



## STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

## YEAR

2019-2020

## COURSE TITLE

**EU Institutions and Decision-making**

## SEMESTER

1

## COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Christopher LORD

## ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

Sebastian STEINGASS

## COURSE TYPE

Compulsory Core Course

## MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

## ECTS CREDITS

4

## CONTACT HOURS

20

## INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME

80

## TUTORIAL(S)

## COEFFICIENT

1

## LANGUAGE(S)

EN

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By following this course students will:

- Acquire an understanding of the principal institutions of the European Union, notably the European Commission, the European Council, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice and the European Central Bank;
- Be able to analyse both the internal workings of each of the foregoing institutions and the ways in which those bodies interact with one another to form an overall institutional order;
- Acquire an understanding of why policies are made at the European level and the main difficulties raised by attempts to make policies through the institutions of the Union;
- Be introduced to the principal debates in the literature on the institutions and policies of the European Union, including debates about the nature of the Union as a polity, about its legitimacy, about its democratic quality and about its identity;
- Be able to use the literature on the institutions and policies of the EU to develop arguments and research of their own through a substantial piece of well-reasoned and well-researched academic writing.
- Be able to express themselves clearly, confidently and critically in verbal debates on the principal issues of European integration

## RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

## TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures supported by student participation in group discussions and one brief simulation exercise.

## ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

1 x individual paper (50% of the total mark);

Length: 3000-3500 words, including references, excluding bibliography; students select one of the proposed questions;

1 x written exam of 2 hours (50% of the total mark)

Students may consult the Lisbon Treaty during the exam (copies will be provided by the College). No other document is allowed.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session. (Art. 28 of the Specific Provisions).

## COURSE CONTENTS

The content of the course is divided into three parts as follows.

The first part analyses how decisions are taken a) about the design of EU institutions and then b) within and c) between those institutions.

The second part uses the examples of the Single Market, Monetary Union and the Common Foreign and Security Policy to illustrate how decision-making and institutional methods vary across the main policies of the Union.

The third part concludes with an analysis of the overall character and legitimacy of the Union's institutional order.

## COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

The lectures are supported by extensive data from the literature (on the composition of the Commission, on voting in the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament and so on). There is also a practical exercise in which students are asked to compute different majorities in the Council. Students are provided with further readings relevant to the course as a whole, as well as more specialized reading lists for each of the questions they can choose for the papers.