

1. Professor

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2. Aim of the course

The aim of the course is to understand and to critically assess the functioning, role and significance of the main institutions and actors in the political system of the European Union. Recent political science literature on the political and bureaucratic functioning of the main actors in contemporary EU politics will be discussed. Besides the main institutions (European Commission, Council of the EU, European Parliament, European Council, Court of Justice of the EU), attention will be paid to the interaction between the institutions in the formulation and implementation of EU policies, to interest groups and non-state actors, as well as to the increasing importance of EU-level agencies and national parliaments in EU policy-making.

3. Course material

- The lectures are the core of this course. Students are highly encouraged to attend the lectures.
- A reader with the obligatory readings (book chapters and journal articles) will be available
 - in hard copy format at Unif Copy (Traverse d'Esopo 2);
 - and in digital format at Moodle (<http://moodleucl.uclouvain.be>).
- During the lectures, the framework to understand texts of the reader will be provided. As a result, the reader is best read together with the notes taken during the lectures.
- Whereas the obligatory readings from the reader are an essential part of the course material and need to be studied for the exam, the recommended readings are provided for those students who want to deepen their knowledge on the various topics discussed in this course. They are not part of the reader and do not have to be studied for the exam as such.

4. Exam

- There will be a written exam in June and in August.
- The exam covers all the material discussed during the lectures and in the reader (exceptions will be announced during the lectures and via the announcements on Moodle).

5. Course schedule, obligatory and recommended readings

1. 08/02 Introduction

2. 15/02 European Commission (1)

- Wonka A. (2015), 'The European Commission' in Richardson J., Mazey S. (eds.), *European Union. Power and policy-making*, London, Routledge, p. 83-106.
- Peterson J. (2012), 'The College of Commissioners' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 96-123.
- Hooghe L., Kassim H. (2012), 'The Commission's Services' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 173-198.

Recommended readings:

- Hooghe L. (2005), 'Several Roads Lead to International Norms, but Few Via International Socialization: A Case Study of the European Commission' in *International Organization*, 59(4): p. 861-898.
- Kassim H., Peterson J., Bauer M., Connolly S., Dehousse R., Hooghe L., Thompson A. (2013), *The European Commission of the Twenty-First Century*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

- Wille A. (2013), *The Normalization of the European Commission: Politics and Bureaucracy in the EU Executive*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Hartlapp M., Metz J., Rauh C. (2014), *Which Policy for Europe? Power and Conflict inside the European Commission*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Nugent N., Rhinard M. (2015), *The European Commission*, Basingstoke, Palgrave.

3. 22/02 **European Commission (2)**

[see readings for class 2]

4. 01/03 **European Parliament**

- Shackleton M. (2012), 'The European Parliament' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 124-147.
- Raunio T. (2012), 'Political Interests: the European Parliament's Party Groups' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 338-358.
- Bache I., Bulmer S., George S., Parker O. (2015), *Politics in the European Union. Fourth edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press: chapter 15 'The European Parliament' (p. 270-289).

Recommended readings:

- Goetze S. and Rittberger B. (2010), 'A matter of habit? The sociological foundations of empowering the European Parliament' in *Comparative European Politics*, 8(1): 37-54.
- Costello R., Thomson R. (2011), 'The nexus of bicameralism: Rapporteurs' impact on decision outcomes in the European Union' in *European Union Politics*, 12(3): p. 337-357.
- Yordanova N. (2013), *Organising the European Parliament. The Role of Committees and their Legislative Influence*, Colchester, ECPR Press.
- McElroy G., Bowler S. (2015), 'Political group cohesion and "hurrah" voting in the European Parliament' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22(9): 1355-1365.
- RIPPOLL SERVENT A. (2018), *The European Parliament*, London, Palgrave Macmillan.
- WHITAKER R., HIX S., ZAPRYANOVA G. (2017), 'Understanding Members of the European Parliament: Four waves of the European Parliament Research Group MEP Survey' in *European Union Politics*, 18(3): p. 491-506.

