

PhD Course on European Union Studies
SUBJECT: GENDER POLICIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
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Draft Syllabus prepared for the IPSA 2012 Roundtable on Teaching Gender and the EU

Course taught at the Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain)
Departamento de Derecho Público, Faculty of Law, Credits: 4
Academic Year 2002-2003 (course repeated with variations in the following years)

The original course on which this syllabus is based was taught as part of a PhD course on European Union Studies. With variations, this course was also taught at master courses in different Spanish Universities, including Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Since this text has been translated from Spanish into English and prepared for the purpose of the IPSA roundtable on EU gender policy, the bibliography includes more readings than a normal course would include, and it does not distinguish between mandatory and complementary readings (bibliography has been merged from different syllabi, apologies for the different formats).

Objectives:

Get familiarized with the main EU gender+¹ equality policy strategies, areas, and actors; explore the main concepts and problems of gender equality policies in the EU, opportunities, challenges, and limitations; study Europeanisation theories and processes applied to equality policies (especially in Spain but also other MS); analyse and critically assess EU policy documents on gender+ equality.

Methodology:

lectures; oral presentations; essays; work in groups; debates based on the readings (questions to start off debate); brainstorming on specific EU gender+ policy challenges; EU policy document analyses (critical frame analysis; gender impact assessment; intersectional analysis); role games to draft EU gender policy documents; web searches of data on EU gender policy areas (e.g. political representation, gender based violence, equal pay, etc); web searches of EU gender equality institutions and NGOs and presentations on the structure, aims, function, and activities of the institution.

Contents:

1. Gender equality policymaking introduction: origins, areas, strategies, tools, processes, actors and interactions.
2. Origins and reasons for establishing gender equality policies in the European Union: history of gender equality in the EU from Article 119 on equal pay.

¹ 'Gender+' refers to the intersection of gender with other inequalities; it was an expression adopted in the European research project QUING (www.quing.eu).

3. Gender equality policy strategies in the EU: equal opportunities, positive actions, gender mainstreaming, antidiscrimination.

4. Studying EU gender+ equality policies in different areas.

4.1 Study of the EU law and policy on gender+ equality through the analysis of Treaties, Directives and ‘soft’ law in the following areas:

- Equal pay
- Equal treatment in employment and working conditions
- Reconciliation of work and family life
- Political representation
- Gender based violence
- Anti-discrimination/multiple inequalities (Fundamental Rights)

4.2 Analysis of the Action Programs (currently named ‘Strategy for equality between women and men’) for gender equality of the European Commission and their influence on Spanish Equality Plans.

4.3 EU jurisprudence: analysis of most relevant sentences on gender+ equality and role of the European Court of Justice.

5. Institutions and civil society actors and their interactions in the EU policymaking process. Gender+ equality institutions and participation of women’s and other civil society groups in the EU: 1) governmental equality agencies (European Commission Gender Equality Units, European Parliament FEMM Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality; European Institute for Gender Equality; Fundamental Rights Agency); 2) NGOs lobbying for equality in the EU (European Women’s Lobby, WAVE, EWLA, ILGA-Europe, ENAR, RCE, etc.); 3) Interactions between institutional and civil society actors, within institutions, within civil society actors, and main dynamics in the EU policymaking process.

6. Intersectionality in the EU: concept, equality legal framework, institutions and civil society actors, challenges, intersectionality in the content of policies, dynamics between institutions and civil society

7. Europeanisation or the influence of EU gender equality policy on the Member States: relevant theories and discussion of the case study of the Europeanisation of Spanish gender policy. Other cases studies of interest for students can be discussed as well.

8. Gender equality in European processes of constitutionalism: the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Constitutional Treaty.

9. EU gender equality policies: progress, limits, dilemmas, and challenges.

Bibliography

Note 1: More/different bibliography is provided in weekly reading lists and adapted to the different contexts of the courses.

Note 2: A State of the Art elaborated by the QUING research team, including abstracts of literature on EU gender policies can be consulted at:

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European Commission, Fundamental Rights

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/index_en.htm

European Parliament, Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/femm/home.html>

European Institute for Gender Equality EIGE

<http://www.eige.europa.eu/>

European Union Fundamental Rights Agency FRA

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home_en.htm

Platform of European Social NGOs, Social Platform

<http://www.socialplatform.org/>

European NGOs on gender and other inequalities:

European Women's Lobby (EWL) <http://www.womenlobby.org/site/hp.asp?langue=EN>

Women Against Violence Europe! (WAVE) <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=22650>

International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA-Europe) <http://www.ilga-europe.org/>

European Network Against Racism (ENAR) <http://www.enar-eu.org/>

European Women's Lawyers Association (EWLA) <http://www.ewla.org/>

WIDE- Network Women in Development Europe <http://www.wide-network.org/>

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European Federation of unpaid parents and carers at home (FEFAF)

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Women Citizens of Europe Network <http://www.redciudadanas.org/rceingles/rce.html>

Women's Association of Southern Europe (AFEM) <http://www.afem-europa.org/index-fr.html>

European Institute of Women's Health <http://www.eurohealth.ie/>

International Committee on the Right of Sex Workers in Europe

<http://www.sexworkeurope.org/site/>