

European Union Law
Professor Teachout
Spring Term, 2021

Reading Assignment for First Class

Text: Dammann, Introduction to European Union Law (2019)
Office Hours: M & W, Meet on TEAMS prearranged by email
Email: pteachout@vermontlaw.edu

Change in Length of Class Periods

[Important! Since EU Law is a two-credit-hour course, our class sessions on Tuesday and Thursday should last 50 minutes – not an hour and 15 minutes as originally indicated – which means that we will start at 2:10 and end at 3:00 (not at 3:25) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I am in the process of revising the assigned readings on the syllabus to reflect the shorter class periods. I expect to have the revised syllabus completed and posted by the end of the week]

Course Overview

The course in European Union Law is designed to introduce students to the “constitutional” structure of the European Union with particular focus on the key decisions of the European Court of Justice. Our first class session will be devoted to examination of some of the current issues facing the European Union. After that we turn to an historical overview of the events that led to the emergence of the European Union as a major player on the global stage. We then introduce the major institutions of the European Union (Council, Parliament, Commission, and Courts), their unique functions and interrelationships, and the procedures employed for proposing and adopting legislation. We then embark upon an in-depth study of key decisions of the European Court of Justice, particularly those dealing with protection of the four “fundamental freedoms” that form the core of the European open market – free movement of goods, persons, services, and establishment of businesses – and the protection of fundamental rights.

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the key institutions of the European Union and how they work and have developed a basic understanding of the key “constitutional” decisions of the European Court of Justices and the doctrine established by those decisions. In addition, students should be able to demonstrate working command of how to bring cases before the Court of Justice and how to analyze and argue cases before the Court.

Reading Assignment for First Class

In this first class session, we introduce and discuss some of the current issues facing the European Union. Please read and be prepared to discuss the following articles:

“Brexit”:

<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/whats-eu-uk-brexiteal>

Climate Change: European Green New Deal:

[A European Green Deal | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#) (introductory glimpse only)

Immigration Crisis:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/08/europe-migration-crisis-prejudice-eu-refugee-orban-christian>

Response to Coronavirus:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response_en

Role and Reputation of the European Court of Justice:

<https://european.economicblogs.org/economist-europe/2020/economist-europe-wizards-luxembourg>