

1. Professor

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2. Aim of the course

The course intends to give the students an analytical overview of Europeanization processes, i.e. processes of domestic adaptation in the member states as a result of European integration. More in particular, it discusses how the European integration process has an impact on the institutions (executives, parliaments, subnational authorities), politics (political parties, interest groups) and policies (implementation and non-compliance) in EU member states. The course consists of three parts. First, the mechanisms, objects and effects of Europeanization are presented. Second, these theoretical notions are applied to the Europeanization of one particular member state, namely Belgium. Third, the students have to carry out research on the Europeanization of the institutions, politics or policy of a member state of their choice. Students have to *present* the results of their research, *discuss* each other work critically, and *write a final paper*.

3. Assignment: presentation and paper on the Europeanization of institutions, politics or policies in a member state

- Students have to work on the Europeanization of the institutions, politics or policies in a member state of their choice. The course starts with a discussion of the core theoretical concepts and mechanisms used in the Europeanization literature. After an application of these concepts and mechanisms to the case of Belgium during class, students have to study an aspect of Europeanization in one of the other EU member states of their choice.
- This work will result in two outcomes:
 - a. Students have to present their work during class. Each presentation should take approximately 15 minutes. Use of Powerpoint/Keynote is highly recommended. A fellow student will be appointed as discussant for each presentation. The discussant will have received a draft paper from the presenter in advance and he/she will discuss the draft paper and the presentation during class. The feedback can be used by the presenter when revising and finalizing the draft paper. The discussant should speak for approximately 5 minutes. This will be followed by a Q&A session with the other students (10 minutes), moderated by the presenter.
 - b. Students have to write a paper. Papers should have between 5000 and 6000 words (footnotes/endnotes included, references not included).¹ A draft paper (i.e. a full, but first, version of the paper) should be sent to the discussant, the professor (tom.delreux@uclouvain.be) and the teaching assistant (santiago.dierckx@uclouvain.be) 5 days before the presentation. Students will get feedback from their fellow students after the presentation and, if they wish, from the teaching assistant during an optional feedback session at the end of the semester. Based on the feedback received, the paper can be revised in order to submit the final version in January.
- Students can choose the topic of their presentation/paper, but they should take into account the following principles:
 - Students have to choose (1) an EU member state (except for Belgium); and (2) an aspect of Europeanization: executives, parliaments, subnational authorities, political parties, interest groups or policy implementation.
 - Within that choice, students are free to propose a precise topic and research question. They have to write their proposal in the form of an abstract (200-250 words + a title), which they have to upload on Moodle ('Assignments' > 'Abstract'). They will receive feedback on the abstract and if the proposed topic is indeed about the Europeanization of the above-mentioned aspects in a EU member state, the topic will be approved.

¹ Students should also complete a declaration on the potential use of generative artificial intelligence.

Students can get a second round of feedback and guidance by the teaching assistant once their topic will be approved.

The following table visualizes the choices that the students have to make. Students have to define a topic within one cell of the table:

		aspect of Europeanization					
		institutions			politics		policies
		executive	parliament	subnational authorities	political parties	interest groups	compliance
member state	Austria						
	Bulgaria						
	Croatia						
	Cyprus						
	Czech Republic						
	Denmark						
	Estonia						
	Finland						
	France						
	Germany						
	Greece						
	Hungary						
	Ireland						
	Italy						
	Latvia						
	Lithuania						
	Luxembourg						
	Malta						
	Netherlands						
	Poland						
	Portugal						
	Romania						
	Slovakia						
	Slovenia						
	Spain						
	Sweden						

Here are a few examples of topics that could be studied (but students do not have to limit their choice to this list):

