



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Political and Governance Studies
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (MATA)

ACADEMIC YEAR

2022 - 2023

SEMESTER

Spring

COURSE TITLE

EU Governance and Integration: Common Policies, Institutions, Eurozone, (Digital) Single Market, Globalisation, EU Crises.

COURSE PROFESSOR

Dermot HODSON

COURSE ASSISTANT

Miguel SILVA

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Research Seminar

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

15

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to guide and assist students in their research for the Master's thesis. It will give students a deeper understanding of how broad debates about EU integration and governance relate to specific EU policies. This intellectual focus encompasses – but is not limited to – questions concerning:

- The Single Market, including the Digital Single Market
- EU economic policies, including regional policy, competition policy, industrial policy and taxation policy
- The politics of particular sectors, including telecommunications and aviation
- Economic and Monetary Union
- European Banking Union
- Justice and Home Affairs
- The Common Foreign and Security Policy
- The external representation of the eurozone
- The EU and the IMF
- The EU and the G7, G8 and G20
- Treaty making
- EU institutions and de novo bodies
- The EU's contemporary crises, including COVID-19, Brexit, the rule of law crisis, the rise of challenger parties and challenger governments.



A key objective of the course is to equip students with a deeper understanding of research design and the role it plays in promoting research excellence. It encourages critical thinking about the kinds of research questions that scholars should pose and the crucial role that theories play in highlighting plausible answers to such questions. Students will explore different empirical strategies for gathering data and evidence to interrogate research questions and understand the importance of case study selection. Guidance is offered on the practical aspects of research, including writing up and structuring theses.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The research seminars are not content-related as such: they all offer similar methodological guidance and support to groups of students who focus on a common topic. Every seminar is supervised by a professor, assisted by an academic assistant, and focuses on a research area. The seminars alternate plenary sessions, bringing together the professor and all the students of the seminar to discuss research methods, and individual meetings during which students present their research project and discuss the progress of their work with the professor and the academic assistant. These course objectives therefore link up with the programme-specific learning outcomes applicable to the Master's thesis.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

The research seminar is composed of an introductory plenary session which provides student with general methods of research design in political science, and of a series of individual meetings during which the professor, the academic assistant and the student discuss the student's research project. It ends with a plenary session to reflect on learning outcomes.

4. TEACHING METHOD

The seminar entails two main components: lecture and advice. It is introduced and concluded by plenary lectures in which general guidance on research and research methodology is presented. Thereafter, there are numerous meetings with the students individually to advise them on the choice of their topic (relevance, feasibility), their research and the presentation of the results. About mid-semester a further plenary session engages students to present their topics, findings and problems to their fellow students. The discussion is guided by the professor. Further individual meetings up to the deadline for handing in the thesis follow.

The assignment is the thesis. Advice is given on reading, both theoretical and empirical, research methods and procedure as well as on potential interviewees.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Please refer to the research seminar outline for a detailed reading list.

6. EVALUATION

The criteria for assessment include both content and form: the robustness of the research question, the clarity of the theoretical analysis, the rigour of case study selection, the quality of data collection and analysis, the validity of conclusions, correct formalities (footnotes, bibliography), style and presentation.