

Cologne Global Study Program Contemporary European Studies 2018/19
Core Course European politics: “The institutions of the European Union”

Wednesdays, 16:00-17:30 h, Venue: S57 (103/EG/057) Philosophikum, Albertus-Magnus-Platz.
 Starting from 19.12.2018: Seminar Building (Building no. 106), Seminarraum S 26.

Dr. Tobias Kunstein, kunstein@wiso.uni-koeln.de, Office hours Tuesdays 10-12 h or by appointment,
 Institute of Political Science, Gottfried-Keller-Str. 6, Room 1.13 (203/OG/1.13).

Course description

The process of integration among sovereign nation states embodied by the European Union (EU) is a unique attempt of organising the co-existence of peoples. The EU’s sui generis character – something between a *federation of nation states*, or “Staatenbund”, and a *federal state*, or “Bundesstaat” (which led the German Constitutional Court to invent the term “Staatenverbund”) – makes the EU an ideal test case for political scientists interested in international cooperation.

Although the EU is used to sailing rough seas, recent years have seen a succession of apparently existential crises and frantic reforms. Most recently, Brexit – the first-ever exit of a Member State – may form a watershed moment for the Union as a whole. At the very least, it implies that fast-paced institutional adaptation will continue. For example, a number of proposals have been tabled on how to deal with the UK’s 73 allotted seats in the European Parliament, which will likely become vacant just before the upcoming European Elections in May 2019.

Against this background, the seminar aims to take a closer look at the political structures underlying the EU. Based on a systematic appraisal of the Union’s institutional foundations, its strength and weaknesses will be the subject of debate and assessment. In particular, the seminar will include two sessions organised along the lines of a Tilbury debate. Students will controversially discuss a statement in two teams and try to defend a point of view that is not necessarily their own.

Course outline

1	10.10.2018	Introduction <i>Course organisation KLIPS and ILIAS Presentation of Tilbury Debating style Supranationalism vs Intergovernmentalism Previous knowledge of EU institutions</i>
2	17.10.2018	Some EU Basics <i>History of the EU: ECSC, EURATOM, EEC Founding Fathers Milestones of EU integration Deepening and Widening EU Treaties: TEU and TFEU Competences of the EU: policy areas EU Budget Benefits and Costs of Membership</i>
3	24.10.2018	Tools and Techniques <i>Organisation of Presentations and Debates Sources on the EU Academic Writing in Political Science Possible essay topics</i>
	31.10.2018	No seminar (holiday)
4	07.11.2018	The European Commission <i>History, Composition, Tasks Commission President & staff Monopoly of legislative proposals Discussion of various labels: “Technocracy”, “Engine of European Integration”</i> Egeberg, Morton (2016) “The European Commission”, in: Cini, Michelle/Pérez-Solórzano-Borragán, Nieves (eds.) <i>European Union Politics</i> , Oxford: OUP: Chapter 10.
5	14.11.2018	The European Parliament <i>History, Composition, Tasks Legislative, Electoral, budgetary functions Elections to the European Parliament (Second-order elections, degressive proportionality) Transparency</i> Cini, Michelle und Pérez-Solórzano-Borragán, Nieves (eds.) (2016) <i>European Union Politics</i> , Oxford: OUP: Chapter 12.
6	21.11.2018	The EU Council <i>History, Composition, Tasks Ordinary Legislative Procedure Discussion of accountability vs efficiency Voting in the Council Rotating Presidencies</i> Hayes-Renshaw, Fiona (2017) The Council of Ministers, in: Peterson, John and Hodson, Dermot (eds) <i>The Institutions of the European Union</i> , 4th ed., Oxford: OUP, p. 80-107.

7	28.11.2018	The European Council <i>History, Composition, Tasks</i> <i>“The Masters of the Treaties”</i> <i>EU Summitry</i> <i>The President of the European Council</i> <i>Presidency conclusions</i> <i>Eurozone summit</i> De Schoutheete, Philippe (2017) <i>The European Council</i> , in: Peterson, John and Hodson, Dermot (eds) <i>The Institutions of the European Union</i> , 4th ed., Oxford: OUP, p. 55-79.
8	05.12.2018	Debate preparation
9	12.12.2018	Debate 1: “The UK's 73 seats in the European Parliament should be removed after Brexit!” Recap
10	19.12.2018	The European Court of Justice <i>History, Composition, Tasks</i> <i>Direct rulings and preliminary rulings</i> <i>Cassis de Dijon case</i> <i>Independence of judges</i> <i>Legal activism and integration by law</i> Kapsis, Ilias (2016) “The Court of Justice of the European Union”, in: Cini, Michelle und Pérez-Solórzano-Borragán, Nieves (eds.) <i>European Union Politics</i> , Oxford: OUP, p. 167-178.
11	09.01.2019	The European Central Bank <i>History, Composition, Tasks</i> <i>Economic and Monetary Union</i> <i>Inflation rates and central bank independence</i> <i>The crisis of the Eurozone</i> Hodson, Dermot (2017) <i>The European Central Bank</i> , in: Peterson, John and Hodson, Dermot (eds) <i>The Institutions of the European Union</i> , 4th ed., Oxford: OUP, p. 213-235.
12	16.01.2019	Debate preparation
13	23.01.2019	Debate 2: "The EU should introduce a quota system to redistribute refugees evenly among Member States!" Recap
	30.01.2019	No seminar (final core module exam in this week)

Exam

In order to obtain ECTS credits:

All students (CGSP, Erasmus, Studium Integrale)

- Presentation of ~20 min. of one EU institution in a group (3-4 students) including preparation of a 2-page handout, OR participation in one Tilbury debate.
- Written exam (multiple choice, 30 minutes): Friday, February 1st, 12:00 h.

Additionally for Cologne Global Study Programme

- Written elaboration (essay) of the topic of one of the Tilbury debates or one of the presentations. Core module: 4 pages, graded. Elective module: 3 pages, not graded.
Please hand in the essays via Email by 28 January 2018.

Literature

English:

- Cini, Michelle und Pérez-Solórzano-Borragán, Nieves (eds.) (2016) *European Union Politics*, 5th ed., Oxford: OUP.
- Peterson, John and Hodson, Dermot (2017) *The Institutions of the European Union*, 4th, ed., Oxford: OUP.

German:

- Weidenfeld, Werner und Wessels, Wolfgang (Hrsg.) (2016) *Europa von A bis Z. Taschenbuch der Europäischen Integration*, 14. Auflage, Baden Baden: Nomos.