

**Master in  
Parliamentary procedures and  
legislative drafting  
(EUPADRA)**



**Course Syllabus**  
*Academic Year 2016/17*

**Course Title:** The European Parliament in the “Composite” European Constitution

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**Course description**

The course will focus on the European Parliament in the context of the European Union, whose structure is shaped in part by EU law, especially the Treaties, and in part by national constitutional provisions, but also in the day-to-day pragmatic evolution of the Institutions.

The course will start with an historical Institutional and legal overview of the evolution of the European Parliament since the first steps of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community's. It will then move on to look at the role of the European Parliament before and after the first direct elections of 1979, through the various Treaty changes , until the regime defined by the Treaty of Lisbon.

The course will continue analyzing the role and influence of the of the elected European Parliament in its relation with the Council and the Commission, with a special attention to the approval and the tenure of the European Commission, also in the light of the 2014 *Spitzenkandidaten* exercise. By the same token attention will be devoted to the multinational and multilingual dimensions of the European Parliament as the “democratic” institution *par excellence* as for its headquarters, composition, organization and procedures.

Finally, the course will examine three concrete areas of influence of the European Parliament: as legislative and budgetary authority and as global actor of a multiplayer system.

At least two guest seminars involving visiting professors are to be organized in the framework of this course.

**Assessment**

Students will be asked to write a short paper (between 2,000 and 3,000 words) and to pass a take-home exam based on a case study selected by the instructors.

**Textbook**

R. Corbett, F. Jacobs, M. Shackleton, *The European Parliament*, 8th ed., London, John Harper, 2011

**Course Structure**

	Topic and suggested bibliography
Class 1 O. Costa 10/10/2016	At the origins of the European Parliament: the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community and its evolution under EC Treaties (until direct election)  Readings: - B. Rittberger, <i>Building Europe's Parliament: Democratic Representation Beyond the Nation-State</i> , Oxford, OUP, 2007, pp. 73-113. - R. Corbett, F. Jacobs, M. Shackleton, <i>The European Parliament</i> , 8th ed., London, John Harper, 2011, chapter 1.
Class 2 O. Costa 11/10/2016	The position of the European Parliament in the European institutional architecture (I): from the direct election to the Treaty of Lisbon  Readings: - R. Corbett, F. Jacobs, M. Shackleton, <i>The European Parliament</i> , 8th ed., London, John Harper, 2011, chapter 18. - P. Roca, A. Rasmussen and P. Ponzano, <i>Part II</i> , in Y. Mény (eds.), <i>Building Parliament: 50 Years of European Parliament History</i> , Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2009, pp. 158-222.
Class 3 O. Costa 24/10/2016	The position of the European Parliament in the European institutional architecture (II): from the Treaty of Lisbon onwards  Readings: - R. Corbett, F. Jacobs, M. Shackleton, <i>The European Parliament</i> , 8th ed., London, John Harper, 2011, chapter 12. - C. Reh, A. Héritier, E. Bressanelli, C. Koop, <i>The informal politics of legislation explaining secluded decision making in the European Union</i> , in <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 46 (9), pp. 1112-1142
Class 4 O. Costa 25/10/2016	The election(s) of the European Parliament: the evolution of its role regarding the Commission, in particular the appointment and mandate of the European Commission before and after the <i>Spitzenkandidaten</i> exercise.  Readings: - R. Corbett, F. Jacobs, M. Shackleton, <i>The European Parliament</i> , 8th ed., London, John Harper, 2011, chapter 2, chapter 4 (pp. 61-77), chapter 14 (pp. 292-297; pp. 308-311) - M. Goldoni, The representativeness of EU law-making: Lessons from the <i>Spitzenkandidaten</i> experiment, in C. Fasone, D. Fromage and Z. Lefkofridi (eds), <i>Parliaments, public opinion and parliamentary elections in Europe</i> , EUI Working Paper, MWP 2015/18, pp. 7-20.

<p>Class 5 A. De Feo 7/11/2016</p>	<p>The European Parliament in a multinational and multilingual European Union: its organization and the national dimensions of a «Community» institution</p> <p>Reading: - R. Corbett, F. Jacobs, M. Shackleton, <i>The European Parliament</i>, 8th ed., London, John Harper, 2011, chapter 3, 5, 6, 7, 9.</p>
<p>Class 6 A. De Feo 8/11/2016</p>	<p>The European Parliament as a budgetary and discharge authority</p> <p>Readings: - R. Corbett, F. Jacobs, M. Shackleton, <i>The European Parliament</i>, 8th ed., London, John Harper, 2011, chapter 13. - A. De Feo, <i>A history of budgetary powers and politics in the EU : the role of the European Parliament</i>. Part I and II, Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2015. Or C. Fasone and N. Lupo, The Union Budget and the Budgetary Procedure, in R. Schütze and T. Tridimas (eds), <i>Oxford Principles of European Union Law</i>, Oxford, OUP (forthcoming).</p>
<p>Class 7 A. De Feo 21/11/2016</p>	<p>The European Parliament as a legislative authority: case study</p> <p>Readings: - F. Benoît-Rohmer, <i>Part III</i>, in Y. Mény (eds.), <i>Building Parliament: 50 Years of European Parliament History</i>, Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2009, pp. 227-286. - M. Romaniello, <i>The international role of the European Parliament: The SWIFT Affair and the 're-assessed' European institutional balance of power</i>, in <i>Perspectives on federalism</i>, vol. 5, issue 1, 2013, pp. 97-121. - J. Priestley, <i>Six Battles That Shaped Europe's Parliament</i>, John Harper, 2008, ISBN: 978-0-9556202-3-2, ch 5</p>
<p>Class 8 A. De Feo 22/11/2016</p>	<p><b>The European Parliament's beyond its legislative role</b></p> <p>Readings: - R. Corbett, F. Jacobs, M. Shackleton, <i>The European Parliament</i>, 8th ed., London, John Harper, 2011, chapter 15 - S. Fabbrini, <i>Which European Union? European after the Euro Crisis</i>, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2015, chapters 5 and 6. Or - Uwe Puetter, <i>The European Council and the Council: New intergovernmentalism and institutional change</i>, Oxford, OUP, 2014, chapters 2 and 5.</p>

**Other suggested readings**

- A. Kreppel, *The European Parliament and Supranational Party System: A Study in Institutional Development*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- A. Manzella and N. Lupo, *Parlamento europeo (voce)*, in S. Cassese (ed), *Dizionario di diritto pubblico*, vol. V, Milano, Giuffrè, 2006, pp. 4112-4124.
- D. Judge and D. Earnshaw, *The European Parliament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Basingstoke, Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.
- O. Costa and F. Saint Martin, *Le Parlement européen*, Paris, La Documentation Française, 2011.
- N. Yordanova, *Organising the European Parliament: the role of committees and their legislative influence*, Colchester, ECPR Press, 2013.
- N. Brack, *L'Euroscepticisme au sein du parlement européen : Stratégies d'une opposition anti-système au coeur des institutions*, Larcier, 2014.
- J. Priestley, *Six Battles That Shaped Europe's Parliament*, John Harper, 2008, ISBN: 978-0-9556202-3-2