or research projects.
22. Develop historically-informed hypotheses or research questions on legal and/or political topics of contemporary relevance.
23. Provide a historical perspective to long-standing or (seemingly) novel legal and/or political questions begging innovative approaches.
24. Formulate strategic advice tailored to specific needs or factual contexts.
25. Design and present a mock argument or policy proposal grounded in expert authority.
26. Formulate legal principles in the light of historical experience.

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyze, and synthesize data and information
- Think in historical perspective (History Matters)
- Offering reasoned arguments and make balanced decisions
- Work in an international context
- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity

- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. The First World War and the Paris peace settlement
2. The League of Nations: – The first attempt at an international system of collective security
3. The interwar crisis and the Second World War: the birth of the United Nations
4. The United Nations in the Cold War era
5. The United Nations and the challenges of the post-Cold War (dis)order
6. Post-war ventures in peace building and international co-operation: From the Marshall Plan to the Schuman Plan
7. 'Ever closer union'? The European Communities and alternative schemes
8. Crisis & Compromise: De Gaulle's vision and vetoes
9. Stagnation and enlargement: the turbulent 1970s
10. The Delors Years: From the Single European Act to the Treaty of Maastricht
11. Enlargement and the abortive Constitutional Project
12. A depoliticized settlement: the Treaty of Lisbon
13. Europe in a changing world

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Student presentations and structured debate.
- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic [integrity policy](#). Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- Use in Teaching: (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Mentimeter)
- Use in Communication: (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)
- Digital Resources: (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- Books/E-Books

Adamski, D. (2018). *Redefining European economic integration*. Cambridge University Press.

Augenstein, Daniel. (2012). *"Integration through Law" Revisited: The Making of the European Polity*. Ashgate Publishing. <https://hdl.handle.net/1814/21534>

Baldwin, R., & Wyplosz, C. (2015). *The economics of European integration* (5th ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.

Berend, T. I. (2016). *The history of European integration: A new perspective*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

Buonanno, L., & Nugent, N. (2013). *Policies and policy processes of the EU*. Palgrave Macmillan.

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Davies, B., & Nicola, F. (2017). *EU law stories: Contextual and critical histories of European jurisprudence*. In *EU Law Stories: Contextual and Critical Histories of European Jurisprudence*. Cambridge University Press.
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Meurs, W. P. van., Bruin, R. de., Grift, L. van de., Hoetink, C., Leeuwen, K. van., Reijnen, C., Eyck, J. R. J., Getty, A., & Vines, L. (2018). The unfinished history of European integration. Amsterdam University Press.

Nugent, N. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union. Palgrave Macmillan.

Reinalda, B. (2013). Routledge history of international organizations: From 1815 to the present day. Routledge.

Ross, G. (1983). The great powers and the decline of the European states system 1914–1945. Longman.

Schermers, H. G., & Blokker, N. (2018). International institutional law: Unity within diversity. Brill Nijhoff.

Steiner, G. (2002). The idea of Europe: From antiquity to the European Union. Woodrow Wilson Center Press; Cambridge University Press.

Stirk, P. M. R. (2000). A history of European integration since 1914. Pinter Publishers.

- Databases

Westlaw UK Academic	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Beck-online PREMIUM	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Dalloz.fr	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/

Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Cambridge Core (Law)	https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law
EBSCO	https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true
ProQuest Central	https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0
Springer link	https://link.springer.com/
Taylor & Francis e-books	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SC LW
Taylor & Francis e-journals	https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law
The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist&cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&aty=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85

- **Additional Databases**

<https://digitallibrary.un.org>

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary>

https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu_en

<https://www.cvce.eu/en>