



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2024-25

SEMESTER

1

COURSE TITLE

EU Institutions and Decision-Making

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Christopher LORD

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Jacopo GIRAUDO

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Compulsory course

(2) Compulsory course

ECTS CREDITS

1

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This introductory compulsory course aims to familiarise students with the main institutions and actors of the European Union. The course covers the European Commission, the European Council, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, and the European Court of Justice. It analyses the powers and composition of those institutions, and how they interact to shape the decisions and policy outcomes of the Union.

At the end of this course, the student will be able to

- explain the main features of the EU's main institutions
- understand the EU's institutional design and internal policy processes
- describe the EU's basic institutional principles and the ordinary legislative procedure
- critically assess the polity of the EU (legitimacy and democracy).

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies**:

- 1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of the institutional architecture and the decision-making processes in the European Union and in particular in EU external relations.
- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information within a short period of time and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organising, setting priorities and meeting deadlines.



The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **Transatlantic Affairs**:

- 1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.
- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. The European Commission
3. The European Council and Council of Ministers
4. The European Parliament
5. European Elections and Party Politics of the EU
6. The European Court of Justice

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the full course outline.

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures: Slides are provided for each session.
- Discussions in class: Students are expected to fully attend all classes, to prepare the required readings and to participate actively in the discussions.
- Students have to sign an attendance list in each session. Any unjustified absence has to be compensated by an individual paper assignment.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the detailed reading list and the slides.

6. EVALUATION

This intensive course takes place at the very beginning of the academic year and requires full attendance. Students have to sign an attendance list in each session. Any unjustified absence has to be compensated by an individual paper assignment. The paper will reflect the length of absence and the topic(s) of the part(s) that the student missed. It will be marked on a 'pass' or 'fail' basis. Should a student fail the paper assignment, a mark (below 11) will be attributed and mentioned on the transcript.

In case of a second-session resit, the assessment will also take the form of an individual paper assignment that will be marked in the same manner.