

# Descriptif d'enseignement / *Course descriptions*

*2<sup>nd</sup> year, second semester*

## Titre du cours

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*Sociology of European and international institutions.*

**Type de cours :** Cours magistral

**Langue du cours/Language of instruction :** English

## Enseignant(s) – *Professor(s)*

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Nom Prénom Bois Julien and Leconte Cécile

Titre ou profession

Bois, Julien – postdoctoral researcher, University of Liège

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## Résumé du cours – Objectifs - *Course description – Targets*

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The purpose of this seminar is to familiarize students with the actors driving European integration, and to compare those with other international organisations and national administrations. It will thus stress the specificities of agents working in the “Brussels bubble”, raise concrete knowledge about the field of Eurocracy and connect these issues with broader debates of integration and of comparative politics. It will particularly stress the disembeddedness of Brussels-based agents from the rest of society (the ‘no demos’ thesis, a common feature of IOs) and address the prospects of re-embedding European issues in the territories of member states (reappropriation by national administrations, local actors). This remoteness of European affairs led commentators to argue for a depoliticization of the field of Eurocracy, with an emphasis on bureaucracy and a strong logic of compromise between various stakeholders when forging in common the rules of the Single Market. The consequence is that EU professionals, working for or orbiting around the institutions, have unique profiles and trajectories that the seminar will unpack.

EU policies are also shaped by actors located outside of Brussels. Other EU institutions and national administrations are applying, diluting or driving the development of contemporary European politics. The seminar will thus take students to Luxembourg, Frankfurt and other European cities to show that judges, central bankers and grassroots NGOs are among a handful of actors that accompany the organs of the institutional triangle (Commission, Council, Parliament) in the drafting and implementation of European policies

## Evaluation - *Assessment*

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An oral presentation (by groups of 4-5, tbc), of maximum 20 minutes (with a Powerpoint presentation) + a paper on the same topic (with the same group) that takes into accounts the feedback of the course supervisors on the oral presentation (due for the last class).

## **Plan – Séances** - *Course outline*

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### **Part I. Setting the scene: The governance of “Europe” and the EU’s bureaucratic field**

Class 1. A government without society: the EU and the “no-demos” thesis (C. Leconte)

Class 2. The socio-history of the “Brussels bubble” and of the EU bureaucratic field (C. Leconte)

### **Part II. Dissecting the government of the EU: the sociology of EU professionals in Brussels**

Class 3. Executive, government or secretariat? The European Commission (C. Leconte)

Class 4. Independent interest representation or right arm of the institutions? Brussels-based civil society (C. Leconte)

Class 5. Speaking on behalf or about the European Union? Media coverage and public relations (C. Leconte)

Class 6. Representative, expert and transnational? The European Parliament (C. Leconte)

Class 7. When national executives turn into the EU’s co-legislator and constituent power: the Council of the EU and the European Council (ministers, COREPER) (J. Bois)

Class 8. National civil servants as co-legislators and enforcers of EU legislation: working groups of the Council and comitology committees (J. Bois)

### **Part III. Shaping policies from afar: EU professionals outside of Brussels**

Class 9. Forging, substantiating and quashing the legislation of the EU: the Court of Justice of the European Union (J. Bois)

Class 10. A policy-specific institution turned a cornerstone of European governance: the European Central Bank (J. Bois)

Class 11. EU actions on the ground: national administrations and the appraisal of EU policies (J. Bois)

Class 12. Conclusion: Taking stock of the prosopography of EU professionals: Advantages and pitfalls of sociological approaches of the EU (J. Bois)

**General references**

Cini M. and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán N. (eds) *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2019 (6<sup>th</sup> ed.)

Georgakakis D. and Rowell J. (eds) *The Field of eurocracy. Mapping the EU Staff and professionals*, London: Palgrave, 2013

Virginie Guiraudon et Adrian Favell, *Sociology of the European Union*, Basingtoke, 2011

**Selected references**

Class 1

Bellamy R., *A Republican Europe of states*, Cambridge University Press, 2019.

Cooper L. *et al.*, “The rise of insurgent Europeanism. Mapping civil society visions for Europe”, LSE Ideas Report, 2021.

