

THE EUROPEAN GAME OF POLITICS: CRISIS AND SURVIVAL

Spring 2017

Copenhagen

3 Credits

Study Tours: Western Denmark, Northern Germany | Brussels

Disciplines: Political Science, International Relations, Political Economy

Instructors: Kristian Weise and Rune Riisbjerg Thomsen

Program Director: Neringa Vendelbo

Program Assistant: Alex Berlin

Meeting Time: Monday/Thursday, 8:30 – 9:50 am

Meeting Location: ST3-21

The European integration has been one of the most decisive developments since the Second World War. Europe was destroyed and the main question was how to avoid a new war in Europe in light of the Cold War. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 Europe has experienced a remarkable transformation with significant consequences for the region's most important international organization, the European Union.

Externally, the EU has slowly been emerging as a major player on the world scene, while internally the system attempts to strike a balance between continued enlargement and further political integration. However, lately the European Union and the European cooperation are facing its most serious crisis with Brexit, the so-called refugee crisis, as well as the aftermath of the financial crisis and challenges in relation to the Euro.

What is the European Union, what are its policies and what is it developing into? What are the forces shaping Europe's future? Who are the major actors? Will the European Union survive the present crisis? This course examines these questions, with a particular emphasis on the economic dimension, to understand the EU, its crises and future.

Instructors

Kristian Weise

Kristian Weise is Director of the Danish think tank Cevea. He has previously been Head of Secretariat for the Danish Social Democrats in the European Parliament and an adviser and analyst for the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) and former Danish Prime Minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen. All in all, he has lived and worked 5 years in Brussels.

He holds an MSc in Political Sociology from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a BSc in Philosophy and Economics from Copenhagen Business School (CBS).

Rune Riisbjerg Thomsen

MSc in International Business and Politics and BSc in Business Administration and Sociology (Copenhagen Business School). Rune works as a project manager in research and development at Den Sociale Kapitalfond (Danish venture fund for social enterprises and finance). He has previously primarily worked on international and EU policy around labor markets, trade, utilities, social issues and environmental finance.

Objectives

- Students should gain an understanding of what the EU is in theory and especially in practice by studying the forces governing contemporary European politics, the competing interests influencing the policies of the European Union, the functioning of EU institutions, the decision-making processes, and the significance of the EU for European integration.
- Students will, through selected readings and class discussion, gain a view of international relations from the European and EU member state perspectives, and a particular understanding of the economic agenda of the Union.
- Students will write analytical papers by studying and discussing how current political science research is conducted (e.g. what constitutes sound evidence and arguments in political science).
- Students should increase their ability to analyze and discuss complex political issues.

Content

The course traces the development of European integration over the last decades. It analyses the role of major actors in shaping the European Union, and discusses main EU policies. Current challenges facing the European Union, such as the Euro-crisis, and contestation and co-operation between the EU and European governments on the European economy will be studied. Case studies of political events unfolding during the semester will be used to supplement the course.

The course consists of the following parts:

- I: Introduction, history, institutions, theories, issues
- II: Core Course Week: Guest lecture, field studies and short Study Tour
- III: Policies of the EU
- IV: Long Study Tour: Visit to Brussels
- V: Current issues and struggles over Europe
- VI: Simulation Game – playing the European Council: How to negotiate and compromise on national interests.

CORE COURSE WEEK, February 6 – February 11 2017,
Short Study Tour, Field Studies & Guest Lecture

LONG STUDY TOUR, February 26 – March 3 2017,

[The European Game of Politics: Crisis and Survival](#) | DIS | Disciplines: International Relations, Political Science

Brussels: Hands-on insights into current European political affairs and “how the game is being played” through study visits to international and EU political institutions and actors, in addition to cultural visits. Meetings with representatives from the Danish EU Commissioners cabinet, the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy/ the Council, and members of the European Parliament, as well as different interest groups and lobby organisations. Student group interviews with specific political actors: Lobbyists and member states permanent representatives.