5. 08/03 **Council of the EU**

- Hayes-Renshow F. (2012), 'The Council of Ministers' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 68-95.
- Naurin D. (2015), 'The councils of the EU. Intergovernmental bargaining in a supranational polity' in Richardson J., Mazey S. (eds.), *European Union. Power and policy-making*, London, Routledge, p. 135-158.
- Puetter U. (2014), *The European Council and the Council. New Intergovernmentalism and Institutional Change*, Oxford, Oxford University Press: chapter 4 'The Council: from Law-making to Policy Coordination' (p. 148-225).

Recommended readings:

- Häge F. (2007), 'Committee Decision-making in the Council of the European Union' in *European Union Politics*, 8(3): p. 299-328.
- Naurin D., Wallace H. (eds.) (2008), *Unveiling the Council of the European Union. Games Governments Play in Brussels*, Basingstoke, Palgrave.
- Lewis J. (2012), 'National Interests: the Committee of Permanent Representatives' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 315-337.
- Häge F. (2013), 'Coalition Building and Consensus in the Council of the European Union' in *British Journal of Political Science*, 43(3): p. 481-504.
- Smeets S., Vennix J. (2014), 'How to make the most of your time in the Chair: EU presidencies and the management of Council debates' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 21(10): p. 1435-1451.

6. 15/03 **European Council**

- de Schoutheete P. (2012), 'The European Council' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 43-67.
- Puetter U. (2014), *The European Council and the Council. New Intergovernmentalism and Institutional Change*, Oxford, Oxford University Press: chapter 3 'The European Council: the New Centre of Political Gravity' (p. 68-147).

Recommended readings:

- Wessels W. (2015), *The European Council*, Basingstoke, Palgrave.
- Nardelli A., Arnett G. (2015), *Super Mario Bros meets House of Cards: the European Council's badge system*, The Guardian – European Union Datablog, <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2015/jun/25/super-mario-bros-meets-house-of-cards-the-european-councils-badge-system>.

7. 22/03 **Interinstitutional relations: decision-making**

Lielieveldt H., Princen S. (2015), *The Politics of the European Union. Second edition*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: chapter 4 'Legislation and Decision-making: putting the institutional puzzle together' (p. 76-106).

Recommended readings:

- Héritier A. (2013), 'Twenty years of legislative codecision in the European Union: experience and implications' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 20(7): p. 1074-1082.
- Reh C., Héritier A., Bressanelli E., Koop C. (2013), 'The Informal Politics of Legislation: Explaining Secluded Decision Making in the European Union' in *Comparative Political Studies*, 46(9): p. 1112-1142.
- Kardasheva R. (2013), 'Package Deals in EU Legislative Politics' in *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(4): p. 858-874.
- Brandsma G. (2013), *Controlling Comitology. Accountability in a Multi-Level System*, Basingstoke, Palgrave.
- Thomson R. (2015), 'The distribution of power among the institutions' in Richardson J., Mazey S. (eds.), *European Union. Power and policy-making*, London, Routledge, p. 189-210.
- Crombez C., Hix S. (2015), 'Legislative Activity and Gridlock in the European Union' in *British Journal of Political Science*, 45(3): p. 477-499.
- Roederer-Rynning C., Greenwood J. (2015), 'The culture of trilogues' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22(8): p. 1148-1165.

8. 29/03 Court of Justice

Nic Shuibhne N. (2012), 'The Court of Justice of the European Union' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 148-169.

Recommended readings:

- Hix S., Hoyland B. (2011), *The Political System of the European Union. Third edition*, Basingstoke, Palgrave: chapter 4 'Judicial Politics' (p. 75-101).
- Schmidt S. (2015), 'The shadow of case law. The Court of Justice of the European Union and the policy process' in Richardson J., Mazey S. (eds.), *European Union. Power and policy-making*, London, Routledge, p. 159-188.

