

Institutions and Challenges of the European Union

Samuel B.H. Faure

Associate Professor of Political Science

Sciences Po Saint-Germain

Autumn 2021, 2nd year

Lecture, Room D 06A, Thursday 11am – 1pm

Contact

Email address samuel.faure@sciencespo-saintgermain.fr
Website <http://samuelbhfaure.com/>
Twitter @samuelbhfaure

Aim and approach

There are no less than 58 entries in the handbook on the European Union (EU) published at Oxford University Press, and 25 in the one edited by Renaud Dehousse at the Documentation française.

While it is not possible to present the political reality of the EU in an exhaustive way in one lecture, this lecture course provides a number of elements of understanding. Its objective is to present, in an intelligible way, the main institutions and policy challenges of the EU.

To do this, a political sociology approach is mobilised to restore the EU as it is, rather than taking a stand for what it should be. Weekly reading of a text (article or chapter) is mandatory. It is also strongly recommended to prepare each lecture session by consulting the elective readings at each session and by following European political news.

Working method

Step 1: To be prepared for each session of the lecture, you must read the compulsory readings (see from page 3) and prepare a list of questions if you do not understand something.

Step 2: You can ask your questions during the questions/answers (Q&A) session of each lecture or email them to me the day before the session.

Step 3: The Powerpoint will be online the day after each session and you can already download all the compulsory readings from this page: <https://samuelbhfaure.com/2a-eu-institutions-l/>

Assessment

The course is evaluated by two one-hour exams online:

- The first exam will evaluate your knowledge learned in sessions 1 to 5 during session 6 (**October 14**) and will include two parts:
 - o Ten multiple-choice questions on course fundamentals (5 points)
 - o Six multiple-choice questions on mandatory readings (3 points)

- The second exam will evaluate your knowledge learned in sessions 1 to 11 during between **13-17 December** and consist of two parts:
 - o Six multiple-choice questions on mandatory readings (3 points)
 - o A development question/an essay (9 points)

For multiple-choice questions, a half-point is added per correct answer and a quarter-point is subtracted per wrong answer. Regarding the essay, the rating takes into account three main evaluation criteria:

- the clarity of the demonstration,
- its originality and the scientific references on which it is based.
- Responses with unclear, normative or unjustified developments will be penalized.

Your answer should not exceed two pages. Two points will be removed if you exceed this limit. Students can answer the exam in either French or English.

Programme

The seminar is organized into eleven two-hour sessions. Each session is organized into two 55-minute sequences and a five-minute break.

Class starts at 11 am. Students are advised to arrive on time and activate the 'silent' mode of their phone before entering the amphitheatre.



I. INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Session 1 (9 Sep) – HISTORY: What’s the driver of European integration?

Aim	Tracking the institutionalisation of the EU
Argument	The institutionalisation of the EU has been unexpected
Keywords	Bargaining, ‘constructive ambiguity’, J. Delors, enlargement, national interest, internal market, J. Monnet, treaties
Compulsory reading	Nicolas JABKO. L’Europe par le marché. Histoire d’une stratégie improbable. Paris: Presses de Sciences Po, 2009, p. 15-26; 259-270.
Elective readings	Bickerton, Chris. The European Union: A Citizen’s Guide. London: Pelican, 2016, p. 43-74. Frédéric MÉRAND, Julien WEISBEIN. Introduction à l’Union européenne. Bruxelles: De Boeck, 2011, p. 19-40. Renaud DEHOUSSE, Paul MAGNETTE. L’évolution du système institutionnel. In Renaud DEHOUSSE (ed). Politiques européennes. Paris: Presses de Sciences Po, 2009. p. 31–51.

Session 2 (16 Sep) – EXECUTIVE POWERS: Who governs the European Union?

Aim	Presentation of the EU's executive institutions and their power relations
Argument	The EU government is not the result of one institution, but of a continuous balance of power between the Member States (European Council) and the Commission
Keywords	European Council, Commission, member states, politization, technocracy
Compulsory reading	Frédéric MÉRAND, Julien WEISBEIN. Introduction à l’Union européenne. Bruxelles : De Boeck, 2011, p. 41-55.
Elective readings	Chris Bickerton. The European Union: A Citizen’s Guide. London: Pelican, 2016, p. 11-42. Antonin COHEN. Le régime politique de l’Union européenne. Paris : La Découverte, 2014, p. 7-34. Renaud DEHOUSSE, Andrew THOMPSON. Intergovernmentalists in the Commission: Foxes in the Henhouse?. Journal of European Integration. 2012, vol. 34, no 2, p. 113–132. Frédéric MERAND. <i>Un sociologue à la Commission européenne</i> . Paris: Presses de Sciences Po, 2021.



Session 3 (23 Sep) – LEGISLATIVE POWERS: Who sets the rules?

