

European Union Law
Professors Teachout and Ali
Spring Term, 2024

Announcement of Special Sessions

Professor Antonino Ali's Lectures on EU Law During the First Week of Classes

During the first week of classes, Professor Antonino Ali from the University of Trento will be visiting Vermont Law School to offer a series of introductory lectures on the history and evolution of the European Union, the major institutions, legislative and judicial procedures, and the foundational decisions of the European Court of Justice. To accommodate these lectures, we have scheduled special class sessions during the first week as indicated below.* Later in the term, we will make adjustments in the class schedule to compensate for the time spent in these extra sessions during the first week.

Professor Ali teaches the basic course in European Union Law at the University of Trento School of Law where he has been a member of the faculty since 2008. His area of specialty is national security law, with a focus on the range of techniques available for imposing sanctions on countries charged with violations of international law.

The text for the course is: Damman, Introduction to European Union Law (2019). Assigned background reading for each of Professor Ali's sessions are set out below. There may need to be adjustments depending on how much we succeed in covering in any given session.

*It is important that you attend and participate in these special sessions because they lay the foundation for everything that follows in the course. However, if you have a conflict that makes attendance at one or more of the specially scheduled sessions impossible, let Professor Teachout know in advance, and we will set up an alternative arrangement to give you opportunity to go over the material with Professor Ali on a one-on-one basis. All the lectures will be recorded.

Session #1 (regular class, Wednesday, January 17th): Historical background/ evolution of the European Union.

In this session, we trace the evolution of the European Union from its origins in the post World War II period as a limited treaty arrangement among six nations to a supranational government with general competencies and global superpower consisting of twenty-seven nations. We also introduce the treaty structure that governs the European Union.

Read: Text, Ch. 1, "Historical Background," pp. 1-6(mid); pp. 12-16; Ch. 2, "The Founding of the European Communities," pp.17-27 (biographical material at end of chapter optional).

Session #2 (Special Lecture, Thursday, January 18th, 12:45-2:00 (room to be announced): The Institutions

In this session, we introduce the major institutions of the European Union (excluding the judiciary) and their respective roles and responsibilities:

- (1) The European Council
- (2) The Council [formerly Council of Ministers]
- (3) The Commission
- (4) The European Parliament
- (5) Advisory Groups: The Social and Economic Committee and the Committee of the Regions

Session #3: (Special Lecture, Friday, January 19th, 3:35-5:10 (room to be announced): The European Community Courts/ Relation to the National Courts

In this session, we introduce the European Court of Justice and the General Court, their composition, their relationship to national courts, and their decision-making responsibilities.

Read: Text: Ch. 4, “Judiciary,” pp. 53-57 (top); Ch. 5, “Preliminary Ruling Procedure,” pp. 63-76.

[Note: Following this session, we will reconvene in the Faculty Lounge for an informal get together with Professor Ali (with refreshments) to talk about current issues in the European Union, Italian politics, Trento, or whatever else may interest students.]

Session #4: (Special Session, Saturday, January 20th, 9:00-11:00 (room to be announced): The Foundational Decisions of the European Court of Justice

In this session, we discuss the foundational decisions of the European Court of Justice introducing two key “constitutional” doctrines: “direct effect” and “supremacy.”

Read: Text: Ch 7, “Direct Effect,” pp. 95-110(bottom); Ch. 8, “Supremacy,” pp. 121-29.