

Institutions and challenges of the European Union

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Seminar, D23, Tuesday 8.30-10.30am

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Aim and approach

Institutions and challenges have always been intertwined in the building of the European Union (EU). On the one hand, challenges shaped institutions: WWII, financial crisis, migration, global warming, etc. On the other hand, institutions generated challenges: growing powers of the European Parliament, cooperation within the European Council, citizens and the so called 'democratic deficit', etc. The aim of this seminar is to provide an overview of these issues, be they in the EU's past, present or future.

The seminar will require oral participation; it is therefore compulsory for students to read the documents provided, and to further prepare each class with additional research. The goal is for students to significantly improve their ability express themselves in English.

Assessment

The knowledge and skills developed during the seminar are assessed through three mandatory exercises, two individual exercises (debating online and oral participation), and one collective exercise (press review).

1) Debating online (40%)

In the week prior to each session (with the exception of session 1), students must discuss together the compulsory reading for each session. This discussion takes place online on the "Forum" area of the *Campus numérique* and the starting point of each "eDebate" is a topic (one question) given by the professor (see page 3). Then, the professor does not intervene – except if there is a problem – and lets students discuss and debate together. This exercise is also a way to prepare students to intervene actively (oral participation) during each session of the seminar.

A mark will be granted on the following grounds:

- Content (text/course comprehension and analytical skills): 7 pts
- Written expression (style, language): 4 pts

- Ability to take into account and respond to others' comments: 4 pts
- Regular participation and courtesy: 5 pts

2) Oral participation (30%)

Oral participation of the students is a pillar of this seminar. Thus, you shall read the material uploaded on professor's website (<https://samuelbhfaure.com/>) before the class, and make sure that you understand the content. If some points in the documents are not clear and you struggle to understand them, mention it during class. You will not be penalised; however, you will be penalised in the event you do not read the documents.

A mark will be granted on the following grounds:

- Relevance of the oral participations
- Ability to make yourself understood
- Ability to be part of discussions
- Command of reading material

3) Press review (30%)

Each student will present a press review, once during the semester, in a group of two or three students. The presentation shall last 8 minutes (meaning neither 7 nor 9 minutes), on a topic chosen by the students. The presentation shall be in English and based on a collection of articles written in English.

Assessment will also be given of the chosen topic's relevance to contemporary issues, to the subject matter covered in each session, and to the overall aim of the seminar. During the presentation, you shall cite the source (title, author, publication), and give a brief summary of the relevant elements in the articles. Articles shall be arranged in a coherent order.

A mark will be granted on the following grounds:

- Relevance of the subject
- Relevance and diversity of the presented articles
- Rigour of the analysis (based on relevant data and social sciences' tool)
- Quality of the oral expression (vocabulary, style, pronunciation)

Programme

The seminar is organised into five two-hour sessions. Class starts at 8.30. Students are advised to arrive on time and activate the 'silent' mode of their phone.

Tardiness will not be tolerated unless it can be justified and is not a repeat occurrence. In the event a student is late, they are to enter the classroom quietly and apologise.

Class attendance is compulsory. Any absence must be duly justified to both the professor and to Franck Hurel. If possible, the professor shall be informed in advance.



Session 1 – Introduction

Compulsory reading Didier GEORGAKAKIS. Le Covid-19, un tournant pour l'Union européenne?. *AOC média*, 10 April 2020 [<https://aoc.media/analyse/2020/04/09/le-covid-19-un-tournant-pour-lunion-europeenne/>]

Classroom Debate What are the effects of the Covid crisis on the European Union?

Session 2 – Institutions

Compulsory reading Frédéric MÉRAND, Julien WEISBEIN. *Introduction à l'Union européenne*. Bruxelles : De Boeck, 2011, p. 41-66.

eDebate topic Who governs the EU?

Session 3 – Decision-making

Compulsory reading Stéphanie NOVAK. La prise de décision dans l'Union européenne. In Olivier COSTA, Frédéric MÉRAND (eds.), *Études européennes*, Bruxelles: Éditions Bruylant, 2017, p. 55-94.

eDebate topic How are decisions made in the EU?

Session 4 – Private actors

Compulsory reading Guillaume COURTY, Hélène MICHEL. Groupes d'intérêt et lobbyistes dans l'espace politique européen: des permanents de l'Eurocratie. In Didier GEORGAKAKIS (ed.), *Le champ de l'Eurocratie. Une sociologie politique du personnel de l'UE*. Paris: Economica, (Études politiques), 2012, p. 213-239.

eDebate topic Who lobbies the EU?

