From Learning Objectives to Valid and Reliable Assessment Tools: Simulations in EU Studies

Course development starts with defining the learning objectives, elaborated within the overall academic teaching vision of the university. This set objectives is the tail that wags the program objectives, and eventually also the course’s learning objectives and assessment tools.

The University of Antwerp obliges all programs to engage in student centered, competence-based, international and research-based teaching. The Political Science masters therefore require their graduated students, among other objectives, to be able to make oral and written presentations, develop arguments and negotiate with respect to topical political issues in European politics.

The European Negotiation Seminar implements these objectives through preparing students to participate in EuroSim, a 4-day transatlantic simulation of EU negotiations involving nearly 200 students. Participating students are partly assessed by their performance during the simulation.

To guarantee a valid and reliable performance assessment that stands the test of teaching audits, it is made sure that students are confronted with transparent assessment criteria, receive formative and summative feedback, are assessed by multiple evaluators and need to reflect on their performance.

By Peter Bursens – Matti Van Hecke
Jean Monnet Chair – Department of Political Science – University of Antwerp
Contact: peter.bursens@uantwerp.be, www.uantwerp.be