

## EU Institutions and Decision-Making Process

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Course convenor:**  
**Ms Olga Brzezińska**

**Course tutors:**

**Brzezińska Olga**, PhD candidate at the Institute of European Studies, Department of International and Political Studies at Jagiellonian University, Kraków. She holds an MA in European studies from the Jagiellonian University. She teaches at the Centre for European Studies and Institute for European Studies, Jagiellonian University. In 2007-2011 she was a Research Fellow in the RECON (Reconstituting Democracy in Europe) Integrated Project supported by the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme. Her research interests include democracy and politics in the European Union as well as collective identity formation in Europe with a special focus on sexual minorities.

**Marcinko Marcin**, PhD, Senior Teaching and Research Assistant (Chair of Public International Law, Jagiellonian University); coordinator of the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Centre, Jagiellonian University; President of the National Commission for International Humanitarian Law of the International Humanitarian Law Dissemination Centre at the Polish Red Cross Main Board; member of the International Law Association – Polish Group; member of the International Association of Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP); winner of the Stanisław Kutrzeba Competition on the Protection of Human Rights in Europe, scholarship holder of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg (2005-2006), scholarship holder of the Hague Academy of International Law (2006); since 2001 he has cooperated with the Institute for Strategic Studies in Kraków; his academic interests concern international law, international security, cooperation among EU Member States concerning humanitarian actions, and contemporary armed conflicts; the author of numerous publications relating to the issues of fight against terrorism in international law, the use of force in international relations and issues concerning international humanitarian law of armed conflicts.

**Riedel Rafał**, PhD holder in Political Science, Jean Monnet Professor (in EU Studies), graduated from the Silesian University and Economic University in Katowice; adjunct at the International Relations Department of Political Science Institute of the Opole University, guest researcher at ARENA (Centre for European Studies) at the University of Oslo. Previously engaged in educational and research programmes, as a scholar, co-organiser or fellow, at European University Institute, Open Society Institute, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, Marie Curie Fellowship Programme, Max Planck Institute, European Values Network, Fundacji Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji – EEA / Norway Grants. Scientific interests: European integration process, institutions and policies, Europeanisation, energy security in Europe, democratic deficit, transitology, consociology and other problematic in the field of political science, media and communication studies.

### **Description**

The course introduces the policies, institutions and legal system of the European Union. It gives students the possibility to study both the theoretical and practical aspects of European integration. The main emphasis is put on the understanding of the mechanisms of European integration from a legal and political perspective.

The course consists of three interrelated parts:

- Sources of European Union law
- Institutional architecture of the EU
- EU policies

In the first part students will study the problems connected with European law and European legal order; *acquis communautaire*, the sources of EU law. The second part aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the institutional design of the European Union and a theoretical and practical guide to the institutions of the EU. The aim of the third part is to give students a general overview of the logic of integration in the EU.

**Type of course**

Mandatory/elective. 'Key course' for EU Studies; 'Focus course' for Europeanization and governance in CEE; 'Additional' for CEE Studies, CEE Studies: Research Track and Studies in the Holocaust and Totalitarian Systems

**Year of Studies:** 1 or 2

**Number of ECTS points**

9 ECTS

**Prerequisites (if applicable)**

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of the module, students will be able to understand major trends in the European Union. The approach employed in the module will allow students to gather knowledge both on historical developments and current events and theoretical explanations. It will allow students to acquire a better level of comprehension of the processes of European integration. On completion of the course the students will have acquired knowledge about the institutions and policy areas of the European Union. Furthermore, the students will know how the formal as well as the informal decision-making processes work.

On successful completion of the module, 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+++)

EK3: has basic knowledge about the framework and functioning of common EU policies and their influence on the role and positioning of the European Union in the system of international relations (K\_W12++)

EK4: has extended information in the field of international economic relations as well as the integration of European markets (K\_W14 ++)

EK5: is capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas and have an ability to use the appropriate terminology of the areas of European Studies (K\_U05+++)

EK6: has the ability to prepare presentations and communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions (in Polish or in the language of study programme) individually or in a group (K\_U10++)

EK7: be able to follow and critically interpret EU policies and the decision-making processes in EU institutions (K\_U15+++)

EK8: 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++)

EK9: has the ability to effectively work individually as well as interact and work in a group, performing different roles in it (K\_K02++)

**Course communication**

Students may reach the course convenor Ms Olga Brzezińska at [olga.bb@ces.uj.edu.pl](mailto:olga.bb@ces.uj.edu.pl) ; Dr Marcin Marcinko: [martigen@tlen.pl](mailto:martigen@tlen.pl), Dr Rafał Riedel: [rafal.riedel@arena.uio.no](mailto:rafal.riedel@arena.uio.no) .  
Course teachers will also be available after classes.

