

European Union Politics

Contemporary Research Perspectives

University of Potsdam,
Master seminar
Summer term 2024
Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., Room [3.06. S28](#)

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A. Course outline and learning goals

This seminar should help students in acquiring an in-depth understanding of the contemporary functions and functioning of the European Union, building on both recent empirical research in the political sciences and on group work in the seminar.

The seminar contents are structured along three blocks. In the *first block*, we will look at the traditional explanations of European integration and political co-operation in the EU. We then together assess whether these classical explanations still hold when we think about the different crises the EU has lived through in the last two decades. The *second block* will then zoom in on the functions and functioning of the key institutions in EU legislative politics, most notably the European Council and the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, as well as the European Commission. Students will learn about and discuss the internal decision-making logics of these institutions and their relative influence in the EU as a whole. The *third block* finally focusses on the interactions between European decision-making and national politics. We will especially investigate the public politicisation of EU affairs in the member states to then review empirical research studying how different EU institutions respond to and deal with such controversial public debates.

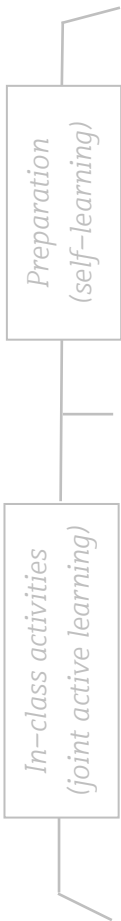
Throughout these three blocks, students will thus encounter the key questions in the current scientific and political debates about the EU and European integration and will train how to think and discuss about them on their own. Throughout the individual sessions, the seminar will provide many pointers to relevant literatures as well empirical data sources and research methods for students wishing to pursue specific questions further.

B. Course requirements and seminar organization

The seminar addresses Masters students in political science and related disciplines (e.g. international relations, comparative politics, public administration, or political sociology) who are interested in understanding and analyzing contemporary European Union politics. Prior exposure to or practical experience in EU politics is an asset but not a requirement to engage in this class. But prospective participants should be willing to:

- Engage with the substantive and methodological aspects of political science literature,
- Invest in active self-learning based on the various materials provided,
- Contribute their knowledge, views, and questions to our active learning in class.

The seminar will experiment with the idea of an **inverted or flipped classroom**. Contrary to traditional teaching in class, I will offer the lecture and content delivery part of the seminar *before* our meetings. This will typically be one or two introductory texts for your own reading and a lecture video shared via Moodle roughly three days before each session. For you, this approach has *two key advantages*. First, it allows you to learn about the key contents of each session at your own speed. Second, it frees up *in-class time* for joint, active learning: together we will deepen the key contents of each session on the basis of your questions, group discussions and debates, as well as presentations of more advanced topics. To realize these advantages all participants should take both their own preparation phase as well as our joint in-class work seriously along the following *seminar participation steps*:

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1. Start the preparation by reading the guiding questions provided for each session.
2. Read the obligatory introductory text(s) for the session and mark this task as completed on Moodle.
3. Watch the lecture video (~30 mins) offered for the session and mark this task as completed on Moodle.
4. Assess whether you have understood the key concepts listed for each session and how they help you in sketching answers to the guiding questions.
5. Note down your questions, discussion points, or research ideas into the shared document provided for each session on Moodle. This will be the first input for our group discussions in class. Any factual, political or methodological question as well as ideas for tackling the guiding questions empirically is welcome here!
6. Participate actively and regularly during the in-class discussions and activities and cooperate with your fellow students. We will frequently work with the “Think–Pair–Share” (TPS) method where you can make up your own mind, discuss in smaller groups, to then engage in the plenum. If you have to miss an individual session, please notify me briefly via email beforehand.
7. Take up *one of the active participation roles* specified for each individual seminar session. Students wishing to collect at least 4 ECTS for this seminar have to take up one of these roles at least once during seminar. A respective booking tool will be offered via Moodle.