Core Course Week and Study Tours

Core Course week and study tours are an integral part of the core course as we take the classroom on the road and see how theory presented in the classroom is translated into practice in the field. You will travel with your classmates and DIS faculty/staff on two study tours; a short study tour during Core Course Week and a long study tour to a relevant European destination.

Expectations for study tours:

- Participate in all activities
- Engage in discussions, ask questions, and contribute to achieving the learning objectives
- Respect the destination, the speakers, DIS staff, and your fellow classmates
- Represent yourself, your home university and DIS in a positive light

While on a program study tour DIS will provide hostel/hotel accommodation, transportation to/from the destination(s), approx. 2 meals per day and entrances, guides, and visits relevant to your area of study or the destination. You will receive a more detailed itinerary prior to departure.

Travel policies:

You are required to travel with your group to the destination. If you have to deviate from the group travel plans, you need approval from the program director and the study tours office.

Field Study

Wednesday, March 15 at 08:30-12:30

TBA

Negotiation Simulation Game

The course includes a special simulation game section, in which students “representing” the EU member states negotiate a current issue following the actual negotiation format of the EU Council of Ministers or the European Council.

To prepare for the simulation game a documentary shown in class gives a behind-the-scenes view of the bargaining that took place under the leadership of Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen during the final negotiations for enlargement at the EU Copenhagen Summit in 2002.

Furthermore, you will be introduced to the rules of the game, the case around which the game evolves, and be divided into "countries."

Wednesday, May 3, 1:00 – 5 pm: Negotiation Simulation Game

Purpose: To get in-depth knowledge of an issue currently topping the EU agenda and an experience of how negotiations take place in the Council of Ministers or European Council.

Participation

The course consists of a series of lectures, guest lectures, a field study, two study tours and a simulation game. Attendance is mandatory. The readings provide the basis for student presentations and discussion in each lecture and you may be called upon randomly. All obligatory readings, lectures, guest lectures, field studies, study tours and the simulation game are drawn upon for the short answer tests, the research paper and the midterm. Additional material will be distributed during the course.

Requirements and Evaluation

- A midterm exam on March 16th (20%)
- Participation in Study Tours, including political actor assignments (15%)
- A 2.500 word research paper due May 8th (35%)
- Participation in and preparation for classes, and field studies (10%)
- Participation in all phases of the simulation game (incl. final evaluation and country position papers) (20%)

To be eligible for passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work.

Use of computers, iPhones, cell phones etc. in class

Computers and iPhones are allowed in class PURELY for note taking purposes. Other uses such as Facebook, emails or internet surfing, will have a negative impact on participation grades. Cell phones are to be shut off during class and texting/SMS'ing etc. during class will have a negative impact participation grades.

Disability and resource statement

Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Academic Support (acadsupp@dis.dk) to coordinate this. In order to receive accommodations, students should inform the instructor of approved DIS accommodations within the first two weeks of classes

Attendance Policies

You are expected to attend all DIS classes when scheduled. If you miss multiple classes the Director of Teaching and Learning, and the Director of Student Affairs will be notified and they will follow-up with you to make sure that all is well. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing at DIS. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor's note. Arriving late to class is unacceptable and will affect your participation grade.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Violating the Rules of an Assignment DIS expects that students abide by the highest standards of intellectual honesty in all academic work. DIS assumes that all students do their own work and credit all work or thought taken from others. Academic dishonesty will result in a final course grade of "F" and can result in dismissal. The students' home universities will be notified. DIS reserves the right to request that written student assignments be turned in electronic form for submission to plagiarism detection software. See the Academic Handbook for more information, or ask your instructor if you have questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Lecture 1

Thursday, January 19: Introduction to the EU, its purpose and its crises

- Overview of the Course and Introduction to the Syllabus
- What is the EU and what are the challenges facing it?
- What kind of crisis?

