University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	European Competition Policy, PG_00199202						
Field of study	International Economic Relations						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject	2028/2029			
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study			
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery	at the university			
Year of study	3		Language of instruction	Polish			
Semester of study	5		ECTS credits	3.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	exam			
Conducting unit	Department of Transport Policy and Economic Integration -> Faculty of Economics -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Adriana Zabłocka-Abi Yaghi				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	15.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	45
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM	
	Number of study hours	45		0.0	30.0	75	
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to acquaint the student with the rules and norms shaping EU competition policy. This knowledge is linked to competition law as well as microeconomic concepts and models. The student has the opportunity to learn about the interactions between economics and competition law and to apply competition rules in practice through case study analysis and preparation of the project.						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[MSGL3_W06] has knowledge and understanding of relations between economic entities and public institutions functioning in the national, international and intercultural realms	The student knows and understands the relationships between firms and the European Union institutions responsible for the protection of competition, as well as their role in enforcing competition rules in the EU internal market.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_W07] has knowledge and understanding of the types of economic ties and regularities governing them, including the principles of functioning of the market and the market mechanism, both in the national and international aspect	The student understands the principles governing competition in the European Union internal market and the role of European competition policy in ensuring the efficient functioning of the market.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_U14] can interact and work in a team (including an international one), taking various roles within it	The student is able to collaborate effectively in a team, including in an international environment, in analysing cases related to European competition policy and in preparing and presenting joint projects.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_U05] can use regulations and standards which determine business activity, as well as accounting principles in order to solve specific tasks related to the activity of enterprises	The student is able to apply European Union competition law to assess whether firms' conduct complies with competition rules and to propose appropriate solutions.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_K01] is ready to recognise the importance of knowledge in the field of economics in the process of identifying and solving economic problems and to consult experts in case of difficulties in solving them independently	The student is prepared to critically assess issues related to the functioning of market competition and to use knowledge of economics, European Union competition law, and the relevant body of case law in their analysis.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_K03] participates in the preparation of economic and social projects; can reconcile legal, economic, ecological, political and social requirements	Through case study analysis and prepartion of the project, the student can reconcile the legal requirements and economic aspects of EU competition policy.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_U04] uses the acquired theoretical knowledge in economics to analyse and evaluate the operation of economic entities on the international market, with particular emphasis on the European Union market	The student uses their theoretical knowledge of microeconomics to analyze and assess the actions of companies that restrict competition within the European Union.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_W13] has a knowledge of the functioning of business entities in the national and international environment, with particular emphasis on the European Union	The student knows how enterprises function in compliance with competition rules within the European Union.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_W11] has a knowledge of (legal, organisational, ethical) rules and norms organising economic structures and institutions (in particular those on the international market)	The student knows about competition rules in the European Union, the institutions responsible for their implementation, and their origin and evolution.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SW5] implementation of a problem task
[MSGL3_U03] can identify and analyse relations between economic entities and public institutions in the national and international environment; using the acquired theoretical knowledge can critically evaluate these relations and indicate directions for their further development or changes	The student can identify and analyze business behaviors within the European Union that pose a threat to restricting competition.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU5] implementation of a problem task

<table>
<tr><td>Subject contents</td><td>1. History and objectives of European competition policy: Brief history of competition law in the EU; Objectives of competition policy and their alignment with economic efficiency; Market power and welfare; EU institutions responsible for competition policy
2. Market power and definition of relevant market: Measurement of market power; Concept of relevant market; Basic tests for defining product and geographic markets; European Commission guidelines on defining relevant markets; European Commission approach in practice
3. Agreements restricting competition: Legal foundations for analyzing agreements restricting competition; Economic aspects of cartel analysis and agreements (vertical and joint ventures); European Commission approach in practice - case studies
4. Abuse of dominant position: Legal foundations for analyzing abuses of dominant position; Economic aspects of exclusionary, exploitative, and discriminatory practices; European Commission approach in practice - case studies
5. Control of business concentrations: Legal basis for controlling business concentrations in the EU; Economic aspects of horizontal, vertical, and conglomerate merger analysis; European Commission approach in practice - case studies
6. Control of state aid: Legal basis for controlling state aid in the EU; Economic aspects of state aid control; Regional, sectoral, and horizontal state aid; European Commission approach in practice - case studies
7. Current issues in European competition policy

Any doubts related to the lecture topics and questions regarding the course material are addressed during consultation hours. Participation in consultations enables the clarification of substantive issues and deepens the understanding of subject-related concepts.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prerequisites and co-requisites</td><td>Microeconomics. Knowledge of market structures</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment methods and criteria</td><td><table>
<tr><th>Subject passing criteria</th><th>Passing threshold</th><th>Percentage of the final grade</th></tr>
<tr><td>Case Studies</td><td>51.0%</td><td>30.0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A project</td><td>51.0%</td><td>20.0%</td></tr>
<tr><td>A test</td><td>51.0%</td><td>50.0%</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Recommended reading</td><td><table>
<tr><td>Basic literature</td><td>M.Motta, Competition Policy: Theory and Practice, Cambridge University Press, 2015
A. Fornalczyk, Biznes a ochrona konkurencji, Oficyna Wolters Kluwer business, Kraków 2012
S. Bishop, M. Walker, The Economics of EC Competition Law: Concepts, Application and Measurement, Sweet&Maxwell, 2010
A. Zabłocka, Polityka konkurencji Unii Europejskiej wobec koncentracji przedsiębiorstw, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk 2008
Instrumenty ekonomiczne w prawie konkurencji, praca zbiorowa, UOKiK, Warszawa/Bonn 2007
Pomoc publiczna, UOKiK, Warszawa 2009 D. Jalowietzki, K. Jaros, S. Klaue, H.P. Vennemann,
Wspólnotowe reguły prawa konkurencji i ich znaczenie dla polskich sędziów , UOKiK, Warszawa 2007</td></tr>
<tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td>M. Cini, L.McGowan, Competition Policy in the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan, 2nd edition, 2009
Prawo i ekonomia konkurencji. Wybrane zagadnienia, red. Bartłomiej Kurcz, LEX a Wolter Kluwer business, Warszawa 2010
A. Zabłocka, Ochrona własności intelektualnej a ochrona konkurencji [w:] Wybrane problemy integracji europejskiej, red. A.Stępniak, S.Umiński, A.Zabłocka, Uniwersytet Gdański, Sopot 2009</td></tr>
<tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td>Basic
https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/index_en - The website provides legislation, guidelines, decisions, case studies, and updates on European competition policy.</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Work placement</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr>
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