



Syllabus

Academic Year	2020/2021
Program	Policies and Governance in Europe
course	EU Institutions and Decision Making
Term	I semester
Year	1
SSD	SPS/04 - Scienza politica
Credits	6

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

The objective of this course is for students to acquire a thorough understanding of the workings of the European Union and its relevance to domestic and international politics today. Furthermore, the course also aims at students developing analytical, research and presentations skills through supervised research projects undertaken in small groups.

Knowledge and understanding:

Students will gain a thorough understanding of the institutional architecture of the European Union and of the nature of its decision-making processes, as well as an awareness of the legitimacy, effectiveness and transparency of EU institutions, both individually and collectively.

Applying knowledge and understanding:

Students will learn how to critically assess the opportunities and limitations for decision-making in the EU's system of multilevel governance.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Making judgements:

Lectures and class discussions will impart on students the need to ask critical questions and to explore different possible answers to address these. Value will be given to open-ended questions and analysis of complex problems, rather than on description of bare facts.

Communications Skills:

The course will be based on interaction teaching and include elements of problem-based and research-based learning. Students will work in groups to discuss, research and present their responses to key questions arising in the study of European integration. Group presentations will constitute an essential element of the course, and students will receive extensive feedback not only on the substantive knowledge presented in their respective group projects, but also on the communication and oral presentation skills demonstrated in the process.

Learning skills:

Students will gain the skills to discuss and analyse the nature of EU institutions and of the wider decision-making process, both in writing and orally.



Pre-requisites	English; a basic knowledge of the politics of the European Union.
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Course content	<p>The course examines the nature of the key institutions of the European Union, their interaction in the process of EU decision-making and their role in the wider governance arrangements in the EU. This includes not only in-depth analysis of (inter) institutional dynamics in Brussels, but also the relations with national governments, bureaucracies and agencies in the member states as well as with representatives of third countries. Furthermore, we will be exploring the manner in which EU institutions relate to organised interests, political parties, civil society organisations and indeed to citizens directly in order to ask questions about the democratic legitimacy of EU governance.</p>
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Reference Books	<p><u>Textbooks</u></p> <p>Hodson, D. and Peterson, J. (eds) (2017) <i>The Institutions of the European Union</i>. 4th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Cini, M. and Borragan, N. P.-S. (eds) (2019) <i>European Union Politics</i>. Oxford University Press</p> <p><u>Assigned Readings (3 articles per session)</u></p> <p>Fabbrini, S. (2017) 'Intergovernmentalism in the European Union. A comparative federalism perspective', <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 24(4), pp. 580–597.</p> <p>Kohler-Koch, B. and Rittberger, B. (2006) 'Review Article: The "Governance Turn" in EU Studies*', <i>JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 44(s1), pp. 27–49.</p> <p>Piattoni, S. (2009) 'Multi-level Governance: a Historical and Conceptual Analysis', <i>Journal of European Integration</i>, 31(2), pp. 163–180.</p> <p>Bauer, M. and Becker, S. (2014) <i>The Unexpected Winner of the Crisis: The European Commission's Strengthened Role in Economic Governance</i>, <i>Journal of European Integration</i>, 36:3,</p> <p>Christiansen, T. (1997) 'Tensions of European governance: politicized bureaucracy and multiple accountability in the European Commission', <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 4(1), pp. 73–90.</p> <p>Nugent, N. and Rhinard, M. (2016) 'Is the European Commission Really in Decline?', <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 54(5), pp. 1199–1215.</p> <p>Bocquillon, P. and Dobbels, M. (2013) 'An elephant on the 13th floor of the Berlaymont? European Council and Commission relations in legislative agenda setting', <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 21(1), pp. 20–38.</p> <p>Puetter, U. (2012) 'Europe's deliberative intergovernmentalism: the role of the Council and European Council in EU economic governance', <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 19(2), pp. 161–178.</p> <p>Tallberg, J. (2008) 'Bargaining power in the European Council', <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 46(3), pp. 685–708.</p> <p>Fromage, D. (2018) 'The European Parliament in the post-crisis era: an institution empowered on paper only?', <i>Journal of European Integration</i>, 40(3), pp. 281–294.</p> <p>Hix, S., Kreppel, A. and Noury, A. (2003) 'The party system in the European parliament: Collusive or competitive?', <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 41(2), pp. 309–331.</p> <p>Egeberg, M. et al. (2013) 'Parliament staff : unpacking the behaviour of officials in the European', <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 20(4), pp. 495–514.</p> <p>Novak, S. (2013) 'The Silence of Ministers: Consensus and Blame Avoidance in the Council of the European Union', <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 51(6).</p> <p>Christiansen, T. and Vanhoonacker, S. (2008) 'At a critical juncture? Change and continuity in the institutional development of the Council Secretariat', <i>West European Politics</i>, 31(4), pp. 751–770.</p> <p>Fouilleux, E., Maillard, J. De and Smith, A. (2005) 'Technical or political? The working groups of the EU Council of Ministers', <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 12(4), pp. 609–623</p> <p>Farrell, H. and Héritier, A. (2003) 'Formal and Informal Institutions Under Codecision : Continuous Constitution-Building in Europe', <i>Governance</i>, 16(4), pp. 577–600.</p> <p>Reh, C. (2014) 'Is informal politics undemocratic? Trilogues, early agreements and the selection model of representation', <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 21(6), pp. 822–841</p>
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- Gornitzka, Å. and Sverdrup, U. (2008) 'Who consults? The configuration of expert groups in the European union', *West European Politics*. Routledge, 31(4), pp. 725-750.
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- Radaelli, C. M. (1999) 'The public policy of the European Union: Whither politics of expertise?', *Journal of European Public Policy*, 6(5), pp. 757-774.
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- Marshall, D. (2010) 'Who to lobby and when: Institutional determinants of interest group strategies in European Parliament committees', *European Union Politics*, 11(4), pp. 553-575. doi: 10.1177/1465116510382462.
- Heidbreder, E.G. (2012) 'Civil society participation in EU governance', *Living Rev. Euro. Gov.* 7, (2012), 2. URL: <http://europeangovernance-livingreviews.org/Articles/lreg-2012-2>
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Teaching Methods

Lectures, class discussions and presentations.

Assessment

70% examination or final paper; 30% group project
