

## EU INSTITUTIONS AND THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

**Course Code:**

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Course tutor(s)**

**Dr. Grzegorz POŻARLIK** – Dr. Grzegorz Pożarlik is senior lecturer and former deputy director of the Jagiellonian University Institute of European Studies. He holds a Ph.D. in Humanities from the Faculty of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University. His doctoral thesis analysed the Polish *raison d'état* in the context of the European integration processes. His research focuses on international security in the Post-Cold War era, civil society and the public sphere in Europe, democratic deficit and legitimacy crisis in the EU, and symbolic construction of identity in the context of the EU enlargement. His recent publications focus on the problem of dilemmas of collective identity construction in an enlarging EU as well as global asymmetry as a background for the emergence of the Post-Westphalian paradigm in international relations with special emphasis given to the role of the EU as a global normative power. Dr Grzegorz Pożarlik coordinates the Joint Second Cycle Degree in International Relations: Europe in the Visegrad Perspective, which is supported by the International Visegrad Fund Joint Degree Program grant.

**Maciej STEPKA, MA, MSc** – Maciej Stęпка is a PhD candidate at the Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków. He earned his Master degrees in Political Science from University of Amsterdam (2011) and European Studies from Jagiellonian University in Kraków (2009). He has been awarded several grants and conducted research in numerous research institutions, among others at KU Leuven, Belgium (2007), Maastricht University (2008), Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (2012), Utrecht University (2015) and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2016). His research interests revolve around European institutional architecture, critical security studies, as well as border and migration studies. Currently, Maciej is leading an individual grant focusing on the EU policy frames constructed in response to the immigration crisis (funding: National Science Centre, Poland).

### **Description**

This class is a combination of lectures, seminars, and case study analysis meant to give the student a broad perspective on the European Union, its institutions and the decision-making process. Special emphasis will be given to post-Lisbon institutional architecture and decision-making process within the EU as a background for the conceptualization of the EU in terms of a sui generis democratic political system. Students will be assigned readings and tasks and will present their case study analyses in a seminar-style format. Seminar discussion will conclude each session.

Note: The assigned readings must be read before each class.

- In the lecture part (taught by Dr. Pożarlik), the main emphasis will be placed on the explanation of the EU institutional and decision-making system in terms of a non-Montesquieuan division of powers as a framework for supranational, multilevel system governance. In doing so the main EU institutions and decision-making process mechanisms will be explained. Case study analyses including different inter-locking (sometimes inter-blocking) interactions between EU institutions will complement the lecture part of the class.

The second part (taught by Mr. Stęпка, MA, MSc) is dedicated to practical matters related to the basic functions of the EU institutions. Students will get to know key aspects and functions of the EU institutions, analyzing case studies vis a vis specific models of European

governance. Additionally, students will work in groups and commit to role playing games, designed to emulate work in European institutions. Thanks to the “learning by doing” approach, students will be asked to engage in some of the key European e-democracy initiatives, public consultations and debates on issues which are central to the European Union.

**Type of course**

Mandatory for MA in Euroculture students (part 1)  
Specialisation course for students following Central Eastern European Studies, Europeanization and Government in Central and Eastern Europe and EU Studies specialization. Mandatory/elective. MA level.

**Year of Studies:** 1 or 2

**Number of ECTS points**

4,5 (30h-long course)

**Prerequisites (if applicable)**

Basic knowledge concerning post-Coal and Steel Community Treaty history of European integration

**Specific Learning Outcomes**

The student:

EK1: has extended knowledge about international public law, European Union law as well as that of the Council of Europe, including human rights law (K\_W06+++)

EK2: has deepened knowledge about the institutional architecture of the European Union and the characteristics of the various institutions, as well as knowledge about their role in the decision-making process of the EU (K\_W11++)

EK4: has the ability to read with comprehension and critically analyse texts pertinent to European studies and has the ability to compare them to texts presenting different views on the subject, confront them and draw his or her own conclusions (K\_U02+++)

EK5: has the ability to form opinions and judgements that include reflection on and respect for (contrary) points of view deriving from other researches and participants in the discussion (K\_U06+++)

EK6: has the ability to participate in academic discussions in the field of European Studies and to prepare complete and multithreaded presentations in Polish and/or a chosen foreign language on issues related to the field of study (K\_U17+++)

EK7: is aware of the level of his or her own knowledge and skills, understands the need for long-life learning in terms of professional and personal development, can determine the directions of his or her own professional and personal development (K\_K01+++)

EK8: obey the rules and principles of professional integrity in a manner that indicates respect for others (K\_K08+++)

**Course communication**

Via USOS system.

