

## Descriptif d'enseignement / *Course descriptions*

3<sup>ème</sup> année internationale / International undergraduate program  
Semestre 2

### Titre du cours - *Course title*

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#### **Decision-making in the EU: a practical insight**

**Type de cours :** Conférence de méthode

**Langue du cours/Language of instruction :** English

### Enseignant(s) – *Professor(s)*

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

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Main objectives of the course:

- Provide a theoretical and practical understanding of the functioning of an international political system.
- Experience how European institutions work in practice through simulations, including through different stages of the legislative cycle.
- Become familiar with the role of non-institutional stakeholders in decision-making processes.

Short background:

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 help students get a better understanding of how the EU actually works using both a theoretical approach and practical examples, including simulations.

The course will provide a first introduction to the complexity of European policy-making and EU policies. Students will learn how the European institutions work and decide in practice (with focus on the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the EU), discover the role and power of other non-institutional players, and get an understanding of how legislation is negotiated at European level.

During the simulation exercises, students will actively take on different roles (Minister, Member of the European Parliament, lobbyist etc.) and simulate meetings, e.g in the European Parliament and in 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*

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- Oral participation in class and engagement in simulation exercises (40%).
- Presentation of a European press review (30%).
- Final report (30%): report on student's strategy and preparation for the final simulation, based on personal research.

## Plan – Séances - Course outline

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Indicative course outline:

Session 1: (2h) General introduction to the course / Introduction to the EU institutional triangle.

Session 2: Theory (2h) The European Commission in the decision-making.

Session 3: Theory (2h) The Council of the EU in the decision-making.

Session 4: Theory (2h) The European Parliament in the decision-making.

Session 5: Simulation (3h) EU Parliament simulation: first reading of a directive and negotiation.

Session 6: Theory (2h) Interest representation in the European arena.

Session 7: Theory (2h) Lobbying simulation and introduction to the EU Council simulation.

Session 8: Simulation (3h) EU Council simulation and course conclusions.

## Bibliographie - Bibliography :

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Indicative 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.