

Name	European Law
Component modules	
Scientific-disciplinary sector	GIUR-09/A
Year of course and semester of provision	3rd year, 2nd semester
Teaching language	English
Didactic load in university formative credits	8 CFU
Number of hours of total assisted teaching activities divided between DD and ID	Delivered Didactic: 48 Interactive Didactic: 6
Lecturer	Prof. Francesco Ricci
Specific learning outcomes	Knowledge and understanding. At the end of the course students will have a comprehensive knowledge of the values, principles and institutions of the European Union, of its sources and law-making procedures and of the dynamics of the relations between the Union and its Member States, with particular regard to the way in which Union law shapes private legal relations – contracts, torts, property, consumer and business transactions – within the internal market. Applying knowledge and understanding. Students will be able to identify and interpret the relevant sources (Treaties, Charter of Fundamental Rights, regulations and directives, case law of the Court of Justice), to determine the effects of Union law on national private law and on relations between private parties, and to apply the rules studied to concrete cases. Making judgements. Students will develop an independent judgement on the interaction between the European and national legal orders and on the instruments of harmonisation of private law. Communication skills. Students will be able to present and argue legal issues in English, using the appropriate legal terminology. Learning skills. Students will acquire the method required to follow autonomously the evolution of Union law and practice in the field of private relations.
Program	The course provides students with a comprehensive knowledge of the values, principles and institutions of the European Union, of its sources and law-making procedures and of the dynamics of the relations between the Union and its Member States. Consistently with the prerequisite of Private Law, these topics are studied from the standpoint of substantive law, i.e. of their impact on private legal relations – and on contract law in particular – within the internal market. The course is organised in three parts. Part I – The European Union as a legal order: values, principles, institutions and sources. Origins and evolution of the integration process; the Union as an international organisation endowed with legal personality; values, objectives and principles of the Union (Articles 2-6 TEU); conferral, subsidiarity and proportionality; the institutions and their role in the law-making process; ordinary and special legislative procedures; primary law, regulations, directives, decisions and soft law; the legal bases for the approximation of national private laws (Articles 114, 115 and 169 TFEU); the Charter of Fundamental Rights and its relevance for relations between private parties. Part II – Union law and national private law: the relations between the Union and the Member States. Primacy; direct effect (vertical and horizontal) of Treaty provisions, regulations and directives; the duty of consistent interpretation of national private law; sincere cooperation and the adaptation of domestic law: the transposition of directives into the Italian legal order (Law No. 234/2012, the Civil Code and the Consumer Code); minimum and full harmonisation; State liability for breaches of Union law (Francovich, Brasserie du Pêcheur); the dialogue between the Court of Justice and national constitutional courts. Part III – The harmonisation of European contract law. Reasons, objectives and limits of the harmonisation of contract law in the internal market; the consumer contract acquis and its evolution (unfair terms, consumer rights, sale of goods, digital content and digital services, and the contractual rules of the digital regulation); the general principles emerging from the acquis: freedom of contract and its limits, information duties, right of withdrawal, good faith, remedies; the academic and soft-law instruments of harmonisation: the Principles of European Contract Law (PECL), the Acquis Principles, the Draft Common Frame of Reference (DCFR); the European Commission's initiatives on European contract law (Action

	Plan, Green Paper, the proposal for a Common European Sales Law and its withdrawal); the debate on an optional instrument and on a European civil code; the influence of European contract law on national codifications and on the interpretation of national contract law.
Types of didactic activities and relative methods of carrying them out	Lessons, case studies and materials, testimonies
Learning evaluation methods and criteria	The final examination is a written test lasting 30 minutes in total and consisting of two parts: (a) a multiple-choice quiz, designed to assess the knowledge and comprehension acquired in relation to the values, principles, institutions, sources and law-making procedures of the European Union, its relations with the Member States and the harmonisation of European contract law, i.e. the topics covered by the course (see the 'Program' section of this course description); (b) two open-ended questions on the same topics, each to be answered in writing in no more than 1,500 characters (spaces included), designed to assess the ability to apply knowledge and understanding, independent judgement and communication skills. As an indication, the 30 minutes correspond on average to ten minutes for the multiple-choice quiz and ten minutes for each of the two open-ended questions; students are however free to allocate the 30 minutes among the parts of the test as they prefer.
Criteria for measuring learning and assigning the final grade	The multiple-choice quiz contributes up to 10 points to the final mark: each question carries the same weight as all the others. Each of the two open-ended questions contributes up to 10 points and is assessed on the basis of the accuracy and completeness of the content, the coherence of the legal argument and the appropriate use of legal terminology. The final mark, expressed out of 30, is the sum of the marks obtained in the three parts: the exam is considered successful if the mark is at least 18/30. The maximum mark is 30/30 cum laude: the laude is awarded only to students who answer all the questions of the multiple-choice quiz correctly and give answers of excellent quality to both open-ended questions.
Prerequisites	Private Law
Didactic material used and recommended didactic material	For Parts I-II: R. Schütze, <i>An Introduction to European Law</i> , 3rd ed., Oxford University Press, 2020, or a later edition if available (chapters indicated by the lecturer). For Parts III: R. Schulze – F. Zoll, <i>European Contract Law</i> , 3rd ed., Beck/Hart/Nomos, 2021, or a later edition if available (the 4th edition is currently scheduled for publication in December 2026). The Treaties, the legislation and the case law discussed during the lessons will be made available to students on the course platform.