PhD Course on European Union Studies

SUBJECT: GENDER POLICIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Course taughts at the Universidad de Zaragoza
Departamento de Derecho Público
Faculty of Law
Academic Year 2002-2003
Credits: 4
With variations, the course was also taught at
master courses in different Spanish Universities

Objectives: critically analyse the European Union law on gender equality; debate the main concepts and problems of gender equality policies in the EU, opportunities and limitations, and its impact on the Member States (Europeanisation proceses), in particular in Spain.

Methodology: lectures from the teacher, oral presentations, written papers, work in groups, debates.

Contents:

1. Gender equality policies: origins, areas, strategies.

2. Origins and reasons for establishing gender equality policies in the European Union.

3. Gender equality policies in the EU: equal opportunities, positive actions, gender mainstreaming.

4. 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 violence and trafficking
    - Human Rights
    - Anti-discrimination

5. EU jurisprudence: análisis of most relevant sentences on gender equality and role of the European Court of Justice.

6. Analysis of the Action Programs for gender equality of the European Commission and its impact on Spanish Equality Plans.

7. Women's mobilisation in the EU: governmental equality agencies (European Commission, Gender Equality Unit and European Parliament, Committee on Women's Rights) and NGOs (European Women's Lobby, WAVE, EWLA, RCE, etc.).

8. The impact of EU gender equality policy on the Member States: case study of the Europeanisation of Spanish gender policy.

9. Gender equality in European proceses of constitutionalism: the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Constitutional Treaty.

10. EU gender equality policies: progress, limits, dilemmas.

Bibliography
(more bibliography is provided in weekly reading lists)

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