- *Europeanization of executives:*
 - analysis of domestic coordination mechanisms: qualitative analysis, for instance on the basis of dimensions discussed in Jensen 2014 (JEPP) or on the basis of typology of Kassim 2013 (comprehensive or case study/ies of policy field, EU institution to which coordination is targeted, or EU policy-making process)
 - analysis of role, functioning and/or organization of the Permanent Representation to the EU
- *Europeanization of parliaments:*
 - analysis of parliamentary scrutiny mechanisms (scrutiny of governments, response to EWS, etc): formal strength
 - analysis of parliamentary questions/resolution/debates/... regarding EU issues (comprehensive or case study/ies)
 - analysis of debates and votes (case study/ies or comparison over time)
- *Europeanization of national-subnational relations:*
 - analysis of involvement of subnational entities (regions with legislative powers) on EU affairs (comprehensive, comparison between subnational entities in a member state, case study/ies)
 - analysis of 'extra-state' diplomacy of subnational entities in Brussels, for instance role of regional mission, involvement or influence on particular file, etc.
- *Europeanization of political parties:*
 - analysis of establishment and/or evolution of eurosceptic parties
 - analysis of programmatic changes in political parties (comprehensive, comparative or case study/ies)
 - analysis of patterns of party competition regarding EU issues
 - analysis of role of national political parties in European party federations
 - analysis of role of national delegations in EP political groups (only for 'large' member states)
- *Europeanization of interest groups:*
 - analysis of strategies of domestic interest groups on EU issues (case study/ies or interest group or of EU issue)
- *Europeanization of policies:*
 - analysis of domestic procedures to deal with (different steps) of infringement proceedings
 - analysis of compliance record (comprehensive, longitudinal, case study/ies of policy domain[s])
 - analysis of specific national problems causing non-compliance (and responses to address these problems)

4. Key dates

- Abstract:
 - 14 October 2025, 23h55: deadline to submit the abstract with proposed topic for the paper on Moodle ('Assignments' > 'Abstract').
 - 21 October 2025: students will receive feedback on the abstract and confirmation whether the topic is approved or not. In the week of 28 October, students can receive individual guidance (individual appointment by e-mail: santiago.dierckx@uclouvain.be).
- Calendar for the presentations: the calendar for the presentations and the discussants will be published on Moodle on 21 October at the latest.
- Draft papers: students send draft paper to the professor, teaching assistant and discussant by e-mail at least 5 days before their presentation.
- Final paper: 4 January 2026, 23h55: deadline to upload final paper on Moodle ('Assignments' > 'Paper January'). Late submissions will be penalized by 1 mark per day.
- The following modalities apply for the August session:
 - a. as the oral presentation cannot be redone and as there are no presentations to discuss in August, 100% of the grades of the August session will be on the paper. However, in order to compensate, the paper for the August session must be between 7000 and 8000 words;
 - b. the deadline to submit the new paper is 15 August 2026 at 23h55;
 - c. papers must be submitted on Moodle ('Assignments' > 'Paper August').

5. Evaluation

- January session:
 - Oral presentation (clarity, style): 25%.
 - Feedback as discussant: 10%.
 - Paper: 65%.
- August session: paper: 100%.

6. Course schedule and recommended readings

16/09 *no lecture*

23/09 *no lecture*

PART I – THEORETICAL INTRODUCTION

1. 30/09 **Europeanization: definition(s), mechanisms and effects (1)**
recommended readings:
 - Saurugger S. (2014), *Theoretical Approaches to European Integration*, Basingstoke, Palgrave (chapter 6: 'Europeanization and Public Policy Transfer', p. 123-144).
 - Bickerton C. (2020), 'Member States in European Integration' in Bulmer S., Lequesne C. (eds.), *The Member States of the European Union*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 27-46.
 - Exadaktylos T., Graziano P., Vink M. (2020), 'Europeanization: Concept, Theory, and Methods' in Bulmer S., Lequesne C. (eds.), *The Member States of the European Union*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 47-69.
 - Ladrech R. (2010), *Europeanization and national politics*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan.
2. 07/10 **Europeanization: definition(s), mechanisms and effects (2)**
recommended readings:
 - Kassim H., Buth V. (2020), 'Europeanization and Member State Institutions' in Bulmer S., Lequesne C. (eds.), *The Member States of the European Union*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 301-330.
 - Jensen M. (2014), 'Negotiating the morass: measuring and explaining variation in co-ordination mechanisms in the European Union' in *Journal of European Public Policy*, 21(9): p. 1273-1292.
 - Panke D. (2010), 'Good Instructions in No Time? Domestic Coordination of EU Policies in 19 Small States' in *West European Politics*, 33(4): p. 770-790.
 - Bursens P. (2020), 'Europeanization and Sub-National Authorities (SNAs)' in Bulmer S., Lequesne C. (eds.), *The Member States of the European Union*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 399-421.