The following active participation roles are available to you in individual sessions:

- *Presenter*: Prepare a ppt/pdf presentation (12-15 mins) on one published study on the topic of the seminar session. Your presentation summarizes the motivation, research design, and results of the study to then engage your fellow students in a short discussion about the implications or shortcomings of that research. Below I suggest suitable studies marked with (P) for each session, but if you have other ideas or if you want to present an own research design (e.g. for your term paper or a potential MA thesis project), I am happy to talk about this!
- *Debater*: Two sessions will be organized as group debates (one on politicization and one on democracy in the EU). To kick off the debates there will be two teams of up to three seminar participants each that argue for and against respective statements. As part of one of these teams, you will search for and collect arguments on the side you are defending during preparation to then exchange them with the opposing team during class. I will provide relevant scientific sources on this debate and I am also happy to talk to your team beforehand.
- *Minute-taker*: As a minute taker you will prepare an overview document of an individual in-class session that will be shared with your fellow students via Moodle (pdf, ~ 3-4 pages). During class you take notes and ask your fellow students if something was unclear, afterwards you summarize the main points and views discussed in class where you may also include links to materials or sources that were mentioned during the discussions.

Students wishing to collect 6 ECTS will hand in a *term paper* in the form of a research design after the seminar (deadline September 30, 2024). The length of the term paper is typically around 6.000 to 7.500 words, depending on the module under which you are enrolled in the seminar. I make more detailed guidelines for the paper available via Moodle and my website.

The term paper format of a research design will be further specified in class but in principle it consists of developing a research question on contemporary EU politics, discussing relevant political science literature to develop expectations/hypothesis for answering the question, to finally discuss empirical sources and methods that could (!) be used for assessing the developed expectations. In other words, you are expected to plan (rather than to execute) a research project. This format is particularly suited to develop and to assess potential projects for a master's thesis (independent from whether it is realized later or not).

Registration takes place via PULS in the first three weeks of the seminar. As noted above, the main means of communication and seminar organization will be a respective course on Moodle.UP with the short title "EUpolitics24". The enrollment key will be shared during the first session of the seminar.

I am very much looking forward to work with and to learn from you!

C. Detailed seminar outline – sessions & literature

1st session (10.04.2024)

Introduction to the seminar and its organization and a brief history of the European Union in numbers

Goals: The session initially sets the scene for the substantial contents of the seminar. It briefly highlights the development of the European Union and its key institutions quantitatively over time. We will thereby get to know the EU as the most developed political system beyond the nation state. Primarily this session should help you in deciding of whether you want to take this seminar. I will thus also introduce the seminar plan and its organization while providing ample room for your questions.

Key concepts: European integration, multi-level governance, EU treaties

Active participation roles available: None

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Hix, S. and Høyland, B. (2022) *The Political System of the European Union*, 4th Ed., London ; New York: Bloomsbury Academic: Chapter 1 (pp 1-23)
- (F) Dehousse, R. and Magette, P. (2017) 'The history of EU institutions: Six decades of institutional change', in D. Hodson and J. Peterson (eds). *The Institutions of the European Union*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 30-52.
- (F) Biesenbender, J. (2011) 'The Dynamics of Treaty Change - Measuring the Distribution of Power in the European Union', *European Integration online Papers (EIoP)* 15(5): 1-24.
- (F) Hooghe, L. and Marks, G. (2003) 'Unraveling the Central State, but How? Types of Multi-level Governance', *American Political Science Review* 97(2): 233-243.

First block: Perspectives on European Integration

17.04.2024: 2nd session

Classical theories of European Integration I: (Neo-)functionalist perspectives

Goals: We will review and assess neo-functionalist theories of European Integration, essentially arguing that political cooperation is rather continuously pushed forward by the need to solve joint functional problems and pro-active strategies of supranational institutions and elites.

Key concepts: functional pressures, spillover logic, technocracy, supranationalism

Active participation roles available: Presenter (2x), Minute-taker (1x)

Guiding questions:

- (1) Do you think that functional pressures and spillover dynamics are still relevant for understanding EU politics today? Can you think of examples?
- (2) Who are the actors that push for further European integration and joint decision-making today, in your opinion?
- (3) Which empirical evidence would you need to see in order to assess whether neo-functional logic still matters today? What information or data sources could we tap into?

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Tranholm-Mikkelsen, J. (1991) 'Neo-functionalism: Obstinate or Obsolete? A Reappraisal in the Light of the New Dynamism of the EC', *Millennium* 20(1): 1–22.

