

**European Law and Legal Systems**  
**Heather A. D. Mbaye, Director**  
**University System of Georgia EU Studies Program**

**Course Information**

This course focuses on the legal institutions that constitute the European Union, and the legal processes of those institutions. The course begins with a brief overview of the European Union, including the historical antecedents that preceded the present day entity of the EU.

It then summarizes the legal institutions of the European Union, including the European Parliament, the European Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice, the Court of First Instance, and the European Ombudsman.

The course will look at the body of law, both static and dynamic, on which these institutions rest and that have been produced by the institutions themselves. This law includes the treaties that provide the legal basis of the EU, the body of statutory law enacted by the Parliament, the Council, and the Commission, and the judicial decisions adjudicated by the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, and finally, the administrative rulings issued by the European Ombudsman.

In order to understand the legal system of the European Union, it is necessary to distinguish between the decision-making process of the EU and the role of European Law affecting the member states. Therefore, the course, after briefly describing the institutions, tries to show the constitutional legal framework of the EU: Primary law.

Student assignments include summaries of lecture material, explanations of treaties and statutes, and most challenging, "briefs" of judicial decisions following format used in general jurisprudence, modified in ways appropriate to the European Union proceedings, a summary of court decisions that include citation, issue, holding, and reasoning.

Student assignments will also include compiling an annotated bibliography of articles about the legal institutions and process of the EU, of moderate length, drawn from, among other sources, The Economist, The London Times, and The New York Times.

**Contacting your Professor**

Dr. Heather A. D. Mbaye, Director  
EU Studies Program  
678-839-4988

[hmbaye@westga.edu](mailto:hmbaye@westga.edu) (FOR EMERGENCIES!)

AIM: heathermbaye (any time I'm online for class related issues or questions)

Discussion board: There is a board called "ask your instructor". Please ask general information or assignment questions there so that everyone may see the answers. If you

need to contact me on a different matter, please contact me through the email tab of the course website. I login daily.

*Here's a sample of what NOT to do:*

A quiz link for module 2 is broken for some reason, and you can't log in. The quiz is due at midnight. It's now 7pm, and it's Saturday. You send me a message telling me the problem. You check again at 8pm and 9pm, and there is still a problem, but I haven't responded because it's evening on a Saturday. You send five or six more increasingly panicked and accusatory emails, and then, realizing you have only two hours to finish the two hour quiz, you decide to take module 3 quiz instead, and fail miserably. You then send me one final freaked out email saying "I DIDN't know what to DO and I took the wong QUIZ because the right one wasn't WORKING and it's OMG SO NOT MY FAULT this class FAILS and you SUCK for not being online at 10pm on a SATURDAY!"

I log in on Sunday morning, open your first email, send you a response, and then realize you've done something totally irrational, and you've been rude and crazy in the process. This sort of behavior is totally inappropriate. If you wouldn't talk to someone face to face, or react face to face like that, DO NOT DO IT IN AN EMAIL or on the discussion boards. Rest assured that if there is ever a technical problem – and there will be, because you're taking the class on a computer – I will fix it and you will not lose points. So CALM DOWN.

*Here's another sample of what not to do:*

i am n yr class n i cant find my syll can u email me 1

iznt dis hrd 2 reed? y wold u alwyz wnt 2 type lk dis?

Look, guys. I like text speak as much as the next guy, when I'm messaging my brother. But I'm your professor. You need to use correct grammar, capitalization, spelling, and respect when you email me. Don't make it hard to read or interpret your message. If it's not worth your time to compose properly, it's not worth my time to answer.

### **Required Textbooks**

Textbooks may be purchased online through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [barnesnoble.com](http://barnesnoble.com), [borders.com](http://borders.com), or any other online bookseller.

The required course text is Craig, Paul and Gráinne de Búrca 2008. *EU Law: Text, Cases, and Materials* Fourth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**NOTE: PLEASE ORDER THIS BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT IS NOT AVAILABLE IN YOUR UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE AND YOU CANNOT COMPLETE THE COURSE WITHOUT THIS TEXT. A FEW BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA BOOKSTORE IN CARROLLTON, BUT THERE ARE ONLY A FEW. DO NOT PURCHASE AN OLD EDITION; THE LAW CHANGES VERY QUICKLY IN THE EU.**

Other text material for the course will include, but not be limited to the following:

- The official website of the European Union (<http://www.europa.eu.int>)
- The online New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>)
- The online Encyclopedia Britannica (<http://www.britannica.com>)
- The Economist Magazine (online) (<http://www.economist.com>)
- The Financial Times: (<http://www.ft.com>)
- European Voice (recent news on the EU legal front) : <http://www.european-voice.com/current>
- EU directory of European legislation: <http://www.europa.eu.int/lex/en/lif/index.html>

### **Class Login Web Site**

EUSP: <http://www.europeanstudiesprogram.org>

**All login information is at this website!**

### **Class Requirements/Assessments**

1000 total points are available. Grading is on a traditional 10 point scale, by percentage. If your university utilizes a (+/-) grading system, I will follow that scale.

There are eight class modules. Each module is worth 100 points.

During the week assigned to each module, you will

- Do your assigned reading;
- Review the lecture materials online;
- Complete the *timed* quiz (worth 50 points)
- Join in the discussion (worth 10 points)
- Complete your assignment (worth 40 points)

The discussion, the quiz, and the assignment must be turned in at or before the end time. Posting once in a discussion isn't discussion – I can see what you've read and how long you've spent contemplating your classmates' posts; please take the discussion seriously. LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Please note that this course operates on a different schedule than traditional classes, and you may have work due over your Spring Break. I will try to make allowances that make it possible to turn in work EARLY, but LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED.

In addition, a 100 point analysis paper and a 100 point annotated bibliography serve as your final project. The directions for the final project will be given early in the course.

**DO NOT EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS TO MY ADDRESS ABOVE. PLEASE USE ONLY THE INTERNAL COURSE EMAIL FOR ASSIGNMENTS.**

## Course modules and schedule

*all times are current time in Georgia, USA*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End date</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
1. The European Union and its Law	2/1/2010, noon	2/8/2010, noon	Paul and de Búrca, Ch. 1-2
2. Legal Instruments, Competence, and Policymaking	2/8/2010, noon	2/15/2010, noon	Paul and de Búrca, Ch. 3-4
3. The EU and International Law	2/15/2010, noon	2/22/2010, noon	Paul and de Búrca, Ch. 6-7
4. Effects, Compliance, and Outcomes	2/22/2010, noon	3/1/2010, noon	Paul and de Búrca, Ch. 8-9
5. Supremacy	3/1/2010, noon	3/15/2010, noon	Paul and de Búrca, Ch. 10-12
6. The Operation of the Court System	3/15/2010, noon	3/29/2010, noon	Paul and de Búrca, Ch. 13-15
7. Free Movement: Case Laws	3/29/2010, noon	4/5/2010, noon	Paul and de Búrca, Ch. 18-21
8. Competition: Case Laws	4/5/2010, noon	4/12/2010	Paul and de Búrca, Ch. 25-27
Final	4/12/2010	4/21/2010	