

## **COURSE PLAN**

### **Institutions and Decision-Making in the EU. The European Civil Service**

**Master in Diplomacy and  
International Organizations**

**COURSE CONTENTS**

**COURSE**

<b>CODE</b>	573348
<b>TITLE</b>	Institutions and Decision-Making in the EU. The European Civil Service
<b>TYPE</b>	Compulsory
<b>TEACHING PERIOD</b>	One semester. First semester.
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	English and Spanish
<b>ECTS CREDITS</b>	3.0

**COORDINATION**

Dr. Andrea Noferini, PhD in Economía, Profesor at CEI, Centro de Estudios Internacionales.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The European Union represents a unique model of regional integration between sovereign states and it is an important actor in the context of international relations as well in the context of international trade. This course aims to provide students with the analytical tools and practical skills required to understand how the EU works, the challenges it faces (rising populisms and nationalisms, the Brexit, rising inequalities, etc...), and the solutions it can bring (The Convention on the Future of Europe, for example).

The course focuses on the institutional design of the EU as a supranational institution, the relations among its main institutions and organizations, decision-making processes, the role of central governments of the Member States as well as some specific policy areas of particular relevance such as enlargement, trade policy, the budget and cohesion policy.

## COMPETENCES

### GENERAL COMPETENCES

- To bring the student closer to the knowledge of the European Union, specifically to its institutional system and the European public function.
- Mastering specialized language orally or in writing.
- Critical reasoning and self-criticism.
- That students know how to apply the knowledge acquired and their ability to solve problems in new or little-known environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their area of study.
- That students are able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of formulating judgments based on information that, being incomplete or limited, includes reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments.

### SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

- Propose new and original criteria for the interpretation and application of international norms and jurisprudence in order to adapt them to the complex and changing international reality under study.
- Know how to identify and assess the impact of European integration on internal state regulations and on its foreign policy, as well as on EU foreign relations, in relation to the different areas under study.
- Formulate, present and debate solutions to specific problems in international and multicultural environments, with original and superior arguments, both orally and in writing.
- Regarding the institutional system, the course aims to introduce the student to the institutional life of the European Union, emphasizing the prerogatives of the main political institutions, inter-institutional power relations and the so-called "community method". The course also deals with two other key institutions in the process of European construction: The Court of Justice, the European Central Bank, the European Committee of the Regions.
- Regarding the European public function, the course aims to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of the European public function, particularly access to careers with the EU and the statute of rights and duties of the European civil servant.
- Finally, the course also aims to introduce students to the main debates around the process of European construction, specifically the challenge of Brexit and the questioning, by various States of the Union, of the European model of democracy and the rule of law.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify the different types of operation and organization of the institutions of the European Union.
- Qualitatively assess the acting and decision-making capacities of the European institutions.
- Know the mechanisms of access to the European public function and assess the regulation and organization of its statute.

### PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

#### PART 1 – THE INSTITUTIONAL FUNCTIONING OF THE EU

##### **TOPIC 1: The EU as a political system**

Introduction

On the nature of the EU (not a super/state not a federal system)

What a political system is IV. Beyond the debate on the nature of the EU

##### **TOPIC 2: The EU Parliament**

The role of the Parliament in EU decision/making

The functions of the Parliament and its composition

The Parliament and the democratic deficit

Criticism towards the role of the Parliament.

##### **TOPIC 3: The European Council and the Council**

The role and the functions of the Council

The defence of the national interest in the Council

Voting systems and political majorities within the Council

The role of the European Council and its President.

##### **TOPIC 4: The European Commission**

The role and the functions of the Commission

The composition of the Commission and the role of the Commissioners

The Commission as “the guardian of the treaties” and “the agenda-setter” of EU policies,

On the nature of the Commission: political or administrative organization?

##### **TOPIC 5: SEMINAR 1: El proceso de adopción de decisiones (\*in Spanish)**

¿De qué manera se toman las decisiones en la UE?,

El rol de las tres principales instituciones de la UE

Las dificultades de la relación interinstitucionales en el entramado de la UE.

## **PART 2 – SELECTED ISSUES AND POLICIES OF THE EUROPEAN PROCESS OF INTEGRATION**

### **TOPIC 6: The European Court of Justice and the implementation of EU law**

The role of the European Court of Justice in the EU law  
Composition and functions of the ECJ  
The EJC and the judicial power in the EU

### **TOPIC 7: The European Budget and the Next Generation EU: where does money come from and how are they allocated?**

How big (or small) is the EU budget?  
Where do the money come from and where are they spent?  
The new Multiannual Financial Perspective 2021/2027  
An unprecedented effort: The Next Generation EU - the fund for the recovery of Europe after the pandemic caused by the COVID 19.

