



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/2006

GRA 5915 The Political Economy of Regulation: EU Competition Policy and Sector Regulation

Program

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

Responsible for the course

Nick Sitter

Department

Public Governance

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

This is one of the School's four courses dedicated to core questions in political economy, in this case competition policy and market regulation. 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 European Union regulatory state, comparative competition policy and sector regulation.

Objective

The course takes theories of regulation as its starting point, addressing the rationales and motivations for economic regulation and centring on the evolution of competition policy and sector regulation in Europe and its changes in the light of liberalisation and de-regulation in the Single Market and the individual states. It also draws on the US models of and experience with deregulation. The course covers several aspects of the regulatory state with respect to the different sectors, such as the degree of liberalisation; the degree of Europeanisation of regulation; questions related to self-regulation, flexibility and indirect regulation; regulatory competition, cooperation and/or convergence; as well as the legal, administrative and political bases for regulation and questions of political intervention, transparency, political or legal appeals and review processes and regulatory reform. It covers EU competition policy, the key tool for regulating the single market, and regulation, liberalisation and de-regulation in the European Union. Three broad sectors are the subject of thorough analysis: the ICT sector (telecoms, communications and the media), the energy sector (oil, gas and electricity) and financial services and capital markets. Central questions concerning regulatory reform include: What kind of regulation or competition policy is necessary in order to make markets work as desired? Who demands and supplies regulation? To what extent do existing institutions (at different levels) shape the trajectories of regulation and regulatory change?

Prerequisites

Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing or eq.

Compulsory literature

Books:

El-Agraa, Ali M., ed.. 2004. The European Union: Economics and Policies. 7th ed. Harlow: FT Prentice Hall.

Gerber, D.. 2000. Law and Competition in Twentieth Century Europe: Protecting Prometheus.

New ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press

Other:

Compendium of Recent Journal Articles, including articles/chapters by R. Baldwin/M. Cave, T. Prosser, G. J. Stigler, A. Ogus, G. Wilson, M. Armstrong et al, D. Newberry, S. Vogel, M. Lodge, F. McGowan, S. Wilks, G. B. Doern, H. Wallace, G. Majone, L. Hancher, S. K. Schmidt, S. S. Andersen, M. Thatcher, I. Bartle, A. Heritier, L. Cram etc

Recommended literature

Books:

Artis, Mike and Frederick Nixon.. 2001. The Economics of the European Union: Policy and Analysis. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Cini, Michelle and Lee McGowan.. 1998. Competition Policy in the European Union. New York: St. Martin's Press.
Goyder, D. G.. 2003. EC Competition Law. 4th ed.. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Majone, Giandomenico, ed.. 1996. Regulating Europe. London: Routledge.
Ogus, Anthony.. 2001. Regulation, economics and the law. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publ.
Pelkmans, Jacques.. 2001. European Integration: Methods and Economic Analysis. Pearson Education.
Scharpf, Fritz W.. 1999. Governing in Europe: Effective and Democratic?. New York: Oxford University Press.
Whish, Richard.. 2003. Competition Law.. 5th ed. Law.London: LexisNexis

Other:

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

Course outline

1. Theories of regulation (normative, positive and institutional). Economic and social regulation. Network regulation, utilities and public services. Regulatory reform. Independent regulatory agencies, and principal/agent issues.
2. Comparative public policy and regulation: Economic policy and regulation in Western Europe and the USA. Privatisation, liberalisation and de-regulation, and challenges for sector regulation. Transparency, accountability and democratic control.
3. Regulation and liberalisation in the EU and a global economy. The international dimension of regulation. Regulatory competition and cooperation.
4. Comparative competition policy: National (incl. Norwegian, US), European Union and international.
5. Sector regulation. Specific aspects of and case studies from the ICT sector (telecoms, communications and the media), the energy sector (oil, gas and electricity) and financial services and capital markets.

Computer-based tools

None

Course structure

36 hours

Evaluation

40% in class assessment, 60% written paper

Evaluation code(s)

GRA 59151

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.