

Institutions and Politics of the European Union

Code: 101083
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500259 Political Science and Public Management.	OB	3	2
2503778 International Relations	OB	2	2

Contact

Name: Nuria Font Borrás

Email: Nuria.Font@uab.cat

Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

Some groups entirely in English: Yes

Some groups entirely in Catalan: No

Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

Prerequisites

For students of the Degree in Political Science and Public Management: The student is assumed to know, at least, the concepts, theories and knowledge covered in the subjects 'Political Science', 'English for Social Sciences' and 'Administration and Public Policies'. In addition, it is recommended that the student has completed and passed the course 'Comparative Politics I'.

For students of the Degree in International Relations: The student is assumed to know, at least, the concepts, theories and knowledge covered in the subjects 'Political Science' and 'English for Social Sciences'. In addition, it is recommended that the student has completed and passed the subject 'Public Policy Analysis'.

It is assumed that the student can read texts in English. It is also assumed that the student has the habit of reading regular newspapers.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This subject is compulsory in the 3rd year of Degree in Political Science and Public Management and in 2nd year Degree in International Relations. Overall, the subject's main objective is that students acquire basic theoretical and empirical knowledge on the European Union and learn the capacities to use it in the analysis and interpretation of European political processes. The most specific objectives are: first, learning the historical process of European construction, the evolution and current functioning of the main political institutions and the inter-institutional relations; secondly, learning the main political dynamics and decision-making processes of the EU through the analysis of some of the most relevant recent political events at European level; third, getting use to the institutional sources of data on the European Union and learning how to use them to conduct empirical studies; Finally, knowing the main theoretical approaches that currently dominate the European studies field.

Competences

- Political Science and Public Management.
- Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
- Connecting the different components that shape the structure and operations of political systems and the environment where they interact.

- Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
- Demonstrating knowledge about the structure and working of the European Union and its main institutions, as well as identifying the main political actors and recognising the main means of integration.
- Demonstrating the comprehension of the structure and functioning of political systems in the internal and international arena, both in the analytic area and in the elaboration of intervention proposals or public policies.
- Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
- Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
- Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
- Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.
- Showing a good capacity for transmitting information, distinguishing key messages for their different recipients.
- Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
- Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
- Working autonomously.
- Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.
- Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

International Relations

- Analyse the structure and operation of international institutions and organisations (political, economic, military and security, environmental, development and emergency aid) both in the universal and regional spheres, with particular emphasis on the European Union, from either real or simulated cases.
- Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
- Learn and analyse the impacts of the globalisation process on domestic political systems and on the behaviour of the political actors and the public.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Use English to receive and communicate analyses and proposals.
- Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

Learning Outcomes

1. Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
2. Connecting the different components that shape the structure and operations of political systems and the environment where they interact.
3. Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
4. Demonstrating knowledge about the structure and working of the European Union and its main institutions, as well as identifying the main political actors and recognising the main means of integration.
5. Demonstrating the comprehension of the structure and functioning of political systems in the internal and international arena, both in the analytic area and in the elaboration of intervention proposals or public policies.
6. Distinguish how member states and the EU implement measures and policies aimed at intervening in globalisation processes.
7. Explain the functioning of the European political institutions, their competences and the way in which they draw up their agendas, take political decisions and implement the results.
8. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
9. Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
10. Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
11. Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
12. Realising effective oral presentations that are suited to the audience.

13. Reconstruct the decision-making process of community policies and evaluate the results.
14. Showing a good capacity for transmitting information, distinguishing key messages for their different recipients.
15. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
16. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
17. Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
18. Use English to receive and communicate analyses and proposals.
19. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.
20. Using the main information and documentation techniques (ICT) as an essential tool for the analysis.
21. Working autonomously.
22. Working by using quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in order to apply them to research processes.
23. Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

Content

CONTENTS

BLOCK 1. Creation of the European Communities and evolution of the process of European integration

Unit 1. Historical origins of the European Communities. The ECSC, the EEC and EURATOM

