



Yong Pung How
School of
Law

Academic Year 2023/24 Term 2

COURSE CODE: LAW4053

COURSE TITLE: OVERSEAS PROJECT EXPERIENCE (NON-ASIA)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore interdisciplinary issues on EU-ASEAN law and relations. The EU and ASEAN are the world's most advanced regional structures and represent different models of integration. Since the 1980s, the evolution of EU-ASEAN relations has provided rich lessons for the multifaceted concept of interregionalism in international law and relations. As ASEAN emerged as a priority on the EU's Asia policy agenda after the Treaty of Lisbon, the European Commission's 2015 "Trade for All" strategy articulated an ASEAN strategy based on individual agreements that will lead to a region-to-region framework. The recent conclusion of the EU's trade and investment agreements with Singapore and Vietnam reinforces this building-block approach for realizing the EU-ASEAN free trade agreement.

Given the changing status of China, the impasse of WTO negotiations, and the COVID-19 pandemic, EU-ASEAN legal frameworks and relations have become more salient on the global stage. In 2020, both blocs elevated their "Dialogue Partnership to a Strategic Partnership," aiming to enhance economic and security cooperation and sustainable connectivity. In 2021, the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy further emphasized the EU's engagement with "the ASEAN-led regional architecture," particularly given the economic and political impact of the CPTPP and the RCEP

In this SMU-X Overseas course (under the Overseas Project Experience (Non-Asia) model), students will learn about EU and ASEAN institutions and examine the EU's new Indo-Pacific strategy from legal and political perspectives. In particular, the course will assess EU-ASEAN economic agreements with a focus on cutting-edge areas of trade and investment liberalization, AI and digital trade, and sustainable development including the protection of environmental and labour rights. Students will also gain hands-on experience by working with lawyers or policymakers to solve real-world issues.

Note: This course **will include an overseas trip to Brussels, Belgium**. Students will visit EU and/or ASEAN institutions in Brussels and Singapore and work on projects with legal and policy experts in EU-ASEAN law and relations. The course will also adopt SMU's **blended learning approach** by including online sessions.

PRE-REQUISITE/ CO-REQUISITE/ MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSE(S)

None

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This SMU-XO course offers an international experiential learning opportunity that allows students to translate classroom knowledge and theory into practical solutions for various institutions. In addition to visiting law firms, government agencies and international organizations, student will also participate in a consultancy project. Through the project, students will learn how to solve business and political problems with guidance from the faculty and project mentors. The project will focus on evaluating legal problems in different areas of law and recommending/applying solutions to these problems.

This course aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Understand EU-ASEAN law and relations
- Solve real-world legal issues through a student consultancy project
- Incorporate active mentoring by faculty and project sponsors

RECOMMENDED TEXT AND READINGS

Principal Texts:

1. Pasha L. Hsieh, *New Asian Regionalism in International Economic Law* (Cambridge University Press 2022), <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/new-asian-regionalism-in-international-economic-law/FECD779A1AC5AAE1EECB52948CA52519> (Chs 1, 2, 3 and 4)
2. Pasha L. Hsieh, *Rethinking Non-Recognition: The EU's Investment Agreement with Taiwan under the One-China Policy*, 33 *Leiden Journal of International Law* 689 (2020), https://works.bepress.com/pasha_hsieh/79/
3. Michelle Cini & Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán eds., *European Union Politics* (Oxford University Press 2022), <https://global.oup.com/ukhe/product/european-union-politics-9780198862239?cc=us&lang=en&> (Chs 19 and 20)
4. Catherine Barnard and Steve Peers eds., *European Union Law* (Oxford University Press 2020), <https://global.oup.com/ukhe/product/european-union-law-9780198855750?cc=sg&lang=en&> (Chs 5 and 6)
5. Juha Jokela, Niklas Helwig and Clara Portela eds., *Sharpening EU Sanctions Policy*, FIIA Report No. 63 (2020), https://www.fii.fi/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/report63_web.pdf
6. Nydia Remolina, *The Role of Financial Regulators in the Governance of Algorithmic Credit Scoring*, SMU Centre for AI & Data Governance Research Paper No. 2/2022, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4057986

Useful Sources:

1. European Parliament Think Tank, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home>
2. EU Delegation to Singapore, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/singapore_en?s=178
3. ERIA Publications, <https://www.eria.org/publications/category/books/>
4. APEC PSU Publications, <https://www.apec.org/about-us/policy-support-unit/psu-publications>

Students are not expected to purchase these texts. The instructor has arranged for them to be placed on course reserve. Additional readings may be assigned as necessary. Students are expected to keep abreast of current developments reported in major newspapers and periodicals.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Class Participation: 15%
 Mid-Term Examination: 20%
 Group/Client Presentation: 15%
 Final Project Report: 50%

Class Participation:

Both the quantity and quality of the contributions made by each student will be taken into account in the assessment.

Mid-Term Examination:

The examination paper will include essay questions drawn from course materials and class discussions.

Group/Client Presentation:

Each group will make a presentation on the mentor/client's assigned topic and answer questions from him or her. The interdisciplinary topics will allow students to discuss the issues from comparative and international law perspectives. Power point slides and draft project reports should be submitted to the mentor, the instructor and the TA via email.

Final Project Report:

The final project reports (mostly in the form of legal memoranda or policy reports) will incorporate faculty and/or mentors' feedback and be submitted to the mentor, the instructor and the TA via email.

No questions from past year papers or published test banks will be used verbatim for the graded continuous assessments and examinations in this course.

COURSE METHODS

Power point-based discussion will serve as a springboard for discussion of the topics. SMU's seminar-style, hybrid mode of teaching will also be employed during the course. The course will be evaluated on a **pass/fail basis**.

FIELD TRIP

During the 5-day field trip, excluding flight time, students will visit law firms, government agencies and academic institutions. Students bear all travel expenses, including insurance. The cost of the trip is estimated between SGD\$3,000-5,000 based on shared room arrangement. Students are required to travel together and stay in the same hotel during the field trip.

Information on ETIAS Travel Authorization: https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week No.	Topic	Readings (tba)
1	EU Institutions and Foreign Policy	
2	EU Institutions and Foreign Policy	
3	ASEAN Law and the ASEAN Economic Community	

4	Global ASEAN Agenda, the RCEP and the CPTPP	
5	The EU's Asia Policy and EU-ASEAN Agreements	
6	Selected Legal Issues: Legal Services, Sustainable Development, Digital Trade	
7	Mid-Term Exam	
8	Mid-term Break	
9	Mentor/Client Meeting	
10	Mentor/Client Meeting	
11	Group Project	
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17	Overseas Trip (Mon-Fri)	
18		
19	Deadline: Final Project Report	

Note: The above syllabus/schedule is meant only as a guide and is subject to amendment.

DROPPING A COURSE

Students are reminded to follow the dates and procedures of add/drop modules found in <https://oasis.smu.edu.sg/Pages/RO/All-About-BOSS.aspx#parentHorizontalTab5>
UG and JD students need to drop the electives via BOSS unless otherwise instructed by the School for specific electives (e.g. Moots).

Students who fail to follow the correct procedures and stipulated timelines for dropping their modules will obtain a "W" or "F" grades as indicated on OASIS.

Do note that a "W" and 'F' grade is reflected **permanently** on a student's transcript.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All acts of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of exam questions, or tampering with the academic work of other students) are serious offences.

All work (whether oral or written) submitted for purposes of assessment must be the student's own work. Penalties for violation of the policy range from zero marks for the component assessment to expulsion, depending on the nature of the offense.

When in doubt, students should consult the instructors of the course. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity may be accessed at <https://oasis.smu.edu.sg/Pages/DOS-WKLSWC/UCSC.aspx>.

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ACCESSIBILITY

SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please let me know immediately. You are also welcome to contact the university's disability services team if you have questions or concerns about academic provisions: included@smu.edu.sg.

Please be aware that the accessible tables in our seminar room should remain available for students who require them.

DIGITAL READINESS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING (DRTL)

As part of DRTL, instructors may conduct lessons online via either the Zoom or WebEx platform during the term, to prepare students for online learning. During an actual emergency, students will be notified to access the Zoom or WebEx platform for their online lessons. The class schedule will mirror the current face-to-face class timetable unless otherwise stated.