Aim	Presentation of the EU's legislative to understand who sets the rules
Argument	EU rules are set by the European Parliament and the Council under the 'ordinary legislative procedure'
Keywords	Budget, co-decision, Community method, decision-making, intergovernmentalism, 'ordinary legislative procedure', norms, parliamentarisation
Compulsory reading	Frédéric MÉRAND, Julien WEISBEIN. Introduction à l'Union européenne. Bruxelles : De Boeck, 2011, p. 55-66.
Elective readings	Laurie BEAUDONNET, Capucine BERDAH. Les partis politiques et l'Union. In Olivier COSTA, Frédéric MÉRAND (eds.), Études européennes, Bruxelles: Éditions Bruylant, 2017, p. 141-172. Antonin COHEN. Le régime politique de l'Union européenne. Paris: La Découverte, 2014, p. 35-66. Caroline HOWARD GRON, Heidi HOULBERG SALOMONSEN. Who's at the table? An analysis of ministers' participation in EU Council of Ministers meetings. Journal of European Public Policy. 2015, vol. 22, no 8, p. 1071–1088.

Session 4 (30 Sep) – DECISION-MAKING: How does the EU work?

Aim	Understanding decision-making processes in the European Union
Argument	There are two (main) ways for making decisions in the EU: the 'Community' method and the 'intergovernmental' method
Keywords	Budget, co-decision, Community method, Court of Justice, decision-making, intergovernmentalism, 'ordinary legislative procedure', norms
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.
Elective readings	Paul MAGNETTE. Le régime politique de l'Union européenne. 4th edition. Paris: Presses de Sciences Po (Références Gouvernances), 2009, p. 75–140; 169–198. Robin HERTZ, Dirk LEUFFEN. Too big to run? Analysing the impact of enlargement on the speed of EU decision-making. European Union Politics. 2011, vol. 12, no 2, p. 193–215. Bernard STEUNENBERG. « Is big brother watching? Commission oversight of the national implementation of EU directives ». European Union Politics. 2010, vol. 11, no 3, p. 359–380.



Session 5 (7 Oct) – LOBBIES: How do interest groups shape the EU?

Aim	Presentation of interest groups in Brussels and their role in the EU decision-making process
Argument	Lobbies represent actors with multiple resources, objectives and strategies and have a variable effect on the EU
Keywords	Interest groups, lobbying, private actors
Compulsory reading	Guillaume COURTY, H�el�ene MICHEL. Groupes d'int�er�et et lobbyistes dans l'espace politique europ�een: des permanents de l'eurocratie. In Didier GEORGAKAKIS (ed.). Le champ de l'Eurocratie. Une sociologie politique du personnel de l'UE. Paris: Economica, (Etudes politiques), 2012, p. 213-239.
Elective readings	Andreas D�UR, Gemma MATEO. Who lobbies the European Union? National interest groups in a multilevel polity. Journal of European Public Policy. 2012, vol. 19, no 7, p. 969–987. Sabine SAURUGGER. Groupes d'int�er�et et Union europ�eenne. In Olivier COSTA, Fr�ed�eric M�ERAND (eds.), �tudes europ�eennes, Bruxelles: �ditions Bruylant, 2017, p. 173-204.

II. CHALLENGES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Session 6 (14 Oct) – EURO: The monetary policy of the EU (+ 1st Exam)

Aim	Presentation of the monetary policy of the EU through the Eurozone crisis
Argument	Supranational institutions (ECB, but also Court and Commission) have been strengthened during the Eurozone crisis in 2007-9
Keywords	ECB, Euro, Germany, Greece
Compulsory reading	Cl�ement FONTAN. Frankenstein en Europe: l'impact de la Banque centrale europ�eenne sur la gestion de la crise de la zone euro. Politique europ�eenne. 2013, vol. 42, no 4, p. 22–45.
Elective readings	Peter A. HALL. Varieties of Capitalism and the Euro Crisis. West European Politics. 2014, vol. 37, no 6, p. 1223-1243. Bruno DE WITTE. « Union europ�eenne, zone euro: quels gouvernements ? ». Pouvoirs. 2014, vol. 149, no 2, p. 45–58. Patrick LEBLOND. La gouvernance de la zone euro et la crise �conomique. In Olivier COSTA, Fr�ed�eric M�ERAND (eds.), �tudes europ�eennes, Bruxelles: �ditions Bruylant, 2017, p. 345-376.



