



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/2006

GRA 5913 The EU Policy Process: The Firm, Organised Interests and Lobbying

Program

Master of Science in Business, Master of Science in Management, Specialization Course

Responsible for the course

Kjell A Eliassen

Department

Public Governance

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

This is one of the School's three courses dedicated to advanced selected topics in political economy, in this case the role of organised interests in the policy process. It requires no previous knowledge, but is primarily designed for students taking the MSc in Political Economy and therefore assumes some knowledge of political processes and policy making. It is also one of the School's two advanced European Union courses, and may therefore be taken as one of four courses in the Minor on the European Union (MSc Business).

The central themes include the policy processes in the EU and its member states, comparative public policy analysis and lobbying.

Objective

This course provides in-depth analysis of the policy process in the European Union and its member states from a 'firms-eye' perspective, and addresses the input side in national and supranational politics in general and more specifically the question of lobbying. Although the role of the firm and organised business interests in the EU policy process makes up a central part of the course, the course covers the wider question of lobbying in liberal democracies. It covers financial and political risk analysis in the context of the Single Market and European integration, and includes case studies in company strategy and decision-shaping. While the central focus is on the firm and industry interests, other actors that lobby the EU system are covered including interest groups, NGOs, regions and states (particularly quasi-members such as Norway) as lobbyists and decision-shapers. The course analyses lobbying compared to other theories of corporate interest representation (corporatism), addressing the uniqueness and specifics of lobbying as such as well as the particulars of lobbying in the context of the relatively open European Union system, albeit in a comparative context that includes e.g. the USA. Case studies are drawn from both European and national level, and the course will draw on the experience of individual lobbyists in the case studies.

Prerequisites

Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing or eq.

Compulsory literature

Books:

Andersen, Svein S. and Kjell A. Eliassen, eds.. 2001. Making policy in Europe. 2nd ed.. London: Sage.

Greenwood, Justin.. 2003. Interest representing in the European Union. Basingstoke: Macmillan Palgrave

Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Mark S. Bonchek.. 1997. Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior and Institutions. New York: Norton

Other:

Compendium of Recent Journal Articles, including articles/chapters by R. Dahl, J. K. Galbraith, A. Downs, G. Tullock, W. Letwin, C. Lindblom, M. Olson, A. O. Hirschman, P. Schmitter, E. Nordlinger, S. Hix, G. Tsebelis, P. Bouwen, S. K. Schmidt, D. Cohen etc.

Recommended literature**Books:**

Bomberg, Elizabeth and Alexander Stubb, eds.. 2002. The European Union: How Does it Work?. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
John, Steve and Stuart Thompson, eds.. 2003. New Activism and the Corporate Response. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
Pedler, Robin H. ,ed.. 2002. European Union Lobbying: Changes in the arena.. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan..
Peterson, John and Elizabeth Bomberg.. 1999. Decision-Making in the European Union. Houndsmills: Palgrave.
Schendelen, Rinus van.. 2002. Machiavelli in Brussels: The Art of Lobbying the EU. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press
Weidenbaum, Murraray.. 2004. Business and Government in the Global Marketplace. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Other:

Individual journal articles and book chapters available in the library and/or electronically will be recommended as further reading.

Course outline

1. Comparative analysis of the role of organised interests in public policy and the relative strength of various interest groups. Pluralist and public choice analysis. Collective action.
2. Theories of lobbying and decision making/shaping (and implementation, evaluation and review).
3. Political parties as strategic actors. Voting rules and games. Institutional and rational choice approaches to decision making: agenda setting, voting, transparency and supervision.
4. Interest groups and private actors in policy making and implementation. Case studies in lobbying at the national level.
5. Lobbying and multi-level governance: influencing the EU policy process. Lobbying in the EU, by private and public actors.

Computer-based tools

None

Course structure

36 hours

Evaluation

40% in class assessment, 60% written paper

Evaluation code(s)

GRA 59131

Aids at the examination

Not applicable

Makeup exam

Re-takes are only possible at the next time a course will be held. When course evaluation consists of class participation or process elements, the whole course must be re-evaluated when a student wants to retake an exam. Retake examinations entail an extra examination fee.