Presentation texts and further reading:

- (P) Niemann, A. and Speyer, J. (2018) 'A Neofunctionalist Perspective on the "European Refugee Crisis": The Case of the European Border and Coast Guard', *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 56(1): 23–43.
- (P) Niemann, A. and Ioannou, D. (2015) 'European economic integration in times of crisis: a case of neofunctionalism?', *Journal of European Public Policy* 22(2): 196–218.
- (F) Niemann, A. (2021) 'Neofunctionalism', in M. Riddervold, J. Trondal, and A. Newsome (eds). *The Palgrave Handbook of EU Crises*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, pp. 115–133.
- (F) Lefkofridi, Z. and Schmitter, P. C. (2020) 'Neofunctionalism in the Decade of Crises', in *Theorising the Crises of the European Union*. Routledge.

24.04.2024: 3rd session

Classical theories of European Integration II: Intergovernmentalism

Goals: We will review and assess liberal intergovernmentalism, a theory that essentially argues that European Integration is primarily driven and/or constrained by negotiations among national governments who represent their dominant economic interest groups at home. We will then explore 'newer' intergovernmentalist perspectives on the EU (and its crises) as well.

Key concepts: national preference formation, interstate bargaining, lowest common denominator, low vs. high politics, credible commitments

Active participation roles available: Presenter (2x), Minute-taker (1x)

Guiding questions:

- (1) From your perspective, is the power of states or the role of EU institutions more decisive in shaping the outcome of EU negotiations and policies? Can you think of (recent) examples?
- (2) Do you think that national governments primarily pursue their domestic economic interests when engaging in EU politics today?
- (3) Which empirical evidence would you like to see in order to assess whether contemporary EU politics is primarily driven by intergovernmentalism? What information or data sources could we tap into?

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Moravcsik, A. (1993) 'Preferences and Power in the European Community: A Liberal Intergovernmentalist Approach', *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 31(4): 473–524.

Presentation texts

- (P) Bickerton, C. J., Hodson, D. and Puetter, U. (2015) 'The New Intergovernmentalism: European Integration in the Post-Maastricht Era', *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 53(4): 703–722.
- (P) Schimmelfennig, F. (2018) 'Liberal Intergovernmentalism and the Crises of the European Union', *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 56(7): 1578–1594.
- (P) Gürkan, S. and Coman, R. (2021) 'The EU–Turkey deal in the 2015 “refugee crisis”: when intergovernmentalism cast a shadow on the EU’s normative power', *Acta Politica* 56(2): 276–305.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Moravcsik, A. (1998) *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- (F) Moravcsik, A. (2018) 'Preferences, Power and Institutions in 21st-century Europe', *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 56(7): 1648–1674.
- (F) Verdun, A. C. (2020) 'Intergovernmentalism: old, liberal, and new', in F. Laursen (Ed.), *Oxford Research Encyclopedias*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

01.05.2024:

No session (Labor day)

08.05.2024: 4th session

Institutionalist perspectives on European integration

Goals: This session introduces participants to institutionalist analyses of EU politics. These perspectives generally argue that actors' strategies and influence on policy outcomes are determined by the rules that govern their interaction. Disagreement exists with regard to which 'rules of the game' are decisive in EU politics and how they matter: rational-choice institutionalists focus on formal decision-making rules and the realization of self-interests, historical institutionalists recur to past decisions when explaining what actors want and can do today, while sociological institutionalist focus on norms and beliefs in shaping the space for agreement.

Key concepts: win sets, agenda-setting, exogenous and endogenous preferences, norms, path dependency

Active participation roles available: Presenter (2x), Minute-taker (1x)

Guiding questions:

- (1) Can you think of contemporary conflicts in European Union politics that are strongly shaped by past decisions on European integration?
- (2) If you think about the key disagreements in European integration today (e.g. those that came to the fore during the refugee crisis, during Brexit, or in the lingering rule-of-law conflicts), are they best explained by different normative stances and identities or rather by states' rational self-interests in your opinion?
- (3) Which empirical evidence could we tap into to study the relative explanatory power of rational self-interest, norms and identities, or historical factors in contemporary EU politics?

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Aspinwall, M. D. and Schneider, G. (2000) 'Same Menu, Separate Tables: The Institutional Turn in Political Science and the Study of European Integration', *European Journal of Political Research* 38(1): 1–36.