Session 7 (21 Oct) – MIGRATION: The area of freedom, security and justice

Aim	Understanding the functioning of the area of freedom, security and justice through the migration challenge
Argument	Migration policy unveils 'multi-level' governance
Keywords	Freedom of movement, immigration, migrants, refugees
Compulsory reading	Virginie GUIRAUDON. Les effets de l'eupéanisation des politiques d'immigration et d'asile. <i>Politique européenne</i> . 2010, vol. 31, no 2, p. 7-32.
Elective readings	Nora EL QADIM, Virginie GUIRAUDON. L'espace de liberté, de sécurité et de justice. In Olivier COSTA, Frédéric MÉRAND (eds.), <i>Études européennes</i> , Bruxelles: Éditions Bruylant, 2017, p. 377-424. Adrian FAVELL. The fourth freedom: Theories of migration and mobilities in 'neoliberal' Europe. <i>European Journal of Social Theory</i> . 2014, vol. 17, no 3, p. 275-289. Wildo GEIS, Silke UEBELMESSER, Martin WERDING. Why Go to France or Germany, if You Could as Well Go to the UK or the US? Selective Features of Immigration to the EU 'Big Three' and the United States. <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> . 2011, vol.49, no 4, p. 767-796.

Session 8 (28 Oct) – A EUROPEAN DEFENCE POLICY: An oxymoron?

Aim	Explaining the EU's political role in a non-Community area
Argument	The CSDP reveals the differentiated integration of the EU
Keywords	Armaments, CSDP, defence, EDA, EEAS, strategic autonomy, strategic culture
Compulsory reading	Samuel B.H. FAURE. Négocier l'armement au sein de l'Union européenne. Le travail politique de la Commission européenne. <i>Négociations</i> . 34 (2) : 47-62.
Elective readings	Samuel B.H. FAURE. La défense européenne. L'émergence d'une culture stratégique commune. Montréal: Athéna Editions, 2016, p. 83-100. Samuel B.H. FAURE. « Pourquoi la défense européenne est-elle impuissante ? » dans Le Gouriellec Sonia (dir.), <i>Notre monde est-il plus dangereux ?</i> , Paris : Armand Colin, 2017, p. 117-122. Samuel B.H. FAURE. The Choice for a Minilateral Europe: A Historical Sociology of Defence-Industrial Capitalism. <i>European Review of International Studies</i> . 2019, p. 92-114.



Session 9 (18 Nov) – DEMOCRACY: What is the EU's problem with democracy?

Aim	Understanding how European citizens perceive the EU
Argument	European citizens are less opposed to the EU than indifferent to it
Keywords	Euroscepticism, citizens, citizenship, democracy, democratic deficit, Erasmus, European elections, identity
Compulsory reading	Virginie VAN INGELGOM. « Mesurer l'indifférence. Intégration européenne et attitudes des citoyens ». <i>Sociologie</i> . 2012, vol. 3, no 1, p. 1–20.
Elective readings	Bickerton, Chris. <i>The European Union: A Citizen's Guide</i> . London: Pelican, 2016, p. 217-230. Andreas FOLLESDAL, Simon HIX. « Why There Is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik ». <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> . 2006, vol. 44, no 3, p. 533–562. Kristine MITCHELL. Rethinking the 'Erasmus Effect' on European Identity. <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> . 2015, vol. 53, no 2, p. 330–348.

Session 10 (25 Nov) – POST-BREXIT EUROPE: Disintegration of the EU or differentiated integration?

Aim	Drawing some avenues on the future of the EU
Argument	The most credible hypothesis is not European disintegration but the strengthening of European differentiation
Keywords	Brexit, differentiated integration, disintegration, « opt-out », transfer of sovereignty
Compulsory readings	Frank SCHIMMELFENNING, Dirk LEUFFEN, Berthold RITTBERGER. The European Union as a system of differentiated integration: interdependence, politicization and differentiation. <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> . 2015, vol. 22, no 6, p. 764–782. Samuel B.H. FAURE. La fin de l'Europe n'a pas eu lieu. <i>Questions internationales</i> . 2021.
Elective readings	Thierry CHOPIN, Christian LEQUESNE. Reverse to disintegration: The cohesive effect of Brexit on the EU27. <i>Journal of Contemporary European Studies</i> . 2019. Geoffrey EVANS, Anand MENON. <i>Brexit and British Politics</i> . Londres : Polity Press, 2017. Samuel B.H. Faure, Vincent Lebrou. L'Europe à géométrie variable. Pour des approches renouvelées des logiques de différenciation. <i>Politique européenne</i> . 2020, 67: 8-25.



Kalypso NICOLAÏDIS. Sustainable Integration in a Democratic Polity: A New (or not so new) Ambition For the European Union after Brexit. In STAIGER, Uta ed. Brexit and Beyond. Rethinking the Futures of Europe. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Ben ROSAMOND. Brexit and the problem of European disintegration. Journal of Contemporary European Research. 2016, vol. 12, no 4, p. 864–887.

Session 11 (2 Dec) – CONCLUSION

No compulsory reading

Keynote given by a guest speaker (tbc)



References

Multilingual glossary

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

Information database

<http://www.europresse.com/fr/>

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 Borragan, 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

