UCL Université catholique de Louvain

LECON2372

2015-2016

Economics of Competition Policy

5.0 credits	30.0 h	1q

Teacher(s) :	Van Hecke Elisabeth ;
Language :	Anglais
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
Aims :	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 *The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".*
Evaluation methods :	30% for assignments during the semester and 70% for a final written open book exam
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 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 requested 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 :	Introduction: Goals and instruments of the European competition policy. Is there an optimal set of antitrust rules? What is the contribution of economics to competition policy? The economics of collusion and cooperative behaviour: Hard core cartels; horizontal and vertical agreements between firms The economics of mergers: Horizontal, vertical and conglomerate mergers Abuses of dominant positions: Too high and too low prices; margin squeeze and refusal to deal; discriminatory prices and rebates; tying and bundling
Bibliography :	Motta, M., Competition Policy: theory and practice, CUP, 2004 Pepall, Richards and Norman, Industrial organisation: contemporary theory and practice, 1999, South Western College Publishing O'Donoghue and J. Padilla, The law and economics of art. 82, 2006, Hart Publishing
Other infos :	
Faculty or entity in charge:	ECON

Programmes / formations proposant cette unité d'enseignement (UE)				
Intitulé du programme	Sigle	Credits	Prerequis	Acquis d'apprentissage
Master [120] in Mathematical Engineering	MAP2M	5	-	
Master [60] in Economics : General	ECON2M1	5	-	
Master [120] in Economics: General	ECON2M	5	-	
Master [120] in Management	GESM2M	5	-	
Master [120] in Management	GEST2M	5	-	