



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

EU Institutions and Decision-making

SEMESTER

1

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

LORD Christopher

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

HAMMAMI Amel

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

0

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To provide students with an informed and critical understanding of how the Institutions of the European Union shape its decision-making.

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;
- Be able to analyze 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 final mark): 3000-3500 words, including references, excluding bibliography; students select one of the questions proposed in the Course Syllabus;
- 1 x written closed-book digital in-class exam of 2 hours (50% of the total mark). Students may consult the Lisbon Treaty during the exam. 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).

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

COURSE CONTENTS

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

- The first part (approximately 2 hours) introduces the European Union's political order and the 'Community and 'Union' methods.
- The second part (approximately 16 hours) analyses the Commission, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice of the European Union.
- The third part (approximately 2 hours) 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 where students are asked to compute different majorities in the Council. Students are provided with further readings relevant to the course as a whole.