What is the European Union (EU)? What is the relationship between national and European politics and policies? The EU is currently in the process of a major transformation, undertaking both the *deepening* and the *widening* of integration at the same time. The Economic and Monetary Union became reality for most EU citizens when Euro coins and notes were introduced January 1, 2002. The EU is trying to redefine its role in the world facing a global economic crisis, climate change, and the most severe challenges to the Union: The "Brexit", anti EU sentiment, and the biggest refugee crisis since WWII -, and the EU has introduced policies in new areas of cooperation, like security and defense. Meanwhile, enlargement has been a permanent aspect of the EU. Starting with six founding member states, the EU today consists of 28 (after Brexit 27) member states, after ten countries mainly from Central and Eastern Europe joined the Union May 1, 2004 and on January 1 2007 Romania and Bulgaria were added to the list of new members. Finally, the Refugee crisis needs a European answer – in a situation where the UK decided to leave the EU – "Brexit" – and right-wing nationalism and Anti-EU political parties and popular movements are gaining power all over Europe. What will be the future of British relations to the EU after "Brexit"? In that, what are the implications of these processes for the EU's construction and future? What are the dilemmas involved, practically and theoretically?

Readings:

- Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*, preface, and Ch. 1, pp. 3-31.
- Olaf Cramme, "The Changing Space for EU Politics. Democracy and Ideology in times of Crisis", Policy Network Paper, October 2011.
http://www.policy-network.net/publications_detail.aspx?ID=4066

Lecture 2

Monday, January 23: History of the European Union

Why and how the EU became what it is today, and what are the major challenges facing it?

Why and how did the EU become what it is today, and what are the major challenges facing it?
Why did Western Europe choose a comprehensive integration process after the Second World War? What were the main steps forward and the major setbacks during the first 60 years of European integration?

Readings:

Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*, Ch. 1 & Ch. 2, pp. 3-46.

Desmond Dinan, "How did we get here?", Ch2, pp. 23-43, in Elizabeth Bomberg et al., *The European Union. How does it work?*, 3rd ed. 2012.

The Schuman Declaration, (4 p.) - in the course binder

Lecture 3

Thursday, January 26th: The EU institutions

- The institutional framework of the EU
- The European Commission
- The Council of Ministers
- The European Council
- The European Parliament
- The European Court of Justice

What does the institutional landscape of the EU look like?

The Commission has no analogue in national governmental systems. Why was this unique institution set up, what are its functions, how does it take decisions and interact with other EU institutions?

Who constitutes the Council of Ministers and the European Council? What are their key functions? How do they make decisions? How do they interact with other EU institutions?

The European Parliament (EP) is the only directly elected institution in the EU. What is the role of the European Parliament, whose powers, though increased over the years, are still limited as compared with national parliaments? How does this multinational Parliament work?

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) is sometimes described as the Supreme Court of the EU. But is that an apt description? What is the role of the European Court of Justice? What is its influence on the integration process? What are the main features of EU law in relation to national laws? And why is the ECJ not the European Court of Human Rights?

Readings:

Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*, part two, Ch. 3, Ch. 4, Ch. 5, Ch. 6, Ch.7, Ch. 8, and Ch. 9, pp. 49-90

Richard Corbet et al., "The EU Institutions", ch. 3, pp. 47-73, in Elizabeth Bomberg et. al., *The European Union. How does it work?*, 3rd ed., 2012

Lecture 4

Monday, January 30th: Theories of the EU

There are different types of theories explaining the development, integration and functions of the EU. We will concentrate on the neo-functional theory and the intergovernmentalist theories, including theories of multi-level governance.

Readings:

Blomberg, Elisabeth, Richard Corbett, and John Peterson, "Introduction", Ch1, pp.3-22, in Elizabeth Bomberg et al., *The European Union. How does it work?*, 3rd ed., 2012.

Civitas, "Theories of European Integration" 2015. Available on Canvas (<http://www.civitas.org.uk/content/files/OS.16-Theories.pdf>)

Lecture 5

Thursday, February 2nd: The economic agenda of the EU

What is on the economic agenda of the European Union? This lecture will give an introduction to what areas the EU tries to address when it comes to the economy of its member states and the union as a whole – from jobs, growth, a common currency, fiscal policies to tax evasion and competition.

