

Descriptif d'enseignement / *Course descriptions*

Etudiants internationaux uniquement / Only international students

Semestre 2

Titre du cours - *Course title*

Decision-making in the EU: A practical insight

Langue du cours/Language of instruction : English

Enseignant(s) – *Professor(s)*

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Résumé du cours – Objectifs - *Course description – Targets*

Main objectives of the course:

- Provide a theoretical and practical understanding of the functioning of the EU political system.
- Experience how European institutions work in practice through simulations, become familiar with the different stages of the legislative cycle.

The European Union (EU) is currently facing several major challenges, at the top of which are a rising Euroscepticism and the exit of one of its Member States.

In this critical context, this course will give students a comprehensive understanding of how the EU actually works through a theoretical approach, practical examples and simulations.

The course will provide an introduction to the complexity of European decision-making and EU policies.

Students will learn how the European institutions work in practice (Commission, Parliament and Council), what other non-institutional players exist, and how legislation is negotiated at European level.

During the simulation exercises, students will take on different roles (Minister, Member of the European Parliament, etc.) and simulate meetings in the European Parliament and in the Council. They will learn to lead negotiations in a complex environment and will understand the impacts of bargaining and compromise building on the policy-making process.

Evaluation - *Assessment*

- Participation in class and simulation exercises (30%).
- Presentation of a European press review (30%).
- Final report (40%): explaining how the student understood the issue and built her/his negotiation strategy, based on research done to prepare the simulations cases.

Plan – Séances - *Course outline*

Session1: Introduction (2h) General introduction to the course

Objectives, practical organisation, evaluation, etc.

Introduction to the EU institutional triangle: general presentation of the EU decision-making process

Introduction to the EU political context

Session 2: Theory (2h) The European Commission in the decision-making : role & objectives

Session 3: Theory (2h) The European Council in the decision-making: role, rules of the game, negotiation and bargaining

Session 4: Theory (2h) The European Parliament in the decision-making: political parties at stake and a practical insight from Committee meetings to the Plenary session

Session 5: Simulation (2h) EU Parliament simulation: first reading of a directive and negotiation.

Session 6: Theory (2h) Policy-making and interest representation in the European arena

Policy process and non-institutional actors: from agenda-setting and policy preparation to adoption and implementation. Interest representation in the EU.

Session 7: Theory (2h) Preparation of the EU Council simulation exercise: introduction to the legislation to be negotiated, how to read a directive, key issues at stake, general negotiation tips and lobbying, tips on how and where to look for information to prepare the simulation.

Session 8: Simulation (2h) EU Council simulation

Session 9: Conclusion (2h) Evaluation and concluding remarks

Bibliographie - *Bibliography* :

Costa, O & Brack, N (2014), *How the EU Really Works*, Ashgate.

Ferdinand Muller-Rommel, Fernando Casal Bértoa, Camille Bedock (2016) *Party Politics and Democracy in Europe*, Routledge.

Benjamin Leruth, Nicholas Startin, Simon Usherwood, Nathalie Brack, Olivier Costa (2018), *The New Routledge Handbook of Euroscepticism*, edited by Benjamin Leruth, Nicholas, Routledge.

Beauvallet W., Michon S., (2010), *Professionalization and socialization of the members of the European Parliament*, *French Politics*, Vol. 8, n°2, 145-165.

Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union, Directorate for Legislative Coordination and Conciliations Conciliations and Codecision Unit, 'Codecision and Conciliation-A Guide to how the Parliament co-legislates under the Treaty of Lisbon', 51 pages.

Katrine Huber and Michael Shackleton, 'Codecision: a practitioner's view from inside the Parliament', in: *Journal of European Public Policy*, 20:7, 2013, pp.1040-1055.

Helen Wallace, William Wallace and Mark Pollack (eds) (2014), *Policy-Making in the European Union*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

John Peterson and Michael Shackleton (eds) (2012 edition), *The Institutions of the European Union*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, Chaps 4-9.