Dr. Grzegorz Pożarlik – grzegorz.pozarlik@uj.edu.pl

Mr. Maciej Stęпка, MA, MSc – maciek.stepka@uj.edu.pl

**Notices and announcements**

Notices and announcements will be communicated to students by email and CES office.

**COURSE ORGANISATION**

**Fall Semester**

<b>Time and Place:</b> will be posted by CES in the online calendar		
<b>Course type (seminar/lecture/workshop, etc.)</b> Lectures and seminars constitute integral parts of the class. Theoretical investigation of the post-Lisbon institutional architecture will be taught during lectures, while seminars will have a more case study analyses character – students are expected to be actively engaged in seminar discussions and to contribute to case study simulations, role playing, etc.		
<b>Contact hours:</b> - 30 hours of lectures/seminars		
<b>Breakdown of ECTS points</b> Lectures/seminars attendance – 30h Individual preparation for lectures/seminars (incl. studying key and additional readings) – 40h Individual preparation for exam – 45h Total workload – 115h  ECTS points – 4,5		
<b>Didactic methods used</b> Lectures supplemented by interactive case study analyses. Seminars conducted in the form of simulations, role playing, etc.		
<b>Assessment</b> Students are expected to follow the classes on a regular basis and to be actively engaged in seminar discussions.  The final grade will depend upon: - Results of the final exam composed of a multiple-choice test of 20 questions. The questions will be based on material from lectures and seminars sessions.		
<b>Mode and criteria of assessment of learning outcomes</b>		
<b>Knowledge</b> EK1 (K_W06, K_W11) – case studies; EK2 (K_W06, K_W11) – multimedia presentations; EK3 (K_W06, K_W11, K_W12) – written exam		
<b>Skills</b> EK4 (K_U02, K_U17) – multimedia presentations; EK5 (K_U02, K_U06) – case studies; EK6 (K_U06, K_U17) – didactic discussions		
<b>Social skills</b> EK7 (K_K01, K_K08) – lecturers’ assessment of student’s individual progress in elaborating and presenting multimedia presentations, as well as the analysis of his/her activity during the classes and the final outcome of written exam; EK8 (K_K01, K_K08) – case studies (in groups)		
<b><u>STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE</u></b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1.	G. Pożarlik	EU institutional architecture after the Lisbon Treaty: a hybrid political system but not a state
2.	G. Pożarlik	The European Commission as technocratic power and vanguard of the community method
3.	M. Stęпка	European Commission and its responses to international and European challenges

4.	G. Pożarlik	The European Parliament: mechanisms of democratic representation in the EU institutional system
5.	M. Stępa	Democratic deficit in the EU - diagnoses and solutions
6.	G. Pożarlik	The Council of the EU as emanation of intergovernmental character of the EU institutional system
7.	M. Stępa	The agenda-shaping powers of the EU Council Presidency
8.	G. Pożarlik	The Court of Justice of the EU as constitutional court of the EU and the European Central Bank as most independent institution of the EU
9.	M. Stępa	Committee of the Regions and European Social and Economic Committee – do we need consultative bodies?
10.	M. Stępa	Agencies of the EU – second tier institutional actors?
11.	R. Trzaskowski, G. Pożarlik, M. Stępa	Debate: The EU institutional architecture after Brexit: deconstruction, transformation and the way forward