Presentation texts:

- (P) Tsebelis, G. and Garrett, G. (2001) 'The Institutional Foundations of Intergovernmentalism and Supranationalism in the European Union', *International Organization* 55(2): 357–390.
- (P) Pierson, P. (1996) 'The Path to European Integration: A Historical Institutional Analysis', *Comparative Political Studies* 29(2): 123–163.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Risse, T. (2004) 'Social Constructivism and European Integration', in A. Wiener and T. Diez (eds). *European Integration Theory*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, available at <https://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/3389> (accessed March 2024).

15.05.2024: 5th session

The public politicization of European Integration (Debate session)

Goals: This session will introduce empirical research on the public politicisation of European integration – meaning the growing salience of EU affairs in domestic media debates, polarization of public opinion on the EU, and the mobilization of different political parties in EU affairs. In class, we will then organize a debate triggered by two opposing teams. Team 1 will argue and justify that public politicisation is a constraint for further political cooperation in the European Union. Team 2 will argue and justify that public politicisation is rather a productive force for further political cooperation in the EU. The other course participants can ‘vote with their feet’ by taking sides with either team and may intervene in favor of one side or the other.

Key concepts: politicization, Euroscepticism, policy vs. polity contestation

Active participation roles available: Debater (6x), Minute-taker (1x)

Guiding questions:

- (1) Do you think that public politicisation is boon or bane for further European integration?
- (2) How can or could we empirically analyze whether public politicisation constrains or enhances European integration?

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Rauh, C. (2021) ‘Between neo-functionalist optimism and post-functionalist pessimism: Integrating politicisation into integration theory’, in N. Brack and S. Gürkan (eds). *Theorising the Crises of the European Union*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, pp. 119–137.

Further reading:

- (F) Hooghe, L. and Marks, G. (2009) ‘A Postfunctionalist theory of European integration: From permissive consensus to constraining dissensus’, *British Journal of Political Science* 39(1): 1–23.
- (F) Rauh, C. and Zürn, M. (2014) ‘Zur Politisierung der EU in der Krise’, in M. Heidenreich (ed.). *Krise der europäischen Vergesellschaftung?*. Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden, pp. 121–145.
- (F) De Wilde, P. and Zürn, M. (2012) ‘Can the Politicization of European Integration Be Reversed?’, *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 50(S1): 137–153.
- (F) Zeitlin, J., Nicoli, F. and Laffan, B. (2019) ‘Introduction: the European Union beyond the polycrisis? Integration and politicization in an age of shifting cleavages’, *Journal of European Public Policy* 26(7): 963–976.

- (F) Hutter, S., Grande, E. and Kriesi, H. (2016) *Politicising Europe: Integration and Mass Politics*, Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.
- (F) Rauh, C. and Parízek, M. (2024) 'Converging on Europe? The European Union in mediatized debates during the COVID-19 and Ukraine shocks', *Journal of European Public Policy*: Forthcoming.

Second block: The key institutions in EU (legislative) politics

22.05.2024: 6th session

The European Council and the Council of Ministers

Goals: The session introduces the key EU institutions meant to represent national interest in the Union – the European Council, comprised of the Heads of State and Government providing direction for the Union, and the Council of Ministers, comprised of national ministers who negotiate and vote on European laws. We will look into their decision-making logics, voting rules, and conflict structures.

Key concepts: Veto power, qualified majority voting, consensus norm

Guiding questions:

- (1) Would you agree or disagree, that the Council could be called the government of the European Union? Why?
- (2) Should we have more or less veto rights in Council decision-making in your opinion? Why?
- (3) What kind of information and data sources could we tap into to study decision-making dynamics in the Council(s)?

Active participation roles available: Presenter (3x), Minute-taker (1x)

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Hayes Renshaw, F. (2017) 'The European Council: A formidable locus of power', in D. Hodson and J. Peterson (eds). *The Institutions of the European Union* (Fourth Edition). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 55–184.
- (O) Peterson, J. (2017) 'The Council of Ministers: Conflict, consensus, and continuity', in D. Hodson and J. Peterson (eds). *The Institutions of the European Union* (Fourth Edition). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Presentation texts:

- (P) Hobolt, S. B. and Wratil, C. (2020) 'Contestation and responsiveness in EU Council deliberations', *Journal of European Public Policy* 27(3): 362–381.

