



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/2006

JOU 2402 Political decision making processes

Program

Bachelor in Business Journalism (3. year)

Responsible for the course

Kåre Hagen

Department

Public Governance

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

The course is designed as an introduction to how modern, democratic states are developed, organized and transformed. It aims to increase the students' understanding of the shaping of public policy, which instruments are used to achieve objectives that have been democratically decided on, and how international conditions form new external parameters for the nation-state's exercise of authority over its own citizens and business community.

Objective

The objective of the course is to provide a survey over the development of the Norwegian welfare society, the institutional architecture its public sector and the decision making processes which forms public policies. In addition the course aims at providing a basic knowledge of which, and how, non-national factors like the EU and 'globalization affect public policy making.

Prerequisites

None

Compulsory literature

Books:

Fimreite, Anne Lise og Jan Erik Grindheim. 2001. Offentlig forvaltning. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget

Østerud, Øyvind, Fredrik Engelstad og Per Selle. 2003. Makten og demokratiet : en sluttbok fra Makt- og demokratiutredningen. Oslo: Gyldendal akademisk

Recommended literature

Course outline

1. State, democracy and market

This is a history of ideas introduction to the classical political economy and the justifications for state power and tax-financed production of collective goods. What is a nation-state, and how is the market economy and the state governed by law linked together in a welfare state? What tensions arise between state, democracy and market in a society like the Norwegian.

2. Political government and powerlessness in Norway

What are the universal political objectives for democratic government in Norway and how does the parliamentary governmental system function, according to the ideals and in practice? What are the main governmental instruments and what is the relationship between politics, bureaucracy and organized interest groups?

3. The welfare state

What characterizes the Norwegian public sector in an international perspective, and how shall we understand governmental problems and reform needs from the angle of objectives regarding social security and equal access to public services? What is understood by the Nordic welfare state model and what are the main tendencies in the demand for welfare state benefits? The connection between state responsibility and municipal services and the tensions between national equality objectives and effective use of resources.

4. Modernization of the public sector

What are the institutional governing methods and the arguments in favour of them? «New Public

Management», liberalization, exposure to competition and privatization. What do we know about inefficiency in public services and under which conditions is increased use of market mechanisms in agreement with universal political objectives?

5. Globalization and Europeanization

What are the formal and actual limitations for Norwegian decision makers of impaired national sovereignty, and how does this create new external constraints on the exercise of democratic control with developments in society? What are the connections between national political-economic institutions and an effective business sector in Norway?

Computer-based tools

None

Course structure

36 hours lectures

Evaluation

A three hour individual written exam concludes the course.

Evaluation code(s)

JOU 24021 - The written exam counts 100% for the mark in JOU 2402 Political decision making processes, 6 ECTS credits.

Aids at the examination

none

Makeup exam

At next regular term