



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017

GRA 5915 Business and Politics in the European Union: The Political Economy of the Single Market

Programme

Free electives/minors

Responsible for the course

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Department

Department of Law

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

This is an international political economy course that focuses on the European Union's single market. It requires no previous knowledge, and has been designed for the 'Minor in Political Economy' specialization. The central focus is on business and politics in the EU, and more specifically on the policy process and regulation in the Single European Market.

Learning outcome

The course focuses on regulation and competition in the Single European Market, addressing the rationales and motivations for economic regulation and centering on the evolution of competition policy and sector regulation, as well as changes in the light of liberalisation and de-regulation. Students will become familiar with the EU policy process, the theory and practice of regulation and competition policy, and a several selected policy sectors (eg.g. financial services, energy, defence procurement, ICT etc) . The course covers several aspects of the regulatory state, such as liberalisation; self-regulation, flexibility and indirect regulation; regulatory competition, cooperation and/or convergence; as well as the legal, administrative and political bases for regulation. Central questions include: What kind of regulation or competition policy is necessary in order to make markets work as desired? Who demands and supplies regulation? How does regulation work and how explain regulatory success and failures?

Prerequisites

All courses in the Masters programme will assume that students have fulfilled the admission requirements for the programme. In addition, courses in second, third and/or fourth semester can have specific prerequisites and will assume that students have followed normal study progression. For double degree and exchange students, please note that equivalent courses are accepted.

Compulsory reading

Books:

El-Agraa, Ali M. 2011. The European Union : economics and policies. 9th ed. Cambridge University Press
Nugent, Neill. 2010. The government and politics of the European Union. 7th ed. Palgrave Macmillan

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

Books:

Baldwin, Robert, Martin Cave, Martin Lodge. 2012. Understanding regulation : theory, strategy, and practice. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press

Esther Versluis, Mendeltje van Keulen and Paul Stephenson. 2011. Analyzing the European Union policy process. Palgrave Macmillan

Freiberg, Arie. 2010. The tools of regulation. Federation Press

Gerber, David J. 2001. Law and competition in twentieth century Europe : protecting Prometheus. New ed.

Clarendon Press

Jordana, Jacint and David Levi-Faur, eds. 2004. The politics of regulation : institutions and regulatory reforms for the age of governance. Edward Elgar

Newbery, David M. 1999. Privatization, restructuring, and regulation of network utilities. MIT Press

Ogus, Anthony. 2004. Regulation : legal form and economic theory. New ed. Hart

Other:

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

Course outline

1. The Single European Market
2. European Union institutions and the EU policy process.
3. Business, politics and regulation: Economic policy and regulation in Western Europe and the USA. Privatisation, liberalisation and de-regulation.
4. Regulation and liberalisation in a global economy. The international dimension of regulation. Regulatory competition and cooperation.
5. Comparative competition policy: National (incl. Norwegian, US), European Union and international.
6. Sector regulation. Specific aspects of and case studies from selected sectors, such as the ICT sector (telecoms, communications and the media), the energy sector (oil, gas and electricity), financial services and capital markets defence procurement.

Computer-based tools

Not applicable

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

The course grade will be based on the following activities and weights:

Assignment (15%)

Presentation (15%)

Term paper (70%, individual)

Form of assessment	Weight	Group size
Assignment	15%	Individual
Presentation	15%	Group of max 3 students
Term paper	70%	Individual

Specific information regarding student assessment will be provided in class. This information may be relevant to requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one of several components of the overall assessment. This is a course with continuous assessment (several exam components) and one final exam code. Each exam component is graded using points on a scale from 0-100. The final grade for the course is based on the aggregated mark of the course components. Each component is weighted as detailed in the course description. Students who fail to participate in one/some/all exam components will get a lower grade or may fail the course. You will find detailed information about the points system and the mapping scale in the student portal @bi. Candidates may be called in for an oral hearing as a verification/control of written assignments.

Examination code(s)

GRA 59151 continuous assessment accounts for 100 % of the final grade in the course GRA 5915.

Examination support materials

Permitted examination support materials for written examinations are detailed under examination information in the student portal @bi. The section on support materials and the use of calculators and dictionaries should be paid special attention to.

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. All retaken examinations will incur an additional fee. Please note that you need to retake the latest version of the course with updated course literature and assessment. Please make sure that you have familiarised yourself with the latest course description.

Additional information

Honour code. Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and are values that are integral to BI's honour code system. Students are responsible for familiarising themselves with the honour code system, to which the faculty is deeply committed. Any violation of the honour code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for academic misconduct. Issues of academic integrity are taken seriously by everyone associated with the programmes at BI and are at the heart of the honour code. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honour code, please ask. The learning platform itslearning is used in the teaching of all courses at BI. All students are expected to make use of itslearning.