

## Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



### TRAV2300 Contextual factors of work

[15h] 4 credits

This course is taught in the 1st semester

**Teacher(s):** Evelyne Léonard  
**Language:** French  
**Level:** Second cycle

#### Aims

To describe to students the contexts in the various countries of the European Union that give them the basic information they need to embark on comparative studies of labour issues.

#### Main themes

Students will be encouraged through supervised reading to work in the three following areas:

comparative economic and social geography in the countries of the European Union;  
 comparative political systems in countries of the European Union;  
 technology, work organisation and ergonomics.

#### Content and teaching methods

**Objectives:** The seminar will aim to familiarise students with the key features of the world of work environment in European countries participating in the 'Master européen en Sciences du Travail' programme. These will give them an initial understanding of the economic, political, institutional and industrial relations context in these countries (i.e. France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Portugal and Spain). It will also seek, through reading and discussions during sessions, to lead a reflection on the issue of working time in these countries. By the end of the course, students will understand how this issue presents in the country that they are working on as a group.

##### Content

To deal with the 'contextual factors of work', students will have take an interest not only in the contexts in which the work is carried out, but also in the work itself. In order to address it concretely, the seminar will be based on a study of a particular issue such as working time or equal opportunities. In the framework of a research project scenario, we will attempt to find out whether there is convergence of working time in various countries of the European Union, and why. The focus will therefore be on identifying the regulations in force in these countries, the debates that are taking place, any negotiations under way on the subject, and the economic, political, institutional and industrial relations contexts in which this issue occurs.

##### Methodology

The seminar demands students' active participation in the framework of information search and preparation between sessions, and on group discussion during the sessions.

#### Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Students working in a group will produce a 15 page summary based on information collected by the group and discussed in the sessions. Assessment will focus on (i) participation in the sessions of the seminar, and (ii) written work carried out in a group, and discussion of this work during the examination session.

**Other credits in programs**

<b>TRAV2M1</b>	Master en sciences du travail	(3 credits)	
<b>TRAV2M1/EU</b>	Master en sciences du travail (option européenne)	(4 credits)	Mandatory