



## Basismodul Seminar Politikwissenschaft V: Summer Term 2019

**Divided by common values?**

**Divergent interpretation of Art. 2 TEU amongst European member states**

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The Seminar will take place in **Brussels** from **24 – 28 June 2019**.

There will be one **introductory session** in Cologne on **11 April 2019**.

Accommodation expenses in Brussels will be paid by PROTEUS, a project which is funded by the Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfonds.

### **APPLICATION**

Please note that interested students will need to apply for this course by submitting a separate application (PDF) to Alina Thieme ([alina.thieme@uni-koeln.de](mailto:alina.thieme@uni-koeln.de)) comprising a letter of motivation touching upon the topic of the seminar, a transcript of records and a CV by **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

Applicants will be informed about the result of the selection process in due time.

Für Informationen zu Prüfungsmeldung (Vorgehen, Fristen, etc.) beachten Sie bitte unbedingt die Hinweise des Instituts: <http://www.politik.uni-koeln.de/de/lehre-und-studium/pruefungen/>

For important information on the organization and management of examinations (registration, deadlines) please cf. to our Department: <http://www.politik.uni-koeln.de/en/courses-and-studies/examinations/>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The question whether some Eastern member states violate democratic norms and do not uphold the rule of law according to Art. 2 TEU is recently highly debated in the EU's institutions and member states. On the one hand, the European Commission laid down a proposal in January 2019 that establishes a link between the respect for the rule of law in member states and financial transfers from the EU. Moreover, the European Commission also proposed to the Council to adopt a decision under Art. 7 TEU against Poland, while the European Parliament voted in favour of launching Art. 7 TEU against the Hungarian government. On the other hand, Poland still did not rescind its judicial reforms condemned both by the European Court of Justice and the Hungarian government warned that such proposals and votes against Central European member states would only lead to further conflicts within the EU. The European Union seems to be divided by common values. Thus, in this seminar, students will take part in a Moot Court which will focus on the interpretation of Art. 2 TEU in the cases of Poland, Hungary and Romania.

The seminar is embedded into an interdisciplinary and international event bringing together advanced students from all over Europe. It combines the application of political and legal knowledge with elements of a simulation exercise and a summer school. Every participant has the possibility to





practice real-life situations in English by performing a specific role in a Moot Court. For more information, please visit: <http://www.proteus.uni-koeln.de>

The seminar will start with internal meetings of the German group, consisting of political sciences and law students, and culminate in an international summer school and simulation exercise (Moot Court) on negotiating on the interpretation of Art. 2 TEU in the cases of Poland, Hungary and Romania taking place in Brussels between June 24 and 28, 2019.

The objective of the Moot Court is to bring first-hand understanding of both academic and everyday practice of EU decision-making by offering students insights in "real life" political processes and the possibility to "experience" the EU as a vivid political system as well as to meet politicians, practitioners and stakeholders in the European capital Brussels. The participants will have the possibility to bring in their own academic/professional contributions and to discuss them with the group and the experts. Three days of intensive preparation will be followed by a Moot Court.

Students will get the opportunity to work in an international sphere since also students from other universities (Science Po Paris, University Paris-Sorbonne, Charles University Prague and the Turkish-German University Istanbul) will participate in the simulation game. They will improve their intercultural and communicative skills. In this respect, they will immerse themselves into the art of negotiation and re-live political processes first hand. They will get into direct contact with important experts and stakeholders and receive the chance to make a first step in creating a professional network. They will get a better understanding of the working mechanisms and decision making of the European Court of Justice since every participant will take the place of a 'real' member of this EU institution.

Participating students will be provided with more information (literature, schedule etc.) during the first meeting in April 2019.

The seminar is jointly conducted with the Chair for European Law, Prof. Dr. Stephan Hobe.