#### DETAILED STRUCTURE OF COURSE

<b>Session no. 1</b>	<b>EU institutional architecture after the Lisbon Treaty: a supranational democratic political system but not a state</b>
<i>Format</i>	Lecture
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	Main issues: EU as sui generis supranational system of governance based on democratic legitimation, EU as democratic political system but not a state
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	S. Hix (2013) The EU as a new political system In: Caramani, Daniele, (ed.) Comparative Politics. Oxford University Press, Oxford S. Saurugger (2014), Theoretical Approaches to European Integration, Basingstoke, Palgrave (chapter 3: 'Intergovernmentalism', p. 54-76)
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	What makes the EU institutional system a supranational democratic governance system but not a state? Explain major provisions of the Lisbon Treaty underlying the ever more intergovernmental character of the EU institutional and decision-making system.
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	M. Pollack (2009), 'The New Institutionalisms and European Integration' in Wiener A., Diez T.(eds.), European Integration Theory (2nd edition), New York, Oxford University Press, p. 125-143

<b>Session no. 2</b>	<b>The European Commission as technocratic power and vanguard of the community method</b>
<i>Format</i>	Lecture
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	Main issues: the European Commission as supreme administrative power within the EU governance system, the European Commission as initiator of EU legislation, the European Commission as guardian of the treaties
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	P. Alexandrova, The Policy Agenda of the European Commission, Lisbon 2015 The power of initiative of European Commission : A progressive erosion, P. Ponzano, C. Hermanin, D. Corona, Notre Europe, 2012
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	Explain major competences and responsibilities of the European Commission as supreme administrative power within the EU governance system Explain the role of the European Commission as initiator of EU legislation Examples of the European Commission's role of guardian of the EU treaties
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	The power of initiative of European Commission : A progressive erosion, P. Ponzano, C. Hermanin, D. Corona, Notre Europe, 2012

<b>Session no. 3</b>	<b>The European Commission and its response to international and European challenges</b>
<i>Format</i>	Seminar
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	The purpose of the seminar is to learn how to analyse responses (i.e. instruments, policies, agendas) of the European Commission to the international and European crises. Participants of the seminar will examine case studies specific to current crises and assess the actions of the European Commission. The students will be asked to reflect upon the main issues and present their critical perspectives on some of the key EU policies and instruments developed in response to international crises.
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	Will be available on the Pegaz e-learning platform at least a week before the seminar session
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	What are the Commission's instruments of crises management in the analyzed case? How do you assess the Commission's responses to international crises? What should the Commission do (within its powers) in order to improve its crisis management techniques?
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	Will be proposed at the beginning of the seminar series.

<b>Session no. 4</b>	<b>The European Parliament: mechanisms of democratic representation in the EU institutional system</b>
----------------------	--

<i>Format</i>	Lecture
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	Main issues: the European Parliament as the most democratic body within the EU institutional system, the European Parliament position vis-à-vis the Council in an ordinary European decision-making procedure, the European Parliament and the European citizen.
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	M. Mulhbock, B.Rittberger, the Council, the European Parliament and the paradox of inter-institutional cooperation, European integration online Papers 2015, www.eiop.or.at
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	Explain major features of the European Parliament being the most democratic body within the EU institutional system Explain mechanisms of the European Parliament check and balance position vis-à-vis the Council in an ordinary European decision-making procedure Explain the major mechanisms of the European Parliament role in ensuring rights of the European citizen
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	T. Christiansen, Comitology and delegated acts: how the European Parliament lost the implementation game, European integration online Papers 2012, www.eiop.or.at

<b>Session no. 5</b>	<b>Democratic deficit and in the EU - diagnoses and solutions</b>
<i>Format</i>	Seminar
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	The aim of the seminar is to analyze and discuss the main points of the academic debate on democratic deficit in the EU. Participants will be tasked to diagnose the root causes of the deficit and propose institutional and/or political solutions to the problem.
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	Smismans S., “Democracy and legitimacy in the European Union”, in M. Cini, N. Perez-Solorzano Borragan, <i>European Union Politics, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition</i> , Oxford University Press 2013.  D. Chrysochoou “Democracy and the European Polity”, in M. Cini, N. Perez-Solorzano Borragan, <i>European Union Politics, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition</i> , Oxford University Press 2007.
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	What are the key points of the debate on democratic deficit in the EU? Who or what is to blame for the deficit? Which institutions are set in the centre of the debate? What are the root causes of the deficit? What can be done to address the deficit (institutional tweaks, or political solutions?)
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	“Democracy, Parties and Elections”, in S. Hix, B. Hoyland, <i>The Political System of the European Union</i> , Palgrave Macmillan 2011.