Readings:

Selective readings in 'Towards a European Growth Strategy', Edited by Henning Meyer <https://www.socialeurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/ebook.pdf>

Further readings to be added

Introduction to the research paper

Readings:

- DIS Guide on how to write a research paper

- Van Evera, Stephen, How to Write a Paper, Cornell University Press, 1997

Both readings can be found on Canvas

End of class: election of two class representatives

CORE COURSE WEEK
February 6 – February 11

Monday February 6th

Lecture 6

Monday 10-11.30, February 6th: EU-policies and the Internal Market

Different types of EU policies will be presented. We start focusing on the establishment of the internal or single European market (SEM). The goal of having one single European market (SEM) has been on the EU's agenda since the 1950's and today the SEM constitutes the core of EU cooperation. Why and how did member states agree to its completion by signing the Single European Act in 1986?

And what is the internal market and how does it function? Challenges to the welfare state and social dumping.

Readings:

Alberta Sbragia and Francesco Stolfi, "Key Policies", Ch. 5, pp. 99-122 in Elizabeth Bomberg et al., *The European Union: How does it work?*, 3rd. ed, 2012
Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*, Ch. 9, pp. 93-105

Guest Lecture

Monday 6th, 13-15.00: The State of the Union: "Brexit", the Euro Crisis, and the Refugee Crisis."

By Bjarne Møller Director of Europa Think Tank, Copenhagen

Film screening:

The documentary "The President"

Monday, 15-16.00

How the present President of the European Council was elected President of the European Council

Tuesday 7th:

Field Study

Visit to the European Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament

Purpose: To have a presentation and discuss the Danish EU policy and decision-making process.

+ Guided tour in the parliament.

Details to be confirmed

Meeting point: DIS, Vestergade 7

Field study to be followed up by debriefing at DIS.

Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th

Short Study Tour

Danish-German relations, EU competition law and utilities companies. Purpose: This short study tour will focus on how EU competition law, and particularly the Utilities Directive of 1995 has had a crucial impact on national policies. We will visit companies, politicians and export teams to learn more about how German privatization of utilities is providing the publicly owned Danish utility companies with a golden export opportunity.

End of Core Course Week

Lecture 7

Thursday, February 16: The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), the Euro and the Crisis

Why did some member states decide to give up their national currencies in favor of a common currency, the Euro? What is the Stability and Growth Pact and what problems has it brought with it? What is the character of the present Euro crisis and what has been the measures to solve it? Will Greece have to leave the Euro and what will be the impact of the new division between the Southern and the Northern member states? And what about the Eurozone vs. the rest?

Readings:

Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*, 12, pp. 128-140 and ch. 17, pp. 179-196.

Stiglitz, Joseph: *The Euro: How a Common Currency Threatens the Future of Europe*, chapter 1, available on Canvas

***Hand in Country Profiles**

Lecture 8

Monday, February 20: The Budget , the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Cohesion Policy

The MFF, the Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU, the process and content.

The largest part of the EU's budget (roughly 85%) goes to agriculture and structural policies, a distribution that does not reflect the policy priorities of the EU, but which has proven rather difficult to change. With the recent enlargement, reforms of these policies become even stickier. What about the coming Financial Perspectives for 2014-20?

CAP is one of the original common policies. It is also the most expensive and controversial policy of the EU, causing major trading conflicts with the US and developing countries. How has it developed, why is it so difficult to change and what are the most recent steps to reform?

Readings:

Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*, Ch. 11, pp. 116-127, and Ch. 10, pp. 9106-115.

Guest lecture

Thursday, February 23: Dan Jørgensen, MP, former MEP and Minister for Agriculture

Dan Jørgensen spent almost 10 years as a member of the European Parliament. He will talk about current events in the EU, the work of the EU-institutions and prepare you for your visit to Brussels.

**Long Study Tour
February 26 – March 3**

Brussels: "How to play the game!"

