

COURSE SYLLABUS

Title: The European Union Policy-Making

Professor: Olivier COSTA

Credits: 4

Language of instruction: English

Course objectives :

The aim of the course is to undertake a critical analysis of EU institutional structure and political functioning from the point of view of political science.

The course proposes a reflection on the nature of the EU political system and policy, by looking at its historical and constitutional design.

It then examines how the EU institutions are appointed; how they function; their respective powers; how they interact with each other's and with the national political institutions and civil society actors.

It describes the European policy making.

It finally examines the process of institutional reform and the challenges the EU is facing today.

Course description:

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

- A. *The European Union: between international regime and political regime***
- B. *Three methodological precautions***
- C. *How to study EU and its policy-making?***

I. THE MAIN STEPS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

- A. *The objectives of European integration: flashback on an ancient idea***
- B. *European integration chronology, decade by decade***

II. THE EU INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM

- A. *The System's philosophy***
- B. *The EU institutions: from innovation to mimesis***
 - 1. Impulsion
 - 2. Decision
- C. *Other institutions***
 - 1. Institutions of control
 - 2. Consultation organs

3. Financial Organs
4. Agencies

D. Non institutional actors

1. Experts
2. Stakeholders and lobbyists

III. DECISION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

A. The decision process in the EU

1. Codecision Procedure
2. Other legislative procedures

B. Four models of decision in the EU, four levels of involvement of Member states

1. Community method: "partnership" in the Monnet way
2. Intergovernmental cooperation: "joint decision" in the De Gaulle way
3. The Open Method of Coordination (OMC)
4. Centralized regulation

Bibliography :

- BOMBERG E., PETERSON J. and CORBETT R. (2012), *The European Union. How does it work?*, Oxford University Press, 3^o edition, 300 p.
- COSTA O., BRACK N. (2011), *Le fonctionnement de l'Union européenne*, Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles
- COSTA O., BRACK N. (2013 – forth.), *How does the EU really functions?*, Ashgate
- DEHOUSSE, R. (2009), *Politiques de l'Union européenne*, Paris, Presses de Sciences Po;
- HIX, S. and HØYLAND, B. (2010), *The Political System of the European Union*, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 3rd ed.
- MAGNETTE P. (2005.), *What is European Union? Nature and Prospects*, Palgrave Macmillan;
- MAGNETTE P. (2009.), *Le régime politique de l'Union européenne*, Paris, Presses de Sciences po, 3ième édition ;

Evaluation: Written exam – 4 short questions – 1h30

Available on moodle: yes – Full powerpoint (250 slides)