<b>Session no. 6</b>	<b>The Council of the EU as emanation of intergovernmental character of the EU institutional system</b>
----------------------	---

<i>Format</i>	Lecture
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	Main issues: the Council as the most influential decision-making body within the EU institutional system, qualifying majority voting (QMV) within the Council after the Lisbon Treaty
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	S. Piedrafita, A new balance of power in the Council? Yes, but not yet... CEPS, December 2014, www.ceps.be
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	Explain the impact of the Council on the EU decision-making Explain the reform of QMV in light of the Treaty of Lisbon provisions
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	Shifting EU institutional reform into higher gear, S. Piedrafita, S. Blockmans (eds.) CEPS Report, 2015

<b>Session no. 7</b>	<b>The agenda-shaping powers of the EU Council Presidency</b>
<i>Format</i>	Seminar
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	The purpose of the seminar is to discuss the process of setting, shaping and structuring political agenda in the EU institutional framework. The students will be asked to discuss the theoretical basis of agenda-setting and apply in the EU institutional system.
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	“Agenda-setting”, in: H. Lelieveldt, S. Princen, <i>The Politics of the European Union 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</i> , Cambridge University Press, 2015  Tallberg, J. "The agenda-shaping powers of the EU Council Presidency." <i>Journal of European public policy</i> 10.1 (2003): 1-19.
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	What is the nature agenda-setting? What are the types of agenda-setting? Which are the steps and institutions involved in agenda-setting at the EU –level? Explain how new policies are included in the EU political agenda? How the EU Council Presidency may impact the agenda-setting and shaping process? What are the other institutions that may impact the EU political agenda-setting process?
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	Princen, S., “Agenda-setting in the European Union”, <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> 5(2) 2013.  Häge, Frank M. "The scheduling power of the EU Council Presidency." <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> (2016): 1-19.

<b>Session no. 8</b>	<b>The Court of Justice of the EU as constitutional court of the EU and the European Central Bank as most independent institution of the EU</b>
<i>Format</i>	Lecture
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	Main issues: structure and competences of the Court of Justice of the EU in light of the treaty of Lisbon, typology of procedures of the Court of Justice of the EU in light of the treaty of Lisbon

	The European Central Bank as the EU institution in light of the Treaty of Lisbon, internal and external measures of the European Central Bank institutional independence
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	<p>F. G. Jacobs, The Lisbon Treaty and the Court of Justice, in; EU Law after Lisbon Edited by Andrea Biondi and Piet Eeckhout, Stefanie Ripley, Oxford University Press 2015</p> <p>A. Arnulf, the European Court of Justice after Lisbon, in: M. Trybus, L. Rubini (eds.) The Treaty of Lisbon and the Future of European Law and Policy, Edward Elgar 2012</p> <p>E. Ferran (2012), Understanding the New Institutional Architecture of the EU Financial Market Supervision, in; Wymeersch E., Hopt K.J. and G. Ferrarini (eds.), Financial Regulation and Supervision - A Post-Crisis Analysis, Oxford University Press, chapter 5, pp. 111-158</p> <p>H. Siekmann (2015), The Legal Framework of the European System of Central Banks, Institute for Financial and Monetary Stability, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Working Papers Series (89) 2015, <a href="http://www.imfs.frankfurt.de">www.imfs.frankfurt.de</a></p>
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	<p>Explain the structure of the EU judiciary</p> <p>Discuss examples of procedures implemented by the Court of Justice of the EU in light of the treaty of Lisbon</p> <p>Explain the structure and competences of the European Central Bank institution in light of the Treaty of Lisbon</p> <p>Explain principles of the European Central Bank institutional independence and their implementation</p>
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	<p>R. Barents, The Court of Justice after the Treaty of Lisbon, Common Market Law Review 47, 709-728, 2010, <a href="http://www.kluwerlawonline.com">www.kluwerlawonline.com</a></p> <p>R.M Lastra and J.V. Louis (2013), European Economic and Monetary Union, History, Trends and Prospects, Yearbook of Economic Law, pp.1-150</p>