- (P) Bailer, S., Mattila, M. and Schneider, G. (2015) 'Money Makes the EU Go Round: The Objective Foundations of Conflict in the Council of Ministers', *Journal of Common Market Studies* 53(3): 437–456.
- (P) Alexandrova, P., Carammia, M., Princen, S. and Timmermans, A. (2014) 'Measuring the European Council agenda: Introducing a new approach and dataset', *European Union Politics* 15(1): 152–167.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Middelaar, L. van (2014) *The Passage to Europe: How a Continent Became a Union*, Reprint Edition., New Haven London: Yale University Press.

7th session (29.05.2024) – EU Commission

Goals: In this session we will study why the European Commission is arguably the most powerful supranational institution, focusing especially on its formal monopoly of initiating EU law-making processes. We will then discuss what kind of animal the Commission actually is: the engine of European Integration or just a mere agent of the member states?

Key concepts: formal and informal agenda-setting, delegation

Guiding questions:

- (1) Would you agree or disagree, that the Commission could be called the government of the European Union? Why?
- (2) Do you think that the Commission is too weak or rather too powerful in contemporary EU politics?
- (3) What kind of data or information could we use to assess the political influence of the European Commission?

Active participation roles available: Presenter (2x), Minute-taker (1x)

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Peterson, J. (2017) 'The College of Commissioners: Supranational leadership and presidential politics', in D. Hodson and J. Peterson (eds). *The Institutions of the European Union (Fourth Edition)*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- (O) Hooghe, L. and Rauh, C. (2017) 'The Commission services: a powerful permanent bureaucracy', in D. Hodson and J. Peterson (eds). *The institutions of the European Union (Fourth Edition)*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 187–212.

Presentation texts:

- (P) Blom-Hansen, J. and Senninger, R. (2021) 'The Commission in EU Policy Preparation', *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 59(3): 625–642.

- (P) Rauh, C. (2021) 'One agenda-setter or many? The varying success of policy initiatives by individual Directorates-General of the European Commission 1994-2016', *European Union Politics* 22(1): 3–24.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Mérand, F. (2021) *The Political Commissioner: A European Ethnography*, Oxford University Press.
- (F) Hartlapp, M., Metz, J. and Rauh, C. (2014) *Which Policy for Europe?: Power and Conflict inside the European Commission*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- (F) Kassim, H. et al. (2013) *The European Commission of the Twenty-First Century*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- (F) Wille, A. (2013) *The Normalization of the European Commission: Politics and Bureaucracy in the EU Executive*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

8th session (05.06.2024) – European Parliament

Goals: This session introduces the European parliament – in particular by highlighting its institutional empowerment over time and by analyzing the political dynamics determining its composition. On this basis, we will use the time in class to discuss the immediately upcoming EP elections. You might want to check the current polling [here](#).

Key concepts: ordinary legislative procedure, second-order voting, transnational party groups

Guiding questions:

- (1) Do you think that EP elections today can still be considered second-order elections?
- (2) How do you think will the (likely) outcome of the EP elections change the course and contents of European integration?
- (3) What kind of data or information sources could be useful to study the influence of the EP and its individual political groups?

Active participation roles available: Presenter (2x), Minute-taker (1x)

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Shackleton, M. (2017) 'The European Parliament: The power of democratic ideas', in D. Hodson and J. Peterson (eds). *The Institutions of the European Union (Fourth Edition)*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Presentation texts:

- (P) Braun, D., Hutter, S. and Kersch, A. (2016) 'What type of Europe? The salience of polity and policy issues in European Parliament elections', *European Union Politics* 1465116516660387.

- (P) Koepke, J. and Ringe, N. (2006) 'The Second-order Election Model in an Enlarged Europe', *European Union Politics* 7(3): 321–346.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) McDonnell, D. and Werner, A. (2020) *International Populism: The Radical Right in the European Parliament*, Oxford University Press.
- (F) Fazekas, Z., Popa, S. A., Schmitt, H., Barberá, P. and Theocharis, Y. (2021) 'Elite-public interaction on twitter: EU issue expansion in the campaign', *European Journal of Political Research* 60(2): 376–396.
- (F) Van Spanje, J. and de Vreese, C. (2014) 'Europhile Media and Eurosceptic Voting: Effects of News Media Coverage on Eurosceptic Voting in the 2009 European Parliamentary Elections', *Political Communication* 31(2): 325–354.

