



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2020-2021

COURSE TITLE

Interest Representation in the EU

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Justin GREENWOOD & Pierre DELALANDE

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

Maryia BRESKAYA

COURSE TYPE

Optional Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP

ECTS CREDITS

4

CONTACT HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims to explain why the EU has systematic dependence on interest representation, and evaluate procedures used by EU institutions to seek outcomes which are pluralistic and public goods oriented.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course students will be able to identify and assess:

- The instruments through which EU institutions structure their dialogue with outside stakeholders, ranging from consultation mechanisms to transparency related measures;
- The consequences of this dialogue for different kinds of legitimacy;
- The limitations of interest organisations as sources of legitimacy;
- Comparative perspectives on the role of interest and advocacy groups in political systems; and the ways in which the properties of the EU political system, and the architecture of EU decision making, structures the character and *modus operandi* of EU interest representation;
- The political behaviour and mobilisation of different interest constituencies and the factors which explain them;
- Who wins? i.e. the ways in which different types of underlying politics inform different distributions of costs and benefits in legislative proposals;
- The use made of interest organisations by EU political institutions to achieve their goals;
- The impact of direct participatory measures (e.g. the European Citizens' Initiative) on the EU system of interest representation;
- The role of social movements in politicising European public spaces;

- The extent to which public deliberation between interest and advocacy groups and EU institutions results in a 'participatory democracy' involving popular control of EU decision making.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Greenwood, J (2017, 4th ed.) *Interest Representation in the European Union* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan)

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Common readings followed by class discussion; case studies with discussion and small group problem-solving elements; work with databases; elective presentations; traditional lectures.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Closed book written examination: 2 hours (55% weighting);

Essay or presentation (30% weighting):

- Essay: 1800-2200-word essay (select from a choice of three questions)
- Presentation (2-3 slots available): presentation of 25 minutes; student proposes and confirms topic with the Professor.

Quality of contributions on intranet forum (15% weighting). Each item is accompanied by written criteria used for assessment.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session. (art. 28 of the Specific Provisions).

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course provides an academic analysis of the systemic role of interest representation in the EU political system. The content is described in the 'course learning outcomes' section.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Common readings; case studies; database interrogation, including the European Transparency Register (a database of organisations seeking to influence the public policy of the EU institutions). The course has run continuously since 2004 through annual option choice selections made by students.