



Yong Pung How
School of
Law

Academic Year 2024/25 Term 2

COURSE CODE: COR-LAW2640

COURSE TITLE: EU-ASEAN LAW AND RELATIONS

Instructor: Pasha L. HSIEH
Professor of Law, Jean Monnet Chair
School of Law
Tel: 6828 0345
Email: pashahsieh@smu.edu.sg

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore interdisciplinary issues in EU-ASEAN law and relations. The EU and ASEAN are among the world's most advanced regional structures, representing distinct models of integration. Since the 1980s, the evolution of EU-ASEAN relations has offered valuable insights into the multifaceted concept of interregionalism in international law and relations. ASEAN became a priority in the EU's Asia policy agenda following the Treaty of Lisbon, and the European Commission's 2015 "Trade for All" strategy articulated an ASEAN approach based on individual agreements, culminating in a region-to-region framework. The recent conclusion of the EU's trade and investment agreements with Singapore and Vietnam reinforces this incremental approach towards realising the EU-ASEAN free trade agreement.

Amidst China's changing status, the impasse in WTO negotiations, and the COVID-19 pandemic, EU-ASEAN legal frameworks and relations have gained prominence on the global stage. In 2020, the two blocs upgraded their "Dialogue Partnership" to a "Strategic Partnership," which aimed at enhancing economic and security cooperation, sustainable connectivity, and development. In 2021, the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy underscored its engagement with the ASEAN-led regional architecture, particularly in light of the economic and political impact of the CPTPP and RCEP.

In this **SMU-X course**, students will explore EU and ASEAN institutions and examine the EU's new Indo-Pacific strategy from legal and political perspectives. The course will specifically evaluate EU-ASEAN economic agreements and focus on cutting-edge areas such as trade and investment liberalisation, AI and digital trade, and sustainable development. Students will gain practical experience by collaborating with legal and policy experts to tackle real-world challenges.

Please note: Supported by the EU Jean Monnet Chair programme, this course does **not** include an overseas trip and does not fulfill SMU's global exposure requirement. However, students will visit EU and/or ASEAN institutions in Singapore and engage in projects with legal and policy experts specialising in EU-ASEAN law and relations. The course will also incorporate SMU's blended learning approach, which may include some online sessions. The grade will be on a **pass/fail basis**.

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

There are no pre- or co-requisite courses for COR-LAW2640 EU-ASEAN LAW AND RELATIONS. However, this course may NOT be taken by students who have taken LAW4053 Overseas Project Experience (Non-Asia) in AY2022-23 and AY2023-24.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This SMU-X 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.fiaa.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%

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

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 take-home 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.

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.

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	Visit to the EU Delegation	
10	Mentor/Client Meeting	
11	Mentor/Client Meeting	
12	Group Project	
13	Group Project	
14		
15		
16		
17	Deadline: Final Project Report	
18		
19		

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://smu.sharepoint.com/sites/oasis/SitePages/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.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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://smu.sharepoint.com/sites/oasis/SitePages/DOS-WKLSWC/UCSC.aspx> or *OASIS -> CAMPUS LIFE & EXCHANGE -> CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE -> UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE -> SMU CODES OF CONDUCT*.

Copyright Notice

Please note that all course materials are meant for personal use only, namely, for the purposes of teaching, studying and research. You are strictly not permitted to make copies of or print additional copies or distribute such copies of the course materials or any parts thereof, for commercial gain or exchange.

For the full copyright notice, please visit: <https://researchguides.smu.edu.sg/copyright>.

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 Student Accessibility Support (SAS) team if you have questions or concerns about academic provisions: accessibility@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 emergency preparedness, instructors may conduct lessons online via the Zoom platform during the term, to prepare students for online learning. During an actual emergency, students will be notified to access the Zoom platform for their online lessons. The class schedule will mirror the current face-to-face class timetable unless otherwise stated.