



## STUDY PROGRAMME

1. POL  
2. MATA

## ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-2024

## SEMESTER

Second

## COURSE TITLE

Interest Representation in the EU

## COURSE PROFESSOR

David COEN, Alexander KATSAITIS

## COURSE ASSISTANT

Íñigo MARTÍN MONTEERRUBIO

## NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

1. Optional  
2. Optional

## LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

## ECTS CREDITS

5

### 1. **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

This course is designed to allow students to understand and examine central theories, conceptualizations, methodologies, and themes in interest group representation in the European Union. The course draws from political science, public policy and administration, and business and management studies.

This course is designed for students who want to explore theories in interest groups and interest representation in the EU. It aims to expose students to analytic and theoretical perspectives. It does not aim to school them in any one single approach.

### 2. **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course students should be able to:

a) Appreciate determinants of interest group representation; understand and critically review some selected theoretical approaches in interest intermediation and mobilization, draw on selective empirical examples.

b) Give an account of various interest groups and strategies that go beyond systemic approaches. This includes diverse mobilization across policy fields, and interest group staff level strategic choices.



- c) Have a grasp of some of traditional and contemporary literature on interest group representation in the EU, which should better equip you to conduct your own research.
- d) Understand how key methodologies in researching interest representation, this includes quantitative as well as qualitative approaches.

These learning outcomes link up with the following programme-specific learning outcomes:

- Students possess a pluri-disciplinary understanding of European integration, allowing them to understand fully the nature, dynamics and functioning of the EU system;
- Students have a general knowledge of the main components of the EU political system: institutions, actors, decision-making procedures, competences and policies;
- Students comprehend the disciplinary knowledge and theories specific to EU studies;
- Students possess an in-depth knowledge of fundamental aspects of the EU political system (institutions, actors, policies etc.);
- Students develop a concrete understanding of the logics of policy-making and negotiations within the EU political system, thanks to simulation exercises and the drafting of policy papers;
- Students can recognize, contextualize, explain, and interpret political, societal and economic phenomena in European integration. They can assess events, governance problems and political crises;
- Students can analyse the process and actors of EU policy-making at different levels of governance and can reflect on potential developments;
- Students can flexibly apply theories and analytical frameworks from different disciplinary perspectives to the main issues of EU politics and policies;
- Students are able to analyse, in a limited amount of time, complex and new issues, by finding and investigating various sources of information and delivering an analytical and critical synthesis;
- Students can communicate clearly and effectively, through oral presentations or written documents, to different kinds of audiences;
- Students are capable of evolving in a multi-cultural context and of taking into account the variety of political systems, institutional logics and cultural backgrounds;

For MATA students, the following MATA programme-specific learning outcomes are relevant:

- The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, Economics, International Relations and Diplomacy Studies,



Legal Studies and/or Political Science relevant for the analysis of transatlantic affairs.

- The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.
- The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems regarding an extensive range of transatlantic affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- The graduate can independently transform complex transatlantic issues into a research question within the broader field of transatlantic affairs and, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using appropriate concepts and methods and present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the chosen discipline.
- The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.
- The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.

### 3. COURSE CONTENTS

- What, Why, & How is Interest Representation?
- Studying Interest Groups, Research Methods
- Integration and Interest Representation
- Institutions & Lobbying
- Practitioner's Seminar
- Lobbying across Policy Fields
- Policymaking & Interest Groups
- Strategic Choices & Lobbying
- Practitioner's Seminar
- Lobbying & Democratic Implications
- Lobbying Simulation
- Revision



College of Europe  
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Brugge

# ECTS CARD

## 4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures, seminars, guided readings, discussions, case studies, guest presentations.

## 5. COURSE MATERIAL\*

Baumgartner, F. R., Berry, J. M., Hojnacki, M., Leech, B. L., & Kimball, D. C. (2009). Lobbying and policy change. University of Chicago Press.

Coen, D., Katsaitis, A., & Vannoni, M. (2021). Business lobbying in the European Union. Oxford University Press.

Greenwood, J. (2019). Interest organizations and European Union politics. Oxford University Press

Klüver, H. (2013). Lobbying in the European Union: interest groups, lobbying coalitions, and policy change. Oxford University Press.

\*This bibliography has been put together by the Professor. The formatting of the references does not necessarily correspond to the referencing rules applicable in the Department.

## 6. EVALUATION

Exam: **55%**

Essay **30%**

Continual Assessment: **15%**

### Assessment at second attempt

During the second examination session the course is assessed **100%** on the basis of a written resit exam.