UCLouvain

lecon2372

2025

Economics of Competition Policy

5.00 credits	30.0 h	Q2

Teacher(s)	Serse Valerio ;
Language :	English
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	Industrial organisation : price and non-price strategies in imperfectly competitive markets under perfect and imperfect information
Main themes	Goals and instruments of the European competition policy Economic analysis of art. 101 (collusion and cooperative agreements) Economic analysis of art. 102 (abuses of dominant positions) Economic analysis of the merger regulation
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 Learning outcomes : - Knowledge of the European competition policy - Knowledge of the theoretical economic approach of pricing and non-pricing strategies - Understanding the links between the economic thinking and the evolution in the implementation of competition law, getting an overview of the controversies among competition economist scholars Competences : - ability to develop an interdisciplinary approach in analysing abuses of dominant position - ability to discuss the landmark case law on abuses of dominant position and identify the impact of economic theory on the judicial reasoning. - ability to transfer economic concepts into practical application to legal cases - ability to use theoretical economic analysis to criticise the implementation of competition law and to propose improvements
Evaluation methods	Grading is based on homework assignments during the semester (50%) and on a final closed-book exam (50%). Homework counts only once whilst you are allowed to present the final exam twice during a single academic year. This means that if you fail at the first occasion (in January), the weight attached to the final exam becomes 100%. The choice between a written and an oral exam depends on the number of registered students at each session. For group's work, a differentiated grade might be applied to members of a group in case of significant differences in involvement/quality.
Teaching methods	Methodology: confront economic theory with European case law in plenary sessions, case studies presentations and informal discussions on documents published by the competition authorities or on the content of assignments submitted by students. Depending on sanitory prescriptions, teaching might be done at distance. **Attendance is compulsory** as a significant part (50%) of the final grade is based on continuous evaluation. Students are expected to read literature on the different subjects as well as legal cases and/or guidelines documents explaining how the antitrust authority intends to implement the competition policy. For some classes, students are asked to prepare exercises which are then discussed in class. Class discussion around cases prepared by students is also used for improving their ability to evaluate cases
Content	The language of the course is English. The goal of the course is to understand how economics (both theory and empirical analyses) contributes to competition policy. The course is covering the following topics: - the goals of competition policy - assessing market power and dominance - identifying the relevant market - too high and too low prices - predatory pricing and margin squeeze - discriminatory pricing and rebates - horizontal agreements and vertical restraints in digital markets

Inline resources	Slides, exercises, readings (compulsory and recommended) are available on the course webpage on Moodle.
Bibliography	available on the webpage of the course on Moodle
Other infos	Prerequisite: LECON2370 (Industrial organisation and corporate strategy). The course uses and extends the theoretical basis presented in LECON2370.
Faculty or entity in charge	ECON

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [60] in Economics : General	ECON2M1	5		
Master [120] in Economics: General	ECON2M	5		