STUDY PROGRAMME	ACADEMIC YEAR	SEMESTER
1. POL 2. MATA	2023 - 2024	1st – 2nd

COURSE TITLE

EU Multi-Level Governance: Citizens, Civil Society Actors, Political Parties

COURSE PROFESSOR	COURSE ASSISTANT
Virginie VAN INGELGOM	**Nina GUIBERE**

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)	LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
1. Research Seminar	English

ECTS CREDITS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

Major aim: preparing and writing the Master Thesis which should deal with the role and activities of non-state (private, societal) actors - listed in the title of the RS - in the framework of EU Multi-Level Governance.

On completion of the research seminar, the student will be expected to be able to do a piece of research work: the Master Thesis. This includes that the student identifies the topic for his/her Master Thesis; that the student has an overview of relevant theoretical concepts; decides on which shall be used and apply it (formulate hypotheses and discuss and test them in the light of his/her empirical findings); learns to collect empirical material (for the case study/studies); learns - in this context - to conduct a survey with non-state and institutional actors and thereby has a better insight in and understanding of the governance machinery in the EU.

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.

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3. COURSE CONTENTS

Lecture and plenary discussion – including a mini-conference (peer-review exercise); a series of individual interviews (at least five from November 2023 to April 2024) with each student on their respective thesis project.

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lecture and plenary discussion will provide the students with transversal elements on methodology of research in comparative politics, while the series of individual interviews with each student on their respective thesis project will provide them with advice on their project (focusing on specific challenges). One of the plenary sessions will be organized as a mini-conference. The goal is to provide constructive feedback to classmates to help them improve their research paper.

Major attention will be paid to the continuous exchange between professor and each student in the series of individual interviews (on the whole at least five; the first in November/December 2023, at least four more in the period January 2024 to mid-April 2024). Each student is expected to elaborate an outline on the thesis project for each interview session; the outlines will – from interview to interview – have to be revised, improved and extended in the light of comments, suggestions and discussions in the previous interview session. In the periods between the plenary sessions and interviews the professor will be available for additional exchanges, primarily via e-mail.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

For thematic framework and content of the Research Seminar: please see the outline. Focus of lectures will be on different types of non-state actors (listed in the title of the RS), on theoretical approaches which could be used as conceptual basis and framework for the theses, and on methodological questions related to do empirical work (incl. how to conduct survey with individual actors).

6. EVALUATION

A written evaluation of the Master Thesis will be provided.

Oral feedback will also be given during the formal Thesis Defence. During a 20-minutes individual oral defence, in presence of the Professor and the Academic Assistant, the student will be asked to present his/her work and to answer some questions. The student will also have the opportunity to react to the comments. The performance of the student in the Thesis Defence (presentation; reactions/answers to comments/questions) will be taken in to account in the final evaluation of the Thesis.

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