



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2006/2007

## GRA 5913 The EU Policy Process

### Program

Advanced Specialization Course (MSc), Master of Science in Political Economy

### 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, and focuses on the role of organised interests in the policy process. The course is primarily designed for students taking the MSc in Political Economy and therefore assumes some knowledge of political processes and policy making in the EU (an equivalent of GRA 5912). It is also one of the School's two advanced European Union courses.

The central themes include the policy processes in the EU (and the EEA) 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. It covers agenda-setting and policy input, legislative decision making an implementation in national and supranational politics. The course focuses on the range of actors and organised interests involved in the policy process; from firms and industry interests, trade unions, NGOs and pressure groups, to local and national governments in EU and non-member states. A substantial part of the course focuses on EU legislative processes and the factors and actors that shape EU directives from agenda setting to the final stages of implementation and adjudication. Because growing number of policy areas involve shared competence between the EU and the member states, and a combination of formal legislation and other instruments (funding, recommendations, guidelines, interpretation of primary and secondary legislation), the course explores policy outcomes in a range of sectors that includes environment, social, health, public procurement and security policy (including police cooperation). Case studies will be extensively.

### Prerequisites

GRA 5912 or an equivalent EU course

### Compulsory literature

#### Books:

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

Richardson, Jeremy. 2005. European Union : power and policy-making. 3rd ed. New York: Routledge

#### Collection of articles:

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:

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

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  
Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Mark S. Bonchek. 1997. Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior and Institutions. New York: Norton  
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 actors (e.g. business, NGOs, trade unions, local government, non-member states).
2. Agenda setting and policy formulation, with a particular focus on the role of the Commission, committees and working groups, national civil servants and organised interests.
3. Advanced analysis of the EU legislative process: the role of the European parliament and the Council; voting rules and legislative outcomes.
4. Implementation, supervision and adjudication. How EU-level decisions are transposed and implemented in the member states and by the European Commission in its executive capacity; supervision and comitology; the role of the courts.
5. Non-legislative decision making in the EU: policy coordination, expansion of legal principles and interpretation of primary law, the Open Method of Coordination; the role of Agencies in policy formulation, coordination and delivery (eg. Europol).

**Computer-based tools**

None

**Course structure**

36 hours

**Evaluation**

Research paper (60 %) and in-class assessment (40%).

Both parts of the evaluation need to be passed in order to get a grade in the course.

**Evaluation code(s)**

GRA 59131

**Aids at the examination**

All

**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.

**Honor Code**

Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and they are encouraged and promoted by the honor system. This is a most significant university tradition. The honor system is the responsibility of students. As faculty, we share the commitment to the ideals of the honor system.

At no time should notes or papers or personal consultations based on previous semesters of this course be used. As part of the honor code papers handed in as part of the course is, at the discretion of the professor, scanned for plagiarism. We are using Safe Assignment in Black Board for this purpose. Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures on cheating. These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the program. They are at the heart of the Honor Code and academy integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.