9th session (12.06.2024) – European Court of Justice

Goals: This session will introduce the purpose and powers of the European Court of Justice and dynamics of judicial politics around it.

Key concepts: primacy of EU law, direct effect, rule of law

Active participation roles available: Presenter (2x), Minute-taker (1x)

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Shuibhne, N. N. (2017) 'The Court of Justice: European integration and judicial institutions', in D. Hodson and J. Peterson (eds). *The Institutions of the European Union (Fourth Edition)*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Presentation texts:

- (P) Blauburger, M. et al. (2018) 'ECJ Judges read the morning papers. Explaining the turnaround of European citizenship jurisprudence', *Journal of European Public Policy* 25(10): 1422–1441.
- (P) Ovádek, M. (2021) 'Supranationalism, constrained? Locating the Court of Justice on the EU integration dimension', *European Union Politics* 22(1): 46–69.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Alter, K. (1998) 'Who Are the "Masters of the Treaty"?: European Governments and the European Court of Justice', *International Organization* 52(01): 121–147.
- (F) Dawson, M. (2020) 'How Can EU Law Respond to Populism?', *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 40(1): 183–213.

10th session (19.06.2024)

Collection of research questions and project ideas (no in-class meeting)

Goals: In this week there will be no in-class meeting and no literature to read. Rather, you are expected to prepare a one pager on topics related to EU politics that are of interest to you, sketching how one could research them systematically. Your project interests and ideas – to be submitted via Moodle – will then be input for a latter session on how to break down these ideas into term paper or thesis projects (which will be helpful also if you do not plan to write a full paper for this particular class).

Guiding questions:

- (1) Which topics and questions regarding EU politics move you?
- (2) What expectations, preliminary answers; or answer options do you see regarding these questions and why?
- (3) What kind of data or information sources could you tap into to test whether your suspicions are consistent with empirical reality?

Active participation roles available: None

Obligatory literature:

- (0) Toshkov, Dimitar (2016) 'Research design', In: Marsh, Stoker and Lowndes 'Theory and Methods in Political Science', Palgrave Macmillan.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Toshkov, D. (2016) *Research Design in Political Science*, 1st ed. 2016 Edition., London New York, NY: Red Globe Press.

11th session (26.06.2024)

Responsiveness in EU politics

Goals: In this session, we will analyze how the different EU institutions respond (or not) to the growing public politicisation of EU affairs – both in terms of policy change and political communication

Key concepts: responsiveness vs. responsibility

Guiding questions:

- (1) Do you think that (individual) EU institutions should respond to changes in public opinion and party politics?
- (2) What are the chances and risks of increased responsiveness in EU politics?
- (3) What kind of data or information sources could you analyze to study the responsiveness of (individual) EU institutions?

Active participation roles available: Presenter (4x), Minute-taker (1x)

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Meijers, M. J., Schneider, C. J. and Zhelyazkova, A. (2019) 'Dimensions of input responsiveness in the EU: actors, publics, venues', *Journal of European Public Policy* 26(11): 1724–1736.
- (O) Rauh, C. and Van der Veer, R. A. (2024) 'Responsiveness', in *Handbook on European Union Public Administration*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

Presentation texts:

- (P) Yordanova, N., Khokhlova, A., Ershova, A., Schmidt, F. D. and Glavaš, G. (2024) 'Curb EU enthusiasm: how politicisation shapes bureaucratic responsiveness', *West European Politics*: Online First.
- (P) Koop, C., Reh, C. and Bressanelli, E. (2022) 'Agenda-setting under pressure: Does domestic politics influence the European Commission?', *European Journal of Political Research* 61(1): 46–66.
- (P) Wratil, Christopher (2018) 'Modes of government responsiveness in the European Union: Evidence from Council negotiation positions', *European Union Politics* 19(1): 52–74.
- (P) Schneider, C. J. (2020) 'Public Commitments as Signals of Responsiveness in the European Union', *The Journal of Politics* 82(1): 329–344.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Rauh, C. (2016) *A responsive technocracy? EU politicisation and the consumer policies of the European Commission*, Colchester, UK: ECPR Press.
- (F) Van der Veer, R. A. (2020) 'Technocratic responsiveness', in *The Technocratic Challenge to Democracy*. Routledge.