Unit 2. The Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty

Unit 3. The Amsterdam Treaty, the Nice Treaty, the failed 'Constitutional Treaty'

Unit 4. The Lisbon Treaty

BLOCK 2. Main institutions and bodies of the European Union

Unit 5. The European Council

Unit 6. The Council of the European Union

Unit 7. The European Commission

Unit 8. The European Parliament

Unit 9. The Court of Justice of the European Union

Unit 10. The European Central Bank

Unit 11. Other bodies of the European Union

BLOCK 3. The decision-making process in the European Union

Unit 12. The institutional triangle Commission - Parliament - Council. The legislative process

BLOCK 4. The EU in times of crisis

Unit 13. The crisis of the euro. The question of Greece

Unit 14. El Brexit

Unit 15. The crisis of refugees

Unit 16. Euroscepticism

Unit 17. The EU and Turkey

BLOCK 5. Theories of European integration

Unit 18. The debate neofunctionalism - intergovernmentalism; the liberal intergovernmental - constructivism debate; the new institutionalism; multilevel governance; the European Union as a political system

Methodology

The methodology of the Institutions and Politics of the European Union combines various training activities designed so that the student reaches the learning outcomes. These include autonomous, directed and supervised activities. The autonomous activities include the individual study (30 hours), the reading of texts (30 hours) and the preparation of works in groups (15 hours). The directed activities include master sessions (30 hours), seminars and practical sessions (15 hours), and the public presentation of essays (7.5 hours). Supervised activities include tutorized follow-up (15 hours).

Type of activity	Activity	Hours	Learning outcomes
Directed 52.5 hours (35%)	Master classes with ICT support and group discussion	30	Understanding the historical process of European integration, the functioning of the institutions, the political processes of the EU and the main theories of European integration
	Public presentation of essays	7,5	Public presentation of the knowledge acquired in a proper way
	Seminars and practical classes	15	Active, informed and conceptually correct participation in the debates
Supervised 15 hours (10%)	Tutoring	15	Clarification of doubts and complementary supervision of the training activities
Autonomous 75 hours (50%)	Reading texts	30	Understanding the main theoretical and empirical contributions on the European Union
	Study	30	Understanding concepts and institutional dynamics in the European Union
	Preparation of team work	15	Demonstrate the understanding of the concepts and / or experience related to the practical activity

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master sessions (by the professor)	30	1.2	5, 4, 2
Oral presentation of essays	7.5	0.3	1, 4, 3, 9, 10, 17, 22, 21, 20
Seminars and practical sessions	15	0.6	1, 4, 12, 14, 17, 22
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	15	0.6	11
Type: Autonomous			
Preparation of an essay in groups	15	0.6	1, 4, 9, 17, 21, 23
Readings	30	1.2	4, 10, 17
Study	30	1.2	4, 11, 10, 17, 21

Assessment

The evaluation represents approximately 5% of the total hours, equivalent to 7.5 hours.

The assessment consists of the following deliveries by the student:

- Written exam on knowledge about the subject: 50% of the final mark. The exam consists of two parts: an essay-type exam (25% of the final mark) and a multiple-choice test (25% of the final mark). It is a necessary but not sufficient condition to pass the exam in order to pass the subject
- 2 reading tests: 20% of the mark (each control has a weight of 10% of the final mark)
- Delivery and presentation of an essay made in a group: 20% of the final mark (10% of the work and 10% of the oral presentation)
- Oral participation in seminars and sessions: 10% of the final mark

Important considerations:

- The exam will be carried out at the end of the semester, the date scheduled by the Facultad, and will be made public enough in advance
- The calendar of sessions, activities and reading tests will be made public during the first days of the semester
- Students who have not passed the final EXAM will have the opportunity to take a recovery examination. That is to say, they may take a second examination on the date determined by the Faculty, having completed the term of the second semester. Under no circumstances will students be able to take part in the recovery activities to raise their marks. None of the other evaluable activities is recoverable
- In case of detection of plagiarism in the essays delivered, the sanction will be not passing the course. On the Campus you can consult the Guide on How to Cite and How to Avoid Plagiarism.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
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Oral participation in seminars and sessions	10%	0.5	0.02	1, 19, 4, 3, 12, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, 20
Preparation of an essay and oral presentation	20%	2.5	0.1	19, 4, 12, 11, 8, 9, 10, 14, 17, 22, 21, 23, 20
Test on readings	20%	2	0.08	1, 5, 4, 6, 11, 10, 13, 2, 17, 18
Written exam	50%	2.5	0.1	1, 5, 4, 3, 6, 7, 11, 16, 13, 2, 17

Bibliography

Handbooks:

Bomberg, E., J. Peterson i A. Stubb (eds) (2008), *The European Union: How Does it Work?*, Oxford University Press.

Dinan, D. (2005), *Ever Closer Union: An Introduction to European Integration*, Boulder (CO): Lynne Rienner.

Hix, S. y B. Hoyland (2012), *El Sistema Político de la Unión Europea*, Madrid: McGraw Hill.

Peterson, J. y M. Shackleton (eds) (2002), *The Institutions of the European Union*, Oxford University Press.

Complementary bibliography

Cini, M. (ed.), (2009), *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press.

Dinan, D. (2004). 'Governance and Institutions. The Convention and the Intergovernmental Conference', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, V. 42, p. 27-42.

Dinan, D. (2009), "Saving the Lisbon Treaty: An Irish Solution to a European Problem", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Annual Review 2009, Vol. 47, pp. 1113-132

Dinan, D. (2008), "Ending the Constitutional Impasse," *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Annual Review 2008, Vol. 46, September 2008, pp. 71-90

Dinan, D. (2008), "Fifty Years of European Integration," *Fordham International Law Journal*, 31/5, pp. 1118-1142.

Fernández Pasarín, A.M., (2007), *Europa como opción histórica*, Barcelona: IUEE/UAB.

MateoGonzález, G. (2008), *Hacia una Constitución Europea: Las Conferencias Intergubernamentales en la EU*, València: Tirant lo Blanch.

Morata, F. (2005), *Hisòria de la Unió Europea*, Barcelona: UOC.

Moravcsik, A. (1998), *The Choice for Europe: social purpose and State power from Messina to Maastricht*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Nelsen, B. i A. Stubb (eds.) (2003), *The European Union: readings on the theory and practice of European integration*, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 145-149.

Nugent, N. (2003), *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Siedentop, L. (2000), *Democracy in Europe*, Hammondsorth: Penguin.

Torreblanca, J.I. (2001), ['Principios, intereses, instituciones y preferencias: un análisis de la racionalidad de la ampliación al Este de la Unión Europea'](#), *Revista Española de Ciencia Política*, [núm. 4](#), pp. 71-96.

Wallace, H., M. Pollack, i A. Young (eds.), *Policy-Making in the European Union*, Oxford University Press, 6th ed., 2010.

Academic journals:

Common Market Law Review:

<http://www.kluwerlaw.com/Catalogue/titleinfo.htm?ProdID=SS01650750&name=Common-Market-Law-Review&c>

Journal of Common Market Studies: <http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0021-9886>

Journal of European Integration: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/geui20/current>

Journal of European Public Policy: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/routledge/13501763.html>

West European Politics: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/01402382.asp>

Institutional websites:

Portal de la UE: <http://europa.eu/>

Parlament Europeu: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default_en.htm?redirection

Consell Europeu: http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-council/index_es.htm

Consell de la UE: <http://consilium.europa.eu/showPage.ASP?lang=es>

Comissió Europea: http://ec.europa.eu/index_es.htm

Tribunal de Justícia de la UE: http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice/index_es.htm

Observatori Legislatiu de la UE: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/home/home.do>

EUR-Lex: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=es>

EU-related websites:

Votewatch: www.votewatch.eu

Euroobserver: <http://www.euobserver.com>

Eupolitix: <http://www.eupolitics.com>