



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

GRA 5920 The Political Economy of Government: Public Policy and Reform

Programme

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

Responsible for the course

Department

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

This is one of the School's four courses dedicated to core questions in political economy, in this case public policy and the reform of public services. It is primarily designed for students taking the MSc in Political Economy and therefore assumes some knowledge of political processes and policy making.

The central themes include public goods and service provision, comparative public policy and public sector reform.

Learning outcome

The course addresses the following topics:

1. Theoretical models of political decision making
2. The impact of public institutions, including budget-making, use of state-owned companies, use of various types of competition, the growth of public spending and fiscal federalism.

Prerequisites

Bachelor degree qualifying for admission to the MSc Programme

Compulsory reading

Books:

Le Grand, Julian. 2003. Motivation, agency, and public policy : of knights and knaves, pawns and queens. Oxford : Oxford University Press. kap.1-kap.8.

Collection of articles:

Compendium of Journal Articles

Other:

A list of compulsory readings will be provided on It's learning 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

Other:

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

Course outline

Welfare Economics versus Political Economy

The median voter model (extended)

Distributive politics model

The swing-voter model

The political agency model

Bureaucracy and delegation
Bureaucracy, motivation and state-owned companies
Competition in the public sector
The growth of the public sector
Fiscal federalism and local government

Computer-based tools

It's learning

Learning process and workload

A course of 6 ECTS credits corresponds to a workload of 160-180 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/It's learning or text book.

Examination

30% written exam, two hours (mid-term).

70% final written 3 hour exam.

Both parts of the evaluation must 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.

Examination code(s)

GRA 59202 for the two hours written exam (mid-term)

GRA 59203 for the final written exam (three hours)

Examination support materials

A 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

It is only possible to retake an examination when the course is next taught.

The assessment in some courses is based on more than one exam code.

Where this is the case, you may retake only the assessed components of one of these exam codes.

Where this is not the case, all of the assessed components of the course must be retaken.

All retaken examinations will incur an additional 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.