

P08002: Government and Politics of the EU

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Trinity College Dublin
Term 2, 2020-21, Weeks 1-5**

1. Course aims and objectives

The overall aim of this course is to provide students with a critical understanding and comprehensive knowledge of the institutions and actors of the European Union. Particular attention will be paid to the Council, Commission, Parliament, Interest Groups and the European Court of Justice. We will examine several literatures, including those on EU governance and EU integration but our primary focus will be on general theoretical explanations from the fields of comparative and international politics. At the end of this course it is expected that students will have a good understanding of how EU institutions work and the main issues that dominate the EU public debate.

2. Module Structure

This module is of five weeks duration and is worth 5 ECTS credits. The module will be run as an online seminar. That means that everyone is expected to attend every class having completed the readings, ready to participate. Students are expected to carry the discussion forward, the course instructor will chair and, where necessary, focus the debate and pose questions.

3. Module Assessment

Assessment: This course will be assessed as follows:

- Essay 1 – 50%
- Essay 2 – 50%

Readings:

Beyond the readings noted in the full course outline, students should read a good European newspaper on a daily basis. **Students should also consult relevant electronic resources found in the TCD library.** Please note that for all areas discussed in the class, you may want to supplement your reading of books and articles with current overviews of these policy areas on the EU's website: <https://europa.eu/> and on news services that focus on EU affairs, such as <http://www.euractiv.com/en/HomePage>

4. Topics

Week 1: Introduction and Theorizing the EU

Week 2. Executive Politics: The Commission and Council

Week 3. Legislative Politics: European Parliament and Council

Week 4: Interest Groups

Week 5: Judicial Politics