05/04 no lecture (Easter holidays)

12/04 no lecture (Easter holidays)

9. 19/04 Agencies

- Kelemen D., Majone G. (2012), 'Managing Europeanization: the European Agencies' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 219-240.
- Rittberger B., Wonka A. (2015), 'EU agencies' in Richardson J., Mazey S. (eds.), *European Union. Power and policy-making*, London, Routledge, p. 233-258.

Recommended readings:

- Trondal J., Jeppesen L. (2008), 'Images of Agency Governance in the European Union' in *West European Politics*, 31(3): p. 417-441.
- Thatcher M. (2011), 'The creation of European regulatory agencies and its limits: a comparative analysis of European delegation' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 18(6): p. 790-809.
- Egeberg M., Trondal J. (2011), 'EU-level agencies: new executive centre formation or vehicles for national control?' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 18(6): p. 868-887.
- Busuioac M., Groenleer M., Trondal J. (eds.) (2012), *The agency phenomenon in the European Union. Emergence, institutionalisation and everyday decision-making*, Manchester, Manchester University Press.

10. 26/04 National parliaments

- Costa O., Brack N. (2014), *How the EU Really Works*, Surrey, Ashgate: section 6.4 'National Parliaments and European Integration' (p. 156-166).
- Rozenberg O., Hefffler C. (2015), 'Introduction' in Hefffler C., Neuhold C., Rozenberg O., Smith J. (eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of National Parliaments and the European Union*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 1-39.

Recommended readings:

- Winzen T. (2013), 'European integration and national parliamentary oversight institutions' in *European Union Politics*, 14(2): p. 297-323.
- de Ruitter R. (2013), 'Under the radar? National parliaments and the ordinary legislative procedure in the European Union' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 20(8): p. 1196-1212.
- Auel K., Christiansen T. (2015), 'After Lisbon: National Parliaments in the European Union' in *West European Politics*, 38(2): p. 261-281.
- Jensen M., Martinsen D. (2015), 'Out of Time? National Parliaments and Early Decision-Making in the European Union' in *Government and Opposition*, 50(2): p. 240-270.
- Kröger S., Bellamy R. (2016), 'Beyond a constraining dissensus: The role of national parliaments in domesticating and normalising the politicization of European integration' in *Comparative European Politics*, 14(1): p. 131-153.
- Gattermann K., Högenauer A., Huff A. (2016), 'Research note: studying a new phase of europeanisation of national parliaments' in *European Political Science*, 15(1): p. 89-107.

11. 03/05 Interest groups and societal interest representation

- Lelieveldt H., Princen S. (2015), *The Politics of the European Union. Second edition*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: chapter 6 'Interest groups and interest representation' (p. 128-150).
- Jeffrey C., Rowe C. (2012), 'Social and Regional Interests: the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions' in Peterson J., Shackleton M. (eds.), *The Institutions of the European Union. 3rd edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 359-381.

Recommended readings:

- Princen S., Kerremans B. (2008), 'Opportunity Structures in the EU Multi-Level System' in *West European Politics*, 31(6): p. 1129-1146.
- Greenwood J. (2011), *Interest Representation in the European Union. 3rd edition*, New York, Palgrave.
- Mazey S., Richardson J. (2015), 'Shooting where the ducks are. EU lobbying and institutionalized promiscuity' in Richardson J., Mazey S. (eds.), *European Union. Power and policy-making*, London, Routledge, p. 419-444.
- Klüver H., Braun C., Beyers J. (2015), 'Legislative lobbying in context: towards a conceptual framework of interest group lobbying in the European Union' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22(4): 447-461.
- Panke D., Hönnige C., Gollub J. (2015), *Consultative Committees in the European Union. No Vote – No Influence?*, Colchester, ECPR Press.

10/05 *no lecture (Ascension Day)*

17/05 *no lecture*