<b>Session no. 9</b>	<b>Committee of the Regions and European Social and Economic Committee – do we need consultative bodies?</b>
<i>Format</i>	Seminar
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	The aim of the seminar is to explore and discuss the functionality and role of consultative bodies (the Committee of the Regions and the Social and Economic Committee) in the European Union’s political system. The participants will discuss the involvement of sub-national regional authorities and civil society in the European decision-making process and the way and scale those political actors represent their interests at the EU level.
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	Jeffery C., C. Rowe, “Social and Regional Interests: the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions”, in: J. Peterson, M. Shackleton, <i>The Institutions of the European Union 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition</i> , Oxford University Press, 2012



	Hönnige, C., and D. Panke. "Is anybody listening? The Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee and their quest for awareness." <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> 23.4 (2016): 624-642.
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	What is the purpose of consultative bodies in the EU political system? How the consultative bodies represent their interests in the EU? What is the composition of the consultative bodies? How do they function in the EU institutional framework? Do you think that the consultative bodies are necessary for the EU policy-making? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the EU consultative bodies?
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	Ricci, S., "The Committee of the Regions and the Challenge of European Governance", in: C. Panara, A. de Becker (eds.), <i>The Role of the Regions in EU Governance</i> , Springer 2011.  Smismans, S. "The European Economic and Social Committee: towards deliberative democracy via a functional assembly." <i>European Integration online Papers (EIoP)</i> 4.12 (2000).

<b>Session no. 10</b>	<b>Agencies of the EU – second tier institutional actors?</b>
<i>Format</i>	Seminar
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	The aim of the seminar is to deepen knowledge and discuss the development and characteristics of the EU agencies, their relationship with the EU institutions and national agencies and the role in the EU institutional architecture and decision making process. Students will analyse pre-selected agencies and explain their role in a given policy.
<i>Key readings for the session</i>	Kelemen D., G. Majone, "Managing Europeanization: the European Agencies", in: J. Peterson, M. Shackleton, <i>The Institutions of the European Union 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition</i> , Oxford University Press, 2012
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	What are the characteristics of EU agencies? What is the role of the European agencies? What is the design of EU agencies? How do they operate in the EU institutional environment?
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	"The Design of European Union Agencies", in M.L.P. Groenleer, <i>The Autonomy of European Union Agencies: A Comparative Study of Institutional Development</i> , Universiteit Leiden 2009.  "The Creation of Agencies at the European Level" in M.L.P. Groenleer, <i>The Autonomy of European Union Agencies: A Comparative Study of Institutional Development</i> , Universiteit Leiden 2009.

<b>Session no. 11</b>	<b>Debate: The EU institutional architecture after Brexit: deconstruction, transformation and the way forward</b>
<i>Format</i>	Debate
<i>Aim of the session, main issues discussed</i>	Implications of Brexit on composition and functioning of the EU institutions and decision-making A new dynamics between supranational and intergovernmental character of the EU institutional system in light of Brexit

<i>Key readings for the session</i>	Stefano Micossi: A fresh start of the EU after Brexit, CEPS, June 2016
<i>Questions for class discussion (based on readings)</i>	Assess possible implications of Brexit on functioning of the EU institutional system Assess perspectives of fragmentation or consolidation of the EU institutional system in light of Brexit
<i>Additional/further readings</i>	Swati Dhingra and Thomas Sampson: Life after BREXIT: What are the UK's options outside the European Union? LSE 2016