

Name: _____ Time (min.) _____

Study Guide Module Institutions of the European Union

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) You will be able to explain and distinguish between different areas of regulation – the three Pillars of the EU. 2) You will be able to assess this interrelated set of policy-making institutions, or what we call today the “multilevel governance.” 3) You will be able to identify the key players in the decision making processes and what different roles they play. 4) You will be able to discuss the underlying principles on which these institutions are built on.
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INSTRUCTIONS:
Try to answer the following questions by visiting the following sites:

<p>2) Learn about the main pillars (in Chapter 1 in the “Guide for Americans.”)</p>	<p>What are the three pillars of the European Union? Give an example for each area of regulation.</p> <p>Pillar One _____</p> <p>Example: _____</p> <p>Pillar Two _____</p> <p>Example: _____</p> <p>Pillar Three _____</p> <p>Example: _____</p>
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<p>3) Read Chapter 2 in the “Guide for Americans,” visit the major institutions of the EU, and learn about the key players in EU legislation</p>	<p>Imagine you want to introduce new regulation on environmental protection in the EU. What path would this new law take? Who (or which institution(s)) would you need to convince?</p> <p>a) Who could make the (official) proposal for this new law? _____</p> <p>b) Who would discuss this proposal? _____</p> <p>c) Who would make the final decision? _____</p>
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<p>4) Visit the European Commission.</p>	<p>a) In which city is the European Commission located? _____</p> <p>b) Who is currently the President? _____</p> <p>c) How many commissioners are there currently? _____</p> <p>d) How are these commissioners appointed/elected? _____</p> <p>e) What are the main tasks/powers of the Commission? _____ _____</p> <p>f) How many people are directly employed by the European Union? _____</p>
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<p>5) Visit the Council of the European Union.</p>	<p>a) Where is the seat of the Council of the European Union? _____</p> <p>b) Who meets in this Council? _____</p> <p>c) Who has currently the presidency of the Council? And next term? _____</p> <p>d) What are the main tasks/powers of the Council? _____ _____</p> <p>e) How many votes does each country have in the Council decisions? _____</p>
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6) Visit the European Parliament.	a) How many members does the European Parliament (EP) have? <hr/> b) Who is "represented" in EP? Who elects the members of the EP? <hr/> c) Which party/parties currently have the majority? <hr/> d) What are the main tasks/powers of the EP? <hr/> <hr/> e) Where is the EP located? <hr/>
7) Visit the European Court of Justice.	a) Where is the seat of the ECJ? _____ b) How many judges are appointed to the court? _____ c) Who appoints these judges and for how long? _____ d) What are the main tasks/powers of the ECJ? _____ <hr/>
Prepare for Discussion:	1) What notion do you think best describes the current state of the European Union: "Federation," "Confederation," "Superstate," "Supranational entity," or any other term, and why? 2) Compare and contrast: What is the most important office/institution in the United States and in the European Union? 3) How are the three "powers" executive, legislative, and juridical power divided/distributed in the United States and in the European Union? 4) Can the European Union operate in the same fashion as the Federal Government of the United States? 5) How do you think is the balance between these different institutions created in order to achieve both the interest of member states while promoting the interests of the community"? Compare and contrast the powers of the Council vis-à-vis the Parliament and the Commission. 6) How are the member states represented in the EU? 7) How do citizens in the EU have a voice? Why do some argue that decision-making in the European Union lacks democratic accountability? Do you think there is sufficient representation of citizens in EU matters – or is there a "democratic deficit"? 8) Many institutional reforms have tackled the issue of equality among the member states. In which of the four institutions discussed above do you think this principle has been best achieved? 9) Which issue facing the European Union do you think will be the most difficult to resolve and implement?