

**Course syllabus**

Subject name	EU Criminal Law
Field of study	Criminal Procedure Law
ECTS credits	3
Semester	2 (Spring)
Language	English
Professor/s	Alejandro Hernández
Department	Constitutional, Procedural and Ecclesiastical Law
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1. Description

This subject will introduce you to the main aspects of EU Criminal Law.

The first sessions of this course will provide you an insight on the evolution of the institutional framework of European Criminal Law. After these introductory lectures, the course will be divided in two main sections. The first section will be devoted to the analysis of the most important instruments of secondary law, particularly focusing on the key instruments giving effect to the principle of mutual recognition and on the roadmap for strengthening procedural rights in criminal proceedings in the EU. The second section of this course will be focused on the study of the role of institutions, bodies and agencies of the EU acting in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, including the role and influence of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union in this field.

2. Course learning objectives

Students should be able to:

1. Exhibit a good knowledge of the institutional framework of European Criminal Law before and after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.
2. Acquire a basic knowledge of EU secondary legislation in this field, including the main instruments giving effect to the principle of mutual recognition (e.g. EAW, EIO).
3. Comprehend the significance of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Directives on the strengthening of criminal safeguards of suspect and accused persons on shaping a judicial cooperation system based on mutual trust.



4. Understand the roles and tasks entrusted to different European bodies and agencies, such as the European Judicial Network (EJN), Eurojust and the upcoming European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).
5. Analyse the leading case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union on this matter.

3. Contents / Programme

List of topics:

Topic 1: EU Criminal Law: background and key concepts.

Topic 2: Institutional framework of EU Criminal Law and Justice.

Topic 3. EU secondary legislation in criminal matters (I): mutual recognition instruments.

Topic 4: EU secondary legislation in criminal matters (II): procedural rights and safeguards.

Topic 5: Agencies and bodies acting in the AFSJ.

Topic 6: The role of the Court of Justice: the preliminary ruling requests.

Topic 7: EU Criminal Law in practice: prospects, challenges and issues

4. Bibliography

Principal reference handbook:

KOSTORIS, Roberto E., *Handbook of European Criminal Procedure*, Cham: Springer, 2018.

Other reference works:

AMBOS, Kai, *Derecho penal europeo*, Cizur Menor: Aranzadi, 2017.

ARANGÜENA FANEGO, M^a del Coral, HOYOS SANCHO, Montserrat de (Dir.) y VIDAL FERNÁNDEZ, Begoña (Coord.), *Garantías procesales de investigados y acusados: situación actual en el ámbito de la Unión Europea*, Valencia: Tirant lo Blanch, 2018.

KLIP, André, *European Criminal Law: An Integrative Approach*, Antwerp: Intersentia, 2016.

KOSTORIS, Roberto E., *Manuale di procedura penale europea*, Milano: Giuffrè Editore, 2017.

MITSILEGAS, Valsamis, *EU criminal law after Lisbon: Rights, Trust and the Transformation of Justice in Europe*. Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2016.



5. Workload distribution

Activities	Hours
Classroom-based activities (Lectures, seminars and practical sessions)	22
Online practical activities	21
Guided activities	10
Independent study	20
Exam	2
Total	75

6. Assessment criteria

TOOLS	%	OBSERVATIONS
Ongoing assessment	40%	Class participation, practical exercises, case studies, online activities.
Final exam	60%	Multiple-choice test, short questions, problem-solving activity (referral for a preliminary ruling).