### **TOPIC 8: SEMINAR: Inequality, social cohesion and redistribution within the European Union: The European Cohesion Policy explained**

Is inequality rising in the EU?  
Inequality and social exclusion revisited  
Territorial differences among the Member States, regions and cities  
Does a regional policy serve for the convergence of EU territories?

### **TOPIC 9: The Administration of the EU and the Statute of its Public Officials**

The civil service in the EU system  
Public administration and bureaucracy in the EU  
The Statute of public officials in the EU

### **TOPIC 10: The EU as a promoter of democracy and the rule of law: the rise of populism(s) and nationalism(s) in the EU – understanding the BREXIT**

Rising populisms and nationalisms in the EU  
A radiography of populist movements and parties in the EU  
Populist parties in the European Parliament  
The impact of nationalisms and populisms on the process of European integration.

### **TOPIC 11: The EU in the Mediterranean context: macroregional strategies and network governance in the Mediterranean**

Governance beyond governments  
Euroregions and macro-regions as instrument for novel methods of governance  
The role of network governance and transnational cooperation.

**TOPIC 12: The future of the EU – Final debate on the Convention on the Future of Europe**

The current crisis (economic, migratory, institutional) and their impact on the process of integration

The future of the process of integration

Testing the resilience of the process of integration.

**PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**

**REQUIRED SUBJECTS**

No enrollment restrictions. This course is part of the Master's module "The European Union as International Actor", together with "The European Union's External Action and Foreign Policy".

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Students with no previous knowledge of Public International Law and International Organizations, International relations and International Politics, Economics and International Trade must take the following mandatory complementary courses:

- Introduction to Public International Law and International Organizations (2 ECTS)
- Introduction to International Relations and International Politics (2 ECTS)
- Introduction to Economics and International Trade (2 ECTS)

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

This course consists of one in-person class session per week of two hours.

The teaching will combine the theoretical exposition of the professor with the participation of the students in the discussions and debates. For each session a mandatory reading will be assigned.

**ASSESSMENT**

Students will be able to choose between continuous assessment and single assessment within the deadline set by CEI's own regulation through the registration of a form available at CEI Secretariat. Students must attend no less than 80% of the classes in order to qualify for any assessment.

The **continuous assessment** of this course will combine two evaluation mechanisms:

- Continuous assessment (60% of the grade): two seminars will be conducted during the course. These which will score 50% of the grade (25% each one). Participation in the theoretical and practical classes will be evaluated in the remaining 10% of the continuous assessment grade.
- Final test (40% of the final grade).

**WORKLOAD**

**WORKING HOURS**

<b>TOTAL</b>	75
<b>CONTACT TIME</b>	25
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	25
<b>INDEPENDENT STUDY</b>	25

**BASIC REFERENCES**

- ALCAIDE FERNANDEZ, J. (coord.), *Curso de Derecho de la Unión Europea*, Tecnos, Madrid, 2014
- ABELLÁN HONRUBIA, V.; VILÀ COSTA, B. (dir): *Lecciones de Derecho Comunitario Europeo*, Ariel Derecho, Barcelona, 6ª ed., 2011.
- BAQUERO CRUZ, J. *What's left of the law of integration?: Decay and resistance in European Union*, 1st ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- BOMBERG, E., PETERSON, J. and CORBETT, R., *The European Union. How does it work?*, 3rd. ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- BORCHARDT, K., *The ABC of the European Union Law*, Brussels: OPOCE, 2010

- FONTAINE, P., *Europe in 12 lessons*, Brussels: OPOCE, 2014.
- HIX, S. and HØYLAND, B., *The Political System of the European Union*, 3rd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
- MANGAS MARTÍN, A.; LIÑÁN NOGUERAS, D.J., *Instituciones y Derecho de la Unión Europea*, Tecnos, Madrid, 2016.
- ORTEGA GÓMEZ, M., *La Comisión Europea y el gobierno de la Unión*, Marcial Pons, 2013.
- SARMIENTO, D., *Derecho de la Unión Europea*, Madrid, Marcial Pons, 2018.
- ZIMMERMANN, H. and DÜR, A. *Key controversies in European integration*, 2nd ed., London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.