- Ladrech R. (2013), 'Europeanization and Political Parties' in Bulmer S., Lequesne C. (eds.), *The Member States of the European Union. Second edition*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 313-332.
- Saurugger S. (2020), 'The Europeanization of Interest Groups and Social Movements' in Bulmer S., Lequesne C. (eds.), *The Member States of the European Union*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 354-376.
- Radaelli C. (2020), 'The Europeanization of Member State Policy' in Bulmer S., Lequesne C. (eds.), *The Member States of the European Union*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, p. 377-398.

PART II – APPLICATION: THE EUROPEANIZATION OF BELGIUM

- 14/10 **The Europeanization of the Belgian political system: polity/institutions**
recommended readings:
 - Bursens P., Hielscher K., Van Keulen M. (2015), 'Day-to-day EU coordination in the Benelux: from domestic consensus politics to consensual EU coordination' in Vollaard H., Beyers J., Dumont P. (eds.), *European Integration and Consensus Politics in the Low Countries*, Abingdon, Routledge, p. 173-192.
 - Beyers J., Delreux T., Steensels C. (2004), 'The Europeanisation of Intergovernmental Cooperation and Conflict Resolution In Belgium: The Case of Agriculture' in *Perspectives on European Politics and Society*, 5(1): p. 103-134.
 - Bursens P., Geeraerts K. (2006), 'Who Keeps the Gate? Joint Preference Formation and Representation in Belgium's European Environmental Policy-making' in *Journal of European Integration*, 28(2): p. 159-180.
 - Beyers J., Bursens P. (2013), 'How Europe Shapes the Nature of the Belgian Federation: Differentiated EU Impact Triggers Both Co-operation and Decentralization' in *Regional and Federal Studies*, 23(3): p. 271-291.
- 21/10 **The Europeanization of the Belgian political system: politics and policy**
recommended reading:
 - Fraussen B., Dejaeghere Y. (2012), 'Belgian Parties, Interest Groups, Media and Public Opinion and the Presidency: A Non-Issue for Non-State Actors?' in Van Hecke S., Bursens S. (eds.), *Readjusting the Council Presidency. Belgian Leadership in the EU*, Brussels, Academic & Scientific Publishers: p. 79-100.
 - Chiru M., Sandri G., Van Ingelgom V., Versailles A. (2022), 'The Awakening of the Sleeping Beauty?' in Baudewyns P., Brans M., Reuchamps M., Rihoux B., Van Ingelgom V. (eds.), *The Winter of Democracy. Partitocracy in Belgium*, Louvain-la-Neuve, Presses universitaires de Louvain, p. 223-249.
 - Brack N., Hoon L. (2017), 'Euro-scepticism in Belgium: Issue-Voting Against the Odds' in Hassing Nielsen J., Franklin M. (eds.), *The Eurosceptic 2014 European Parliament Elections*, London, Palgrave Macmillan, p. 171-195.
 - Pittoors G. (2023), 'National Parties as Multilevel Organizations in the EU. A Comparative Case Study of Flanders, Denmark and the Netherlands' in *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 61(2): p. 416-433.
- 28/10 **Individual guidance session**
make individual appointment by e-mail: santiago.dierckx@uclouvain.be
- 04/11 **Visit of the Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU (Brussels, 11h00-12h30)**
11/10 *no lecture (Armistice Day)*

PART III – CASE STUDIES

- 18/11 **Student presentations and discussion (1)** (calendar will be announced on Moodle)
- 25/11 **Student presentations and discussion (2)** (calendar will be announced on Moodle)
- 02/12 **Student presentations and discussion (3)** (calendar will be announced on Moodle)

10. 09/12 **Student presentations and discussion (4)** (calendar will be announced on Moodle)
11. 16/12 **Individual feedback session**
make individual appointment by e-mail: santiago.dierckx@uclouvain.be