Leaders und Agenda-Setters in the European Union

In Cooperation with the representation of the European Region “Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino” (Alpeuregio Brussels School 2020) and the Universities of Bolzano and Trento.

Instructor: Michael C. Wolf, MSc
Course number: 800654
Type/hours: SE 2
ECTS credits: 5
Period: weekly
Language of instruction: English
(Updated) Version: 27.08.2020

Introduction

The year 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the “Alpeuregio Summer School”, succeeded by next year’s celebration of the formal foundation of the European Region “Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino” as the 21st “European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation” (EGTC).\(^1\) The previous nine editions of the Summer School have all been realised within the premises of the European Region’s representation in Brussels\(^2\). Considering the special circumstances related to the current health crisis, together with long-term efforts to connect the concept of the school more closely to both – academia and civil society – this course is the result of a newly established cooperation between various actors from the whole European Region and its universities in Innsbruck, Bolzano and Trento.

As a result, the recently renamed “Alpeuregio Brussels School” will for the first time be associated to the pool of “interdisciplinary courses” of the University of Innsbruck. In order to include students from all three regions and various study programmes\(^3\), we highly welcome the registration of Erasmus students as well as students from the “Free University of Bozen-Bolzano” and the “University of Trento”.

Learning outcome and contents

Students will learn about the functioning of the European Union, starting from those EU-institutions and bodies that claim general and specific leadership-, agenda-setting, and -

\(^3\) Students are individually responsible to ensure that the results of this course are being recognized by their universities resp. their concrete study programme.
steering competences. They understand historic and legal patterns that led to the institutional framework of the political system of the contemporary EU. More specifically, they can explain the distribution of power amongst several institutional actors regarding their influence on the political agenda of the EU and various preselected member states.

After introducing the basic features of the EU’s political system, the seminar examines the opportunities of various institutional actors to set and (co-)shape long-term developments and short-term legislative agendas. Special consideration will be given to the European Parliament (EP), which is the only directly elected body of the EU. Since it is officially claiming an own right of “direct initiative”, a broad discussion on parliamentary agenda-setting is helpful to better understand national and supranational political systems.

**Methods**

The seminar will provide insights into the political system of the EU based on case-specific workshops. In the first sessions, an introduction to some basic patterns and concepts of European politics will make students familiar with the driving forces of EU integration. Subsequently, the Directors of the European Region’s representation in Brussels will officially start the “Alpeuregio Brussels School”, which plays an integral part in the programming of the course. By giving a short introduction on their work in Brussels, the (inter-)regional dimension of European integration will be highlighted. Each session will then be devoted to another European institution setting and (co-)shaping concrete policies as well as the long-term strategies of the EU. High-ranked officials of the EU-Commission, the Parliament, the media and other stakeholders will give first-hand information on how to operate efficiently in a highly complex system of “multi-level-governance”.

All presentations will be streamed live on the internet, whereas full (virtual) attendance is required to take part actively in the in-depth-disussions after each of the expert’s speeches. Students will

**Assessment**

In order to pass the seminar, the following criteria must by met by each registered student:

1. **(Virtual) Attendance** of at least 80% (equals at least 12 of our 14 sessions) is necessary for the successful completion of the course. Non-compliance with this rule ultimately leads to a negative final assessment.

2. **Reading preparation**: For each session, some specific literature will guide the individual efforts for preparing adequately.

3. **Moderation of one session**: In the first session, each student will be assigned to guide through one of the upcoming sessions. This means...

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4 This exercise is supposed to practise communicational skills necessary in scientific debates and various post-graduate professions.