12th session (03.07.2024)

Is there a democratic deficit in the EU? (Debate session)

Goals: Building on what we have learned about integration dynamics, EU institutions, politicization and responsiveness we will discuss in this session whether the European Union suffers from a democratic deficit or not. We will organize this as a debate triggered by two opposing teams. Team 1 will argue and justify that there is/are democratic deficits in the EU (and may make proposals on how they could be overcome). Team 2 will argue and justify that the EU is already very or even too democratic (and may make proposals on how to improve the EU otherwise). The other course participants can 'vote with their feet' by taking sides with either team and may intervene in favor of one side or the other.

Key concepts: democratic deficit, responsibility, credible commitments

Guiding question:

- (1) Do you think that the EU suffers from a democratic deficit or that there is rather too much (direct) democratic influence already?

Active participation roles available: Debater (6x), Minute-taker (1x)

Obligatory literature:

- (O) Kratochvíl, P. and Sychra, Z. (2019) 'The end of democracy in the EU? The Eurozone crisis and the EU's democratic deficit', *Journal of European Integration* 41(2): 169–185.

Further reading suggestions

- (F) Majone, G. (1998) 'Europe's Democratic Deficit: The Question of Standards', *European Law Journal* 5–28.
- (F) Moravcsik, A. (2002) 'In Defence of the "Democratic Deficit": Reassessing Legitimacy in the European Union', *Journal of Common Market Studies* 40(4): 603–624.
- (F) Follesdal, A. and Hix, S. (2006) 'Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik', *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 44(3): 533–562.

13th session (10.07.2024)

How to craft an own research project in EU politics?

Goals: In this session, we will discuss how to break down the big questions in EU politics into manageable empirical research projects – drawing not the least on your earlier project ideas. Please check out the proposals that your fellow students have developed as well (available via Moodle).

Key concepts: Research question, hypotheses, research design

Active participation roles available: None.

Further reading suggestions:

- (F) Toshkov, D. (2016) *Research Design in Political Science*, 1st ed. 2016 Edition., London New York, NY: Red Globe Press.
- (F) Plümper, T. (2008) *Effizient Schreiben: Leitfaden zum Verfassen von Qualifizierungsarbeiten und wissenschaftlichen Texten*, 2., vollständig überarbeitete und erweiterte Edition., München: Oldenbourg Wissenschaftsverlag.

14th session (17.07.2024) – Wrap up

D. Information sources on European Union Politics

D1. EU Databases & Archives

- [Eur-Lex](#): Full access to European Law and the preparatory documents and procedures by which it has come about. For advanced searches you might acquaint yourselves with the [CELEX](#) (classifying document types) and [directory codes](#) (classifying policy areas) that structure the database.
- [OEIL](#): Legislative Observatory of the European Parliament - very useful to study individual legislative procedures, including EP debates, amendments on Commission proposals etc.
- [EC Press Corner](#): Press releases, speeches and other public communication of the European Commission since 1985 to today.
- [Register of Commission Documents](#): Commission proposals, impact assessments, communications, delegated and implementing acts and other Commission decisions, agendas and minutes of meetings held by the College of Commissioners.
- [EU Whosiswho](#): Contemporary organigrams and contact details for all major EU institutions
- [Eurobarometer](#): Regular public opinion surveys by the EU (access via a free Gesis subscription), for more info also see the [official EU website for Eurobarometer](#) or the scholarly sources below.

D2. Scholarly data sources on European Union politics

- [eudata](#): A crowd-sourced collection of readily available datasets and/or data collection tools related to European integration (initiative by Michal Ovadek)

D3. Specialized EU media

- [Euractiv.com](#)
- [Euobserver.com](#)
- [Politico.eu](#)
- [European Politics and Policy Blog](#) (London School of Economics EUROPP)
- General Newspapers with very good coverage of European Union Politics include *The Economist* and *The Financial Times*

D4. Think tanks focusing on European Union Politics

- Center for European Policy Studies ([CEPS](#))
- Centre for European Reform ([CER](#))
- European Council on Foreign Relations ([ECFR](#))