The dynamic architecture of the European institutions

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Overview

The European Union is governed by a set of interconnected institutions that are based on the treaties of the European Union. In order to understand political outcomes at the EU level, we need to first get an overview of the key institutions, how they are elected, how they work and how they came to be. We will then discuss the implications of this institutional setup for decision-making and political outcomes and answer key questions like: Who holds power in the European Union? Is there a democratic deficit that stems from the structure of EU institutions? What explains the way these institutions work together?

Course Objectives

- Become familiar with the main institutions of the European Union: The European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the European Commission, and the Court of Justice.
- Understand different theories that are used to explain EU integration.
- Acquire tools to analyse EU decision-making.

Prerequisites

A basic knowledge of concepts and methods in political science is required. Students should be able to understand academic papers written in English. Lectures and the exam will be in English.

Course Structure

The course will be taught online. Some parts of class will be more of a lecture, others will consist of group work in which students apply some of the information learned in the course to real-world cases on EU decision making. Class discussion on the content of the lecture is encouraged and students can always come forward with questions during the lecture.

Course Outline

Day 1: Introduction and Historical Development of EU Treaties - October 12, 2021 09:30-11:00

Readings

- Herman Lelieveldt and Sebastiaan Princen. *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015, Chapter 1

Day 2: Theories of European Integration and European Executive - October 14, 2021, 09:30-12:30

Readings

- Herman Lelieveldt and Sebastiaan Princen. *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015, Chapter 2
- Herman Lelieveldt and Sebastiaan Princen. *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015, Chapter 3, pp. 51-65

Day 3: European Legislative and Judiciary - October 15, 2021, 09:30-12:30

Readings

- Herman Lelieveldt and Sebastiaan Princen. *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015, Chapter 3, pp. 66-78

Day 4: Decision-Making and Legislation - October 29, 2021, 09:30-12:30

Readings

- Herman Lelieveldt and Sebastiaan Princen. *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015, Chapter 4

References

Herman Lelieveldt and Sebastiaan Princen. *The Politics of the European Union*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015.