5 Possibly, the moderation has to be shared by two students if necessary.
1. the willingness to prepare even more carefully by reading additional literature;
2. introducing to the topic, i.e. why is the topic important to discuss (5-10 minutes);
3. introducing the invited speaker by presenting his or her CV and/or illustrating why the speaker is being an expert in the topic of interest (1-2 minutes);
4. guiding through the discussion, i.e. allocating the question time for colleagues, ask own questions and keep an eye on the time schedule;
5. Sending a short handout (1-2 pages [in English]) of the preparations (see point 2 and 3) to the course instructor (Michael.Wolf@uibk.ac.at) – at least 3 days ahead of the session!

4. **Active participation:** The willingness to participate actively in the (virtual) discussions will also be assessed, whereas the different level of language proficiency is not (a key) part of the assessment. Even though, an independent use of the English language is strongly recommended (≥ at least B1 level of the **CEFR**) in order to be able to follow the instructions, tasks and contents of the course.

**ECTS credits**

The successful completion of this seminar will be awarded with 5 **ECTS credits**, which equals (∆) **125** working hours by each participant, according to the corresponding universities law. These 125 working hours are distributed in the following way:

- (Virtual) Attendance ∆ **24** (14 x 1,5) working hours
- Reading preparation ∆ **70** working hours ∆ 5 per session
- Moderation of one session ∆ **34** working hours (see “Assessment point 3”).

**Literature**

- **Cini/Pérez-Solórzano Borragán (2016):** European Union Politics, Oxford University Press.
- **Hodson/Peterson (2017):** The Institutions of the European Union, Oxford University Press.

The **corresponding/obligatory literature** for each session can be found at the online platform “OLAT”⁷ and/or the SoWi library. Buying the books is (although) desirable, **but not necessary**!

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⁷ https://lms.uibk.ac.at/dmz/
## Sessions (timetable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tue 2020-10-06</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tue 2020-10-13</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tue 2020-10-20</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tue 2020-10-27</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue 2020-11-03</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tue 2020-11-10</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tue 2020-11-17</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tue 2020-11-24</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tue 2020-12-01</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tue 2020-12-15</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tue 2021-01-12</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tue 2021-01-19</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tue 2021-01-26</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tue 2021-02-02</td>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>eLecture - online eLecture - online</td>
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Details

Session 1: Kick-Off-Meeting

Description of the session: Our first meeting is devoted for getting to know each other, as well as the contents and the organization of the semester. Moreover, the individual tasks will be allocated amongst the group.

Moderation and presentation: Michael Wolf

An unexcused absence in the first session will ultimately lead to a withdrawal of the participants registration!

Session 2: The origins of EU integration (1950-2000)

Description of the session: Presentation, explaining the context and motives of European integration and its most important early developments before the millennium.

Moderation and presentation: Michael Wolf


Session 3: Recent developments of EU integration (2000-2019)

Description of the session: Presentation, explaining recent developments of EU integration as well as the legal foundations of its acting as a community “sui generis”.

Moderation and presentation: Michael Wolf


Session 4: Official start of the “Alpeuregio Brussels School 2020”

Description of the session: The three Directors of the representation of the European Region “Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino” in Brussels will officially introduce to the “Alpeuregio Brussels School 2020”, which is an integral part of the course. By providing short presentations of their work, the (inter-)regional dimension of European integration will be highlighted. Furthermore, a presentation of the EU’s system of “multi-level-governance” will put the topics discussed in a broader scientific framework (Prof. Andreas Maurer).

Moderation: Michael Wolf
Speakers:

- Simon Lochmann (Head of the Brussels representation of the Tyrol)
- Vesna Caminades (Head of the Brussels representation of South-Tyrol)
- Paola Pompermaier (Head of the Brussels representation of Trentino)
- Andreas Maurer (Jean Monnet-Chair and Professor for European Integration, UIBK)


Speakers: Simon Lochmann, Vesna Caminades, Paola Pompermaier, Andreas Maurer

**Session 5-14:**

**Description of the session:** Presentations by individually invited guest speakers from the EU institutions, the media and several other European stakeholders.

**Corresponding literature:** To be drafted individually for each session

**Moderation by:** To be distributed in the first session

**Contact**

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