**Notices and announcements**

Announcements will be sent to students via the USOS system.

**COURSE ORGANISATION****Autumn Semester**

**Time and Place:** will be posted by CES in the online calendar

**Course type (seminar/lecture/workshop, etc.)**

The course consists of lectures (10 sessions of 135 min each), highlighting major concepts, theories and analytical framework for the key issues. There is room for an open discussion during each session. Students are welcome to cut in with questions, different opinions and other pertinent contributions. Seminars (14 sessions of 100 min) comprise an analysis of obligatory and recommended reading material, students' oral presentations and active participation in open discussions.

**Contact hour:**

- 30 hours of lectures
- 30 hours of seminars

**Balance of ECTS credit**

Lectures attendance – 30h

Seminars attendance – 30h

Individual preparation for lectures/seminars (incl. studying key and additional readings) – 60h

Individual preparation of homework/presentations – 45h

Individual preparation for exam – 60h

Total workload – 225h

ECTS points – 9

**Didactic methods used**

Lectures and seminars with elements of interactivity (didactic discussions, case studies) and multimedia (lecturers' and students' presentations)

**Mode and criteria of assessment of learning outcomes****Knowledge**

EK1 (K\_W06) – case studies, mid-term competence test, written exam; EK2 (K\_W11) – mid-term competence test, written exam; EK3 (K\_W12) - didactic discussions; EK4 (K\_W14) – case studies

**Skills**

EK5 (K\_U05) – didactic discussions; EK6 (K\_U10) – presentations; EK7 (K\_U15) – didactic discussions

**Social skills**

EK8 (K\_K01) - 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; EK9 (K\_K02) – case studies;

**Assessment**

Students are expected to actively participate in the classes. Attendance is mandatory (students missing more than two classes will need to meet with the coordinator of the course and make up the missing classes). Missing more than 50% of the classes will result in failure of the course and the need to retake it the following year.

The exams will take the form of:

(A) multiple-choice and short-answer questions and

(B) a list of three open questions, of which one should be answered in the form of a mini-essay.

The exam will count towards 50% of the final grade.

Seminar requirements:

Mandatory attendance (up to two absences)

Active class participation (on the basis of the required readings)

students' presentations (topic to be agreed with the seminar tutor)

mid-term multiple choice test

The seminar grade will make up 50% of the final grade.

**STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE****LECTURES**

1.	The institutional architecture of the EU	TBA
2.	Sources of European Union law (Part I)	Marcin Marcinko
3.	Sources of European Union law (Part II).	Marcin Marcinko
4.	International and supranational integration in Europe, historical overview	Rafał Riedel
5.	European Monetary Union – single currency: challenges and opportunities	Rafał Riedel
6.	Legislating more efficiently – the ordinary legislative procedure	Mr Bartosz Lercel, Council of the European Union
7.	The Common Market as the Core of European Economic Integration	Marcin Marcinko
8.	The Court of Justice of the EU – its jurisdictional role and competence	Marcin Marcinko
9.	European and Economic Area: socio – economic perspective	Rafał Riedel
10.	Presidency in the EU in the post-Lisbon regime	Rafał Riedel

**SEMINARS**

1.	The political system and institutional design of the European Union.	Olga Brzezińska
2.	Policy areas	Olga Brzezińska
3.	The European Council	Olga Brzezińska
4.	The Council of Ministers	Olga Brzezińska
5.	The European Commission	Olga Brzezińska
6.	The European Parliament	Olga Brzezińska
7.	<b>Mid-term competence test</b>	Olga Brzezińska
8.	EU agencies	Olga Brzezińska
9.	Other institutions and actors	Olga Brzezińska
10.	Decision-making process in the EU	Olga Brzezińska
11.	EU budget	Olga Brzezińska
12.	Interest representation in the EU	Olga Brzezińska
13.	The EU: present reality and future challenges	Olga Brzezińska
14.	Wrapping up	Olga Brzezińska