Spector C., *No demos? Souveraineté et démocratie à l'épreuve de l'Europe*, Seuil, 2021

Class 2

Baisnée O. (2007), « En être ou pas». Les logiques de l'entre-soi à Bruxelles», *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales*, n°166-167, 2007

Laurens S. et al. « « Il faut de tout pour faire un monde clos ». Genèse historique, délimitations matérielles et symboliques du « quartier européen » à Bruxelles, 1960-2010 », *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales*, vol. 195, no. 5, 2012, pp. 78-97.

Class 3

Georgakakis D., *European civil service in times of crisis: a political sociology of the changing powers of Eurocrats*, Palgrave, 2017

Mérand F., *Un sociologue à la Commission européenne*, Presses de Sciences Po, 2020

Class 4

Berkhout, J. et al. C. “Is the EU different? Comparing the diversity of national and EU-level systems of interest organisations”, in Rayner Eising *et al.*, *National Interest Organizations in the EU Multilevel System*. Taylor & Francis, 2019.

Laurens S., *Les courtiers du capitalisme. Milieux d'affaires et bureaucrates à Bruxelles*, Marseille, Agone, 2011.

Lindellee J. and R. Scaramuzzino, "Can EU Civil Society Elites Burst the Brussels Bubble? Civil Society Career Trajectories, Politics and Leaders' Governance, 2020, Volume 8, Issue 3, p.86–96.

#### Class 5

Aldrin P. "The World of European Information: An Institutional and Relational Genesis of the EU Public Sphere", in Georgakakis D., *The Field of eurocracy. Mapping the EU Staff and professionals*, Palgrave, pp.72-98, 2013.

de la Porte, C. and van Dalen, A., 'Europeanization of National Public Spheres? Cross-national Media Debates about the European Union's Socio-economic strategy'. *European Politics and Society*, 2016, Vol. 17, No. 3, pp. 279– 293.

#### Class 6

Busby A., 'Bursting the Brussels Bubble': Using Ethnography to Explore the European Parliament as a Transnational Political Field", *Perspective on European politics and society*, 2013, 14(2), p. 203-222.

Michon S. (dir.), *Le Parlement européen au travail. Enquêtes sociologiques*, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2018.

#### Class 7

Chatzistavrou F., "The Permanent Representatives to the EU: Going Native in the European Field?", in Georgakakis D. and Rowell J. (eds) *The Field of Eurocracy*, 2013, pp. 61-86

Häge F. "Who Decides in the Council of the European Union?", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 46(3), 2008, pp. 533-58

#### Class 8

Fouilleux E. and al., "Technical or political? The working groups of the EU Council of Ministers", *Journal of European Public Policy*, 12(4), 2007, pp. 609-23

Brandsma G. and Blom-Hansen J. "Negotiating the Post-Lisbon Comitology System: Institutional Battles over Delegated Decision-Making", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 50(6), 2012, 939-57

#### Class 9

Wasserfallen F. "The judiciary as legislator? How the European Court of Justice shapes policy-making in the European Union", *Journal of European Public Policy*, 17(8), 2010, pp. 1128-46

Vaucher A. "Keeping the dream alive: the European Court of Justice and the transnational fabric of integrationist jurisprudence", *European Political Science Review*, 4(1), 2012, pp. 51-71.

### Class 10

Jabko N. "Democracy in the age of the euro", *Journal of European Public Policy*, 10(5), 2003, pp. 710-36

Fontan C. "Frankfurt's double standard: the politics of the European Central Bank during the Eurozone crisis", *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 31(2), 2018, pp. 162-82

### Class 11

Chalmers A. "Regional Authority, Transnational Lobbying and the Allocation of Structural Funds in the European Union", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 51(5), 2013, pp. 815-31

European Commission "Strengthening of good governance and administrative capacity for cohesion policy", 2020, at: [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/information/publications/factsheets/2020/strengthening-of-good-governance-and-administrative-capacity-for-cohesion-policy-pilot-action-in-cooperation-with-the-oecd](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/factsheets/2020/strengthening-of-good-governance-and-administrative-capacity-for-cohesion-policy-pilot-action-in-cooperation-with-the-oecd)

### Class 12

Adler-Nissen R. "Towards a Practice Turn in EU Studies: The Everyday of European Integration", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 54(1), 2016, pp. 87-103

Saurugger S. "Sociological Approaches in EU Studies", *Journal of European Public Policy*, 16(6), 2009, pp. 935-49