Purpose: Hands-on insights into current European political affairs and "how the game is being played" through academic visits to international and EU political institutions and actors, in addition to cultural visits.

- * Visit to the European Commission
- * Visit to the European Parliament
- * Visit to the European External Action Service

*** Political actor interviews – lobbyists and permanent representative
And much more**

Lecture 9

Thursday, March 9: An Ever Closer Union? Justice and Home Affairs plus the impact of refugee crisis

The 1990's saw an acceleration of the integration process in the EU. More and more policy areas were now seen as fit for co-operation on the European level. An increase in the number of refugees into Europe together with rising cross-border crime and the international fight against terrorism meant that by 2002, approximately 40% of all proposals for new EU legislation were related to the area of justice and home affairs. At the same time, member states wish to retain their national sovereignty within the field. How does co-operation take place within the area of justice and home affairs, more specifically in the fight against terrorism? And what are the consequences of this type of co-operation? What is the Schengen Area, and how does it work? What is the impact of the present refugee crisis – more nationalism or solidarity?

Readings: Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*. Ch. 13, pp. 141-150

Lecture 10

Monday, March 13: EU external policies and environmental agenda

The EU is trying to define its role in the world. The EU as a major global trading block uses its external trade policy to achieve goals beyond trade, e.g. development or regional influence. At the same time, the EU is the largest donor of development aid in the world. Is the EU a force for global free trade or protectionism? The EU has long been a leader on curbing climate change, but has not had the diplomatic strength to force other global leaders into an agreement. Was the Paris Agreement of December 2015 a success for the EU?

Readings: Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*, Ch. 14, pp. 151-160, and Ch. 16 pp. 171-178

Field study: March 15, 8.30 – 12.30

Details to be confirmed

Lecture 11

Thursday, March 16: Midterm Exam

The exam will take one hour. Instructions will be given beforehand

***Travel Break* 18 March-26 March**

Lecture 12**Monday, March 27: Economic ideas and European policy**

What are the ideas behind economic policy-making in Europe? Is there difference between a 'German' and a 'French' approach to fiscal policy, competitiveness and labour markets? Or between a British, Nordic and Mediterranean? This class will look at the economic ideas that have influenced the development of the EU and the ongoing battle over such ideas.

Readings:

'The Euro and the Battle of Ideas', by Markus K. Brunnermeier, Harold James & Jean-Pierre Landau, chapter 1, Introduction, available here: <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10828.html>
Further readings may be added

Hand-in or e-mail Political Actor Interview Reports (Lobbyists and Permanent Representatives)**Lecture 13****Thursday, March 30: International trade**

The EU is one of the most important trade blocks in the world, and its member countries have shaped global trade as long as it has existed. With China on the rise and many EU countries in slumped economic growth, will the EU remain a crucial factor in global trade?

(Readings Below)**Readings:**

Staab, Andreas, The European Union Explained, Ch. 15, pp. 161-170
John Peterson, "The EU as a Global Actor", pp.203-223, in Elizabeth Bomberg et al., The European Union. How does it work?, 3rd ed., 2012.

Lecture 14**Monday, April 3: Jobs and competitiveness**

In the year 2000, heads of states and government decide that Europe by 2010 should become the "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion". It is fair to say that the objectives related to this ambition didn't materialise. The EU has nevertheless since then kept job-creation and competitiveness as one of its main areas of work. This lecture will look at what the EU is doing in this area today.

Readings:

'A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', Communication from the Commission on Europe 2020, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:2020:FIN:EN:PDF>
'Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/europe2020stocktaking_en.pdf

Lecture 15**Thursday, April 6: European finance**

While financial capitalism's undisputed capital is Wall Street, EU member states are important actors in shaping rules and regulations in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2007-2008. This lecture will focus on the main actors in EU finance and how they interact to shape regulation at the global level.

