



Course Code EUS-250	Course Title European Institutions and Governance	ECTS Credits 6
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Spring	Prerequisites EUS-105: Introduction to the European Union
Type of Course Required	Field European Studies	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 2 nd	Lecturer(s) Dr Christina Ioannou
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

This course aims to introduce students to the main institutions of the European Union, as well as to the politics and governance of the Union. It will provide an overview of the main EU institutions, focusing principally on the decision-making triangle of the EU and the interactions that take place between these institutions in the law making process. The different decision-making procedures - and the co-decision procedure in particular - will thus be assessed through the scrutiny of the decision-making process, from agenda-setting to implementation. Moreover, the management of the EMU and the Euro-zone will also be examined by studying the main economic and monetary EU institution, the European Central Bank. The European election process will also be observed, as questions of democratic legitimacy are addressed. The notion of Euroscepticism will be explained and the democratic deficit problem will further be assessed. From this perspective, the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe will be looked at, by considering its main provisions and its likely impact on the EU's system of governance. The reasons for its failure will thus be identified and the Reform Treaty will be discussed, by looking at its main institutional and policy changes. Succinctly, the evolution of the Union's institutional governance system, from establishment of the Community to the set-up of the three-pillar structure under the Maastricht Treaty to the adoption of a legal personality under Lisbon, will thus be appreciated in this context.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Illustrate an understanding of the EU's system of governance.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the division of the Union's competences into the Three-Pillar Structure under the Treaty on European Union and assess the capabilities and the capability gaps of the organisation in each of these three pillars.
3. Report on the European Commission and the Council of the European Union, explaining the functioning of the EU's institutional arrangement, and evaluating it in terms of institutional balance.
4. Discuss how the European Parliament is composed and how it works, and appreciate the importance of European Election.
5. Assess the importance of the European Central Bank in the functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union of the EU, and also look at other EU Bodies.

6. Evaluate and assess the process of decision-making in the EU from agenda-setting to implementation.
7. Assess the failure of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, by considering its main provisions and its likely impact on the EU's system of governance.
8. Appraise the main institutional and policy changes under the Treaty of Lisbon and appreciate the significance of the EU as a legal personality.
9. Demonstrate substantial knowledge of the concept of Democracy in relation to the EU and the Euroscepticism that surrounds it, assessing its democratic deficit today.

Course Contents:

1. Introduction to key concepts
2. Understanding the EU's System of Governance
3. The Treaty on European Union and the Three-Pillar Structure
4. The European Commission and the Council of the European Union
5. The European Parliament and European Elections
6. The European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance
7. The European Central Bank and other EU Institutions and Bodies
8. The Decision-Making Process in the EU
9. The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe: The Reasons for its failure
10. Institutional and Policy Changes in the Treaty of Lisbon: The EU as a legal personality
11. Democracy in the EU: Euroscepticism and the EU's Democratic Deficit

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Project, Presentation, Discussion

Assessment Methods:

Final Examination, Mid-Term Examination, Project, Presentation, Attendance / Participation

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Cini, Michelle (MC)	European Union Politics	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2005	
Bache, Ian and George, Stephen (BG)	Politics in the European Union	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2006	

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Bretherton, Charlotte and Vogler, John	The European Union as a Global Actor	London: Routledge	2002	
Bromley, Simon	Governing the European Union	London: Sage	2001	
Cowles, Maria Green and Dinan, Desmond	Developments in the European Union 2	Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan	2004	

Cram, Laura, Dinan, Desmond and Nugent Neill	Developments in the European Union	New York: St. Martin's Press	1999	
Farell, Mary, Fella, Stefano and Newman, Michael	European Integration in the 21st Century – Unity in Diversity?	London: Sage	2002	
Gillingham, John	European Integration 1950-2003: Superstate of New Market Economy?	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press	2003	
Hill, Christopher	The Changing Politics of Foreign Policy	Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan	2003	
McCormick, John	Understanding the European Union	Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan	2008	
Moussis, Nicholas	Handbook of European Union: Institutions and Policies	European Study Service	1999	
Nelsen Brent F. and Stubb Alexander	The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration	Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan	2003	
Nugent, Neill	The Government and Politics of the European Union	Duke University Press	2006	
Nugent, Neill	European Union Enlargement	Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan	2004	
Rosamond, Ben	Theories of European Integration	Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan	2004	
Van Oudenaren, John	Uniting Europe: An Introduction to the European Union	Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield	2005	