Session 5 – The EU faces democracy

Compulsory reading Virginie VAN INGELGOM. Mesurer l'indifférence. Intégration européenne et attitudes des citoyens ». *Sociologie*. 2012, vol. 3, no 1, p. 1–20.

eDebate topic Are citizens opposed or indifferent to the EU (and what can be done to change this)?



References

Multilingual glossary

<https://iate.europa.eu/home>

Handbooks

In English

- Bache, Ian, Bulmer, Simon, George, Stephen, Parker, Owen. *Politics in the European Union*. 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Bickerton, Chris. *The European Union: A Citizen's Guide*. London: Pelican, 2016.
- Bulmer, Simon, Lequesne, Christian. *The Member States of the European Union*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Cini, Michelle, Pérez-Solorzano Borrigan, Nieves. *European Union Politics*. 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Costa, Olivier, Brack, Nathalie. *How the EU really works*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge, 2018.
- Hix, Simon, Hoyland, Bjorn. *The Political System of the European Union*. 3th edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2011.
- Magone, José M. (ed.). *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Londres: Routledge, 2015.
- Nugent, Neill. *The government and politics of the European Union*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
- Jones, Erik, Menon, Anand, Weatherill, Stephen (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of the European Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Lelieveldt, Herman, Princen, Sebastiaan. *The politics of the European Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
- Wallace, Helen, Pollack, Mark A., Young, Alasdair (eds.). *Policy-Making in the European Union*. 7th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

In French

- Costa, Olivier, Brack, Nathalie. *Le fonctionnement de l'Union européenne*. 2th edition. Bruxelles: Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles, 2017.
- Costa, Olivier, Mérand, Frédéric (dir.). *Études européennes*. Bruxelles: Bruylant (Traité de science politique), 2017.
- Magnette, Paul. *Le régime politique de l'Union européenne*. 4th edition. Paris: Presses de Sciences Po (Références Gouvernances), 2017.
- Cohen, Antonin. *Le régime politique de l'Union européenne*. Paris: La Découverte (Repères), 2014.
- Courty, Guillaume, Devin, Guillaume, *La construction européenne*. 4th edition. Paris: La découverte (Repères sciences politiques - droit), 2018.
- Dehousse, Renaud (dir.). *L'Union européenne*. 4th edition. Paris: La documentation française, 2014.
- Dehousse, Renaud (dir.). *Politiques européennes*. Paris: Presses de Sciences Po, 2009.
- Doutriaux, Yves, Lequesne, Christian. *Les institutions de l'Union européenne après la crise de l'euro*. 9th edition. Paris: La documentation française, 2013.
- Mérand, Frédéric, Weisbein, Julien. *Introduction à l'Union européenne*. Bruxelles : De Boeck (Ouvertures politiques), 2011.



MOOC

« Géopolitique de l'Europe » (Sciences Po) par Sylvain Kahn, Philippe Perchoc, Thomas Raineau :
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/geopolitique>

Scientific Journals

European Journal of Political Research (Wiley)
European Union Politics (Sage)
Journal of Common Market Studies (Wiley)
Journal of European Public Policy (Routledge)
Politique européenne (L'Harmattan)
West European Politics (Routledge)
CAIRN (<http://www.cairn.info/>)
JSTOR (<http://www.jstor.org/>)

Specialized information sources

Brussels Blog	https://www.ft.com/brussels-briefing	Blog of FT correspondents in Brussels
Bruxelles 2	https://www.bruxelles2.eu/	Blog on military issues
Le Grand Continent	https://legrandcontinent.eu/fr/	Specialized journal
Contexte	https://www.contexte.com/	Specialized journal
Coulisses de Bruxelles	http://bruxelles.blogs.liberation.fr/	Blog of the Libération correspondent in Brussels
Décrypter la communication européenne	http://www.lacomeuropeenne.fr/	Blog of an expert of the political communication
EU Observer	https://euobserver.com/	Specialized journal
Euractiv.fr	http://www.euractiv.fr/	Specialized journal
Fondation Robert Schuman	http://www.robert-schuman.eu/fr/	Think Tank
Notre Europe	http://www.institutdelors.eu/	Think Tank
Institut Jacques Delors		
Toute l'Europe	http://www.touteurope.eu/	Information website funded by the French government and the EU
VoxEurop	http://www.voxeurop.eu/en	Specialized journal