Readings:

"Europe's banking trilemma" - a report on Banking Union and bank structure reform, Finance Watch, available here:

<http://www.finance-watch.org/our-work/publications/687-europe-banking-trilemma>

Further readings may be added

Lecture 16**Thursday, April 20: The social contract**

'Europe's Social Contract, Lying in Pieces', By David C. Unger, June 2013, New York Times, available here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/09/opinion/sunday/europes-social-contract-lying-in-pieces.html>

'Towards a new 'social contract' in Europe', Speech by László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, 17 October 2014, available here:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-702_en.htm

Report on social dumping in the European Union, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Rapporteur: Guillaume Balas, European Parliament, 2016, available here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A8-2016-0255+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

Lecture 17**Monday, April 24: The future of Europe**

What is the likely future of EU in the light of the ongoing crises? The Commission talks about "Europe of Results", echoed by national leaders. What has enlargement meant for the EU? Can widening and deepening continue to take place? And what about future absorption capacity – Croatia, Turkey? The importance of political leadership, public opinion and legitimacy? The consequences of the "Brexit"? And how will a Trump presidency impact Euro-American relations? The EU can't be rolled back – or can it? Right-wing populists are calling for a "core EU", rather than further reforms and integration. Will they succeed?

Readings:

Staab, Andreas, *The European Union Explained*. Outlook, pp. 197-204.

SIM Session 1

Thursday, April 27:

Introduction to the SIM Game.

Presentation of the specific rules of the game, procedures etc.

Viewing of Documentary “Fogh Behind the Façade” / “The Road to Europe”

The documentary gives a close, behind-the-scenes view of the bargaining over EU enlargement that took place under the Danish EU presidency in the fall of 2002. The purpose of the viewing is to get an impression of how negotiations take place in the EU’s European Council and have the documentary act as inspiration to the Simulation Game

Country Position Papers Due!

E-Mail Country Position Papers to Alex at ab@dis.dk no later than 4:00 pm. They will then be put on Canvas.

SIM Session 2

Wednesday, May 3, 1:00 to 4:00 pm:

- **Simulation Game**

The game simulates a meeting in the European Council between heads of state and government, where you will be discussing a real issue currently at the top of the EU agenda. The meeting ends when a conclusion has been reached.

Concluding Session

Wednesday, May 3, 4:00 to late...

Champagne reception after the SIM Game with awards for the SIM Game and for the course.

HAND IN RESEARCH PAPERS to faculty mailbox in the EP office (2rd floor, Vestergade 7) by 12.00 noon on Monday, May 8 at the latest

OR

e-mail it to kristian.weise@dis.dk no later than Monday, May 8 at the latest

Country Profile – Guidelines

1. Political system:
Parliamentary system, presidential system, one chamber – two chambers, number of political parties, etc.
2. What kind of government and who's in government – Prime Minister/President
3. EU-position:
 - Membership of EU – year
 - Member of the Euro-zone? When?
 - Number of members of the European Parliament
 - Number of votes in the Council of Ministers

 - Some main political position in relation to EU politics: Reform, budget, CAP, structural funds, foreign and security policy, the Lisbon Treaty and the constitutional crisis, etc.

Short paper – max. 2 pages

MIDTERM STUDY GUIDE

Topics and readings

Material covered so far in the course

Your answers

When answering the factual questions it is important to be precise. When answering the essay-type questions it is important that you give discursive and analytical answers using relevant arguments.

RESEARCH PAPER - GUIDELINES

Format

8-10 pages if individual,

12-15 pages per group (2 persons).

One page equals 300 words.

Use "Writing Papers at DIS" as your guideline.

See "How to write a paper", by Stephen Van Evera (Both readings can be found on DIS Forum under EPS files section)

The paper should be *analytical* and investigative. Use statistics, official information, articles, research papers, readings from class, interviews, etc. Remember references!

Deadline:

Monday, May 8 at the latest

Topics

You can choose your topic within the field of European Politics: The European Union and discuss it with Kristian in or after class. If you have any questions feel free to ask before/after class or by email.

EU Political Actors Interview Exercise in Brussels

INSTRUCTIONS

The "Political Actors Interview Exercise" is an all-day student-centered exercise, taking place during the Brussels part of the European Politics Long Study Tour. Participation will count towards your European Politics core class course grade.

