

POU33132 — European Court of Justice

Module Information	
Module Code	<i>POU33132</i>
Module Title	<i>The European Court of Justice and other Famous Courts</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Junior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>William Phelan</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 2</i>
Contact Hours	<i>22 hours of lectures, 5 hours of tutorials</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	This module introduces students to the politics, history and law of the European Court of Justice, as well as the Supreme Court of the United States and other famous courts.
Module Learning Aims	This course is aimed at those wanting a comprehensive introduction to scholarly approaches to the European Court of Justice as well as other prominent courts, tribunals and legal systems, national and international.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this course, it is expected that students will have a detailed understanding of the politics, history and law of the European Court of Justice, one of the most remarkable institutions in contemporary international politics and without precedent in previous world history. It will be an interdisciplinary module drawing on political science, law, and history. Although the major focus of the module is on the European Court of Justice, the politics and law of other courts and international tribunals will also be discussed, certainly including the United States Supreme Court and the politics of the US constitution, but also perhaps the Nuremberg Trials as well as international dispute settlement tribunals as the

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	World Trade Organisation, Investor-State Dispute Settlement systems, and the European Convention on Human Rights. Students will also have developed an understanding of alternative approaches to understanding and investigating court decision-making, including through a focus on legal texts, use of the comparative method, archival research, judicial biography, and quantitative approaches.
Indicative Reading / Resources	-

Assessment

Assessment Components	<i>In-person Final Examination 65%</i> <i>Mid-term essay 25%</i> <i>Tutorials 10%</i>
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	Not applicable
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>
Any other information	