

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** European and Comparative Constitutional Law
- **Code:** LLB6
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 1st
- **Teaching Period:** Spring Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to constitutional law through both national-comparative and European perspectives. The first part addresses the general theory and practice of constitutions, focusing on their functions, normative authority, and institutional frameworks across major legal traditions. Core themes include constitution-making and amendment, constitutional supremacy and interpretation, forms of government and separation of powers, judicial review, political representation and voting rights. The Greek Constitution is used as a primary case study within the continental tradition and compared with other models, including those of the United States, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. It also examines the constitutional dimensions of the European Union, exploring questions of legitimacy, sovereignty, the

constitutional role of the Treaties, and the reception of EU law within national orders. Students will engage with debates on democratic principles, European citizenship, and the role of the Court of Justice as a constitutional actor. By the end of the course, students will have acquired a solid foundation in both the theory of constitutions and the supranational developments reshaping constitutional law today.

3. Keywords

European Union, Constitutional Law, Public Authority, Sovereignty, Comparative Constitutionalism, Constitution, Rule of Law, Separation of Powers, European Constitutionalism

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Identify** the fundamental principles and institutional structures of constitutions across different legal traditions, with particular reference to the Greek Constitution. (*Remembering*)
2. **Explain** the processes of constitution-making, amendment, and interpretation in both national and comparative contexts. (*Understanding*)
3. **Analyse** the organisation of public authority through the rule of law, separation of powers, and various forms of government. (*Analysing*)
4. **Evaluate** the constitutional implications of European integration, including questions of legitimacy, sovereignty, and democratic representation. (*Evaluating*)
5. **Compare and contrast** the interaction between national constitutions and the European Union's constitutional framework, with reference to the role of the Court of Justice and Article 28 of the Greek Constitution. (*Analysing/Evaluating*)

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Adapt to new situations
- Make decisions

- Work in an international context
- Work in an interdisciplinary team
- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity and multiculturalism
- Respect the natural environment
- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. What Is a Constitution? Foundations, Functions, and Types
2. Constitution-Making and Amendment: From Revolution to Reform
3. Constitutional Norms and the Legal Order: Supremacy, Hierarchy, and Rigidity
4. The Rule of Law and Separation of Powers
5. Forms of Government and Institutional Design
6. Judicial Review and Constitutional Adjudication
7. Political Representation, Parties, Electoral Systems, and Voting Rights
8. Dual Legitimacy and the Constitutional Foundations of the European Union
9. The EU Treaties as a Constitutional Framework: Symbolism or Substance?
10. Sovereignty and Constitutional Authority in the EU
11. The Reception of EU Law in National Constitutions: The Greek Example
12. Democratic Principles and Citizenship in a Multi-Level Polity
13. The Court of Justice of the EU as a Constitutional Actor

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Case law workshops.
- 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

Barber, N. W. ., Cahill, Maria., & Ekins, Richard. (2019). *The rise and fall of the European constitution* /. Hart Publishing.

Bartole, Sergio. (2022). *The Internationalisation of Constitutional Law : a view from the Venice Commission* /. Hart.

Baudoin, M.-E. 1973-. (2022). *Le constitutionnalisme abusif en Europe* /. Éditions Mare & Martin.

Biagi, F. (2019). *European constitutional courts and transitions to democracy* /. Cambridge University Press.

Bogdandy, A. von, & Bast, J. (2011). *Principles of European constitutional law*. Hart Publishing.

Bogdandy, A. von., Huber, P. M. ., & Grabenwarter, Christoph. (2023). *Constitutional adjudication common themes and challenges (e-book)* / (First Edition.). Oxford University Press

von Bogdandy, A., Grabenwarter, C., & Huber, P. M. (Eds.). (2023). *The Max Planck Handbooks in European Public Law: Volume IV: Constitutional adjudication: Common themes and challenges*. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780192846693.001.0001>

De Visser, M. (2014). *Constitutional review in Europe: A comparative analysis*. Hart Publishing.

Ginsburg, T., & Dixon, R. (2012). *Comparative constitutional law*. Edward Elgar.

Griller, Stefan., & Lentsch, Elisabeth. (2021). *EMU integration and member states' constitutions* /. Hart Publishing, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing.

Griller, Stefan., Papadopoulou, Lina., & Puff, Roman. (2022). *National constitutions and EU integration* /. Hart Publishing, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.,

Grimm, Dieter., & Collings, Justin. (2017). *The Constitution of European democracy* /. Oxford University Press.,

Haltern, U. (2025). *The Constitution of the European Union : A Contextual Analysis (e-book)*. Bloomsbury . <https://search.lib.auth.gr/Record/1170243?sid=50284880>

The IT revolution and its impact on state, constitutionalism, and public law /. (2021). Hart Publishing, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing.

Komárek, J. (2023). European Constitutional Imaginaries: Between Ideology and Utopia. In *European Constitutional Imaginaries: between Ideology and Utopia (e-book)*. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/OSO/9780192855480.001.0001>

Lenaerts, K. (2021). *EU constitutional law (e-book)*. Oxford University Press.

Martinico, Giuseppe. (2023). *The tangled complexity of the EU constitutional process : the frustrating knot of Europe* / (Second edition.). Routledge

Micklitz, H.-W. ., Pollicino, Oreste., Reichman, Amnon., Simoncini, Andrea., Sartor, Giovanni., & De Gregorio, Giovanni. (2022). *Constitutional challenges in the algorithmic society (e-book)* /. Cambridge University Press.

de Poorter, J., van der Schyff, G., Stremler, M., & De Visser, M. (Eds.). (2022). *European Yearbook of Constitutional Law 2021 (Vol. 3) (e-book)*. T.M.C. Asser Press. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-6265-535-5>

Rodomonte, M. G., & Durst, L. (2025). *Judicial Review, Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law : The Construction of the European Constitutional Identity (e-book)* (Taylor & Francis). <https://search.lib.auth.gr/Record/1170240?sid=50284880>

Routledge Handbook of Comparative Constitutional Change. (2020). In X. Contiades & A. Fotiadou (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Comparative Constitutional Change (e-book)*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351020985>

Schütze, R. (2021a). *European constitutional law*. Oxford University Press.

Scicluna, Nicole. (2014). *European Union constitutionalism in crisis* /. Routledge.

The people's constitution : the populist transformation of constitutional law? /. (2024). Springer

Tushnet, M. (2017). *Comparative constitutional law*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

- 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