Objectives

Interest articulation and aggregation – lobbying, coalition-building, compromising, cutting deals, etc. – among actors representing political actors (Permanent Representatives and Lobbyists) and different types and levels of interests are essential aspects of any political process, including that of the European Union.

The objectives of the exercise are to generate, through student interviews with various types of actors in the EU political system, an understanding of the ways "interests" are being translated into "policies" in the EU or, to put it differently, an understanding of the non-formalized aspects of EU policy-making.

Format

Students will be subdivided into groups of 3-5, each of which will interview a political actor for about an hour about their "policy-making" activities (see further below).

Afterwards, each group will compare their notes taken during the interview and reflect on insights gained.

Later, members of different groups will share and compare what they learned.

Preparing the Interview

Each student group will be assigned to a particular interviewee in advance of the tour. The group must prepare the interviews by gathering information about the specific member state/permanent representatives and next the institution/organization/party group/company etc. in which the interviewee works as well as information on his/her position and, if possible, general responsibilities/assignments/duties in the organization.

Use websites and other information sources, but do not contact the interviewee directly. You need to find enough relevant information to make the interview meaningful and "professional."

The Interview

Please remember that the objective of the interview is not only to elicit **what** the interviewee does, but also and especially **how** he or she works politically, i.e. attempts to translate the interests/duties/responsibilities he or she represents into policies or benefits. Note also that most actors are both lobbying/politicking **and** being lobbied/politicked.

During the interview, you should (as a minimum) elicit the following:

- Name, title and position of the interviewee; main job tasks/responsibilities; at what level and with what formal competence does the interviewee participate in the EU political process
- Name, functions, mission of his/her organization/institution (Be smart, though. Don't ask the obvious, e.g. don't ask a Member of the European Parliament what the European Parliament does. But ask which party group he/she belongs to and what the group's name and mission are, which committees he/she is a member of, etc.)
- How the interviewee works politically: Lobbying, coalition-building, politicking, etc. (you may want to ask the interviewee to offer some concrete cases). In particular, find out
 - Which organs/institutions/actors/persons the interviewee works with/through when articulating his/her interests (these may be different from interest to interest)
 - What is a typical decision-making process that the interviewee experiences? Who sets the process in motion? When does the interviewee step in?
 - Who typically tries to influence the interviewee, and in what ways
 - What is the lobbying process like: How legitimate is it in the EU system? How does it start? What does it take to be a good lobbyist?
 - What is the politicking/coalition-building process like: How does it start? What does it take to be a good negotiator?

Logistics and Practicalities

Each group will be given full address information, city maps, subway tickets, and travel directions in Brussels. Please note that groups will be responsible for finding their way to visits. Be sure to know exactly where you are going **before** you leave for the interview. If you are visiting an EU institution, please plan on arriving 15 minutes early in order to clear security.

Each group should organize itself in advance and decide such items as who is in charge of getting the group to the interview, introducing the group to the interviewee, taking notes, writing a thank-you letter after returning to Copenhagen, etc.

Please wear business attire for the interview (and for other professional visits during the tour).

Group Interview Reports – one on the political lobbyist and one on the member state permanent representative

Hand in Political Actor group interview reports – 2-4 pages – in class on **Monday, March 27 2016**, or mail it to ab@dis.dk before 4:00 pm on the same day

Political Actor Interview Reports

- The Political Actor Interview Reports – Permanent Representatives and Lobbyists - these have to be group reports (e.g. it is not an individual report)
- Format: 2-4 pages each
- Content: Short presentation of the person and the organization/institution etc., which he/she represents. Maybe type of interest.

What came out of the interview – “How they are playing the game?” Key observations, interesting statements. How is lobbying taking place? Invited or financed by the EU etc.

Inspiration may come from the questions in “EU Political Actor Interviews Exercise in Brussels – Instructions”.

- Everybody will get a copy of all interview reports.