



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/2010

GRA 5913 The EU Policy Process

Programme

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

Responsible for the course

Kjell A Eliassen

Department

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

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 is the policy processes in the EU (and the EEA) and its member states.

Learning outcome

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 actors that shape EU directives. Because a 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. Case studies are extensively used.

Prerequisites

GRA 5912 or an equivalent EU course

Compulsory reading

Books:

Greenwood, Justin. 2007. Interest representation in the European Union. 2nd ed. Basingstoke : Macmillan Palgrave

Richardson, Jeremy, ed. 2006. European Union : power and policy-making. 3rd ed. Abingdon : Routledge

Collection of articles:

Compendium of Recent Journal Articles, including articles/chapters.

Other:

A list of compulsory readings will be provided on Blackboard or in class.

During the course there may be hand-outs and other material on additional topics relevant for the course and the examination.

Recommended reading

Books:

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

Bomberg, Elizabeth, John Peterson and Alexander Stubb, eds. 2008. The European Union :

how does it work?. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press
John, Steve and Stuart Thomson, eds. 2003. New activism and the corporate response. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
Pedler, Robin, ed. 2002. European Union lobbying : changes in the arena. Basingstoke: Palgrave in association with the European Centre for Public Affairs
Peterson, John and Elizabeth Bomberg. 1999. Decision-making in the European Union. Houndsmills: Palgrave
Schendelen, Rinus van. 2005. Machiavelli in Brussels : the art of lobbying the EU. 2nd ed. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press
Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Mark S. Bonchek. 1997. Analyzing politics : rationality, behavior, and institutions. New York : W.W. Norton
Weidenbaum, Murrar L. 2004. Business and government in the global marketplace. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J. : 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 decision making in the EU and the member states.
2. 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).
3. 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.
4. Advanced analysis of the EU legislative process: the role of the European Parliament and the Council. Implementation, supervision and adjudication. How EU-level decisions are 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.

Computer-based tools

None

Learning process and workload

36 hours.

Please note that while attendance is not compulsory in all courses, it is the student's own responsibility to obtain any information provided in class that is not included on the course homepage/Blackboard or text book.

Examination

Research paper (70%, individual) and in-class assessment (30%).
Both parts of the evaluation need to be passed in order to get a grade in the course.

Specific information regarding student evaluation beyond the information given in the course description will be provided in class. This information may be relevant for requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one of several elements of the overall evaluation.

Exam code(s)

GRA 59131

Examination support materials

All aids are allowed. BI approved calculator, bilingual dictionary. Exam aids at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note use of calculator and dictionary. <http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Re-sit examination

Re-takes are only possible at the next time a course will be held. When the course evaluation has a separate exam code for each part of the evaluation it is possible to retake parts of the evaluation. Otherwise, the whole course must be re-evaluated when a student wants to retake an exam. Retake examinations entail an extra examination fee

Additional information

Honor Code

Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and represent values that are

encouraged and promoted by the honor code system. This is a most significant university tradition. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the ideals of the honor code system, to which the faculty are also deeply committed.

Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for cheating. These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the programs at BI and are at the heart of the honor code and academic integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.