



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

ORG 2211 Business and Society II

Programme

Bachelor of Science in Business (3. year).

Responsible for the course

Department

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Introduction

Objective

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.

Prerequisites

Students must have completed and passed Business and Society I.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Busch, Tor ... [et al.], red. 2005. Modernisering av offentlig sektor : utfordringer, metoder og dilemmaer. 2. utg. Oslo : Universitetsforlaget. Pensum er kapitlene: 1,2,3,6,9,24
Fimreite, Anne Lise og Jan Erik Grindheim. 2007. Offentlig forvaltning. 2. utg. Oslo : Universitetsforlaget. Hele boken unntatt kapitlene 5, 7 og 12

Articles:

Lindbeck, Assar. 2003. Improving the performance of the European social model : the welfare state over the life cycle. Working paper / Industriens utredningsinstitut ; 587. Stockholm : The Research institute of industrial economics. (27 sider). Finnes på følgende nettsadresse:
http://www.ifn.se/web/587_1.aspx
Sørensen, Rune og Jørn Rattsøe. 2000. Ufordringer og reformer i offentlig sektor : vedlegg nr 5. i: Norges Offentlige Utredninger : Nr. 21. (14 sider). Finnes på:
<http://www.odin.dep.no/fin/norsk/publ/utredninger/NOU/006001-020007/index-ved005-b-f-a.html>

Recommended reading

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 our type of Western European society?

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 lecture hours.

Examination

A five hour individual written exam concludes the course.

Examination code(s)

ORG 22111- Written examination accounts for 100% of the grade in ORG 2211 Business and Society II, 6 credits

Examination support materials

None.

Re-sit examination

At the next scheduled exam in the course.

Additional information

Due to changes in our Bachelor Programmes from autumn 2009, there also will be changes in every single course. This course will be lectured for the last time autumn 2010. Re-sit exam will be offered every term from autumn 2011 even spring 2013.