



STUDY PROGRAMME

ECO-EPPA + POL-EPPA + MATA-ECO

ACADEMIC YEAR

2019 - 2020

SEMESTER

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COURSE TITLE

PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

COURSE PROFESSOR

MASSIMO BORDIGNON

COURSE ASSISTANT

TONY O'CONNOR

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

COMPULSORY

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

ENGLISH

ECTS CREDITS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is that the student develops an enhanced understanding of the role of political institutions in determining policies. In addition, the student will learn the main normative and empirical tools developed by economists in order to evaluate policies. Examples will be offered and discussed concerning national as well as European policies.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. describe the economic foundations and tools, taken from both economics and politics, for understanding the functioning of public institutions and the determination of public policies.
2. use and evaluate the main tools used by economists to formulate normative judgments about policies
3. analyse the working of institutions, focusing on how policies are formulated and located on the political and policy agenda, why and how governments and institutions act and what are the policy effects

The above course objectives link up with the following programme-specific learning outcomes:

ECO:

1. Describe, explain and illustrate core economic theory and selected policies related to economic integration.
2. Understand the normative assumptions, implications and limitations of economic theory and economic policy making.
3. Use economic theory to assess current problems and policies.



4. Describe, explain and illustrate the core normative assumptions, implications and limitations of political science theory related to economics.
5. Use their knowledge of economics and political science to analyse problems in political science.
6. Recognise the importance of empirical foundation for knowledge acquisition and evidence- based policies and use quantitative techniques and other empirical methods to evaluate theoretical knowledge.
7. Find, select, critically evaluate and use references, data and other sources of information within a short amount of time.
8. Work together in groups to solve problems, share tasks, prepare assignments, go through case studies and make presentations.

POL:

1. Describe, explain and illustrate the core normative assumptions, implications and limitations of political science theory related to economics.
2. Use their knowledge of economics and political science to analyse problems in political science.
3. Students can recognize, contextualize, explain, and interpret political, societal and economic phenomena in European integration. They can assess events, governance problems and political crises.
4. Students can flexibly apply theories and analytical frameworks from different disciplinary perspectives to the main issues of EU politics and policies.
5. Students can communicate clearly and effectively, through oral presentations or written documents, to different kinds of audiences.

MATA:

1. The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, Economics, International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, Legal Studies and/or Political Science relevant for the analysis of transatlantic affairs.
2. The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way

3. COURSE CONTENTS

- Introduction: How to discuss about public policy?
- Welfare economics: How policies should be chosen? What criteria are used for assessing gains and losses from a policy?
 - Measuring social welfare
 - Applied welfare tools
- Economic models of political processes: How policies are in fact chosen at EU level?
 - Voting theory
 - Electoral models
 - Policy distortions
- Policy evaluation: How should a policy be evaluated?
 - Steps of policy evaluation
 - Methodology and concrete examples
- Evaluating institutions: Case study of the European Union



4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Contact hours: 30h.

The course will consist of lectures by the professor that will require active class participation of the students.

Prior reading of the assigned material is essential for class participation.

Debates in the final part of the course will allow the students to apply the theory and methods of policy analysis to real-life examples taken from European policies.

For the debates, the students will be divided randomly into groups and they will be assigned the topic as well as the position they should take on the subject. The debates will be held in Oxford style, with strict time limits assigned to each speaker.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

The course will be based on lecture notes and some additional readings taken from the international literature suggested during the course.

Good reference textbooks for the material covered in the course are:

On welfare economics:

1. Bruce-Boadway, Welfare Economics, 1984 Basil Blackwell.
2. Hindricks-Myles, Intermediate Public Economics, 2006, MIT Press.

On political economics:

3. Persson-Tabellini, Political Economics: Explaining Economic Policy, MIT Press, 2000.
4. Besley, Principled Agents, Oxford UP, 2006.
5. Mueller, Public Choice II, Cambridge UP, 1989.

On experimental econometrics:

6. Angrist-Pischke, Mastering Metrics: the Path from cause to effect, 2014, Princeton UP.

For a detailed list of literature relevant to each part of the course, consult the course outline on the Intranet page of the course.

6. EVALUATION

Written closed-book exam. In the exam, students are asked to select and answer 4 questions out of the 8 proposed. Each question carries the same weight in the final marking. The time allowed for the exam is two hours. The exam grade will count for 85% of the final grade.

Participation in debates. The debate mark will count for 15% of the final grade.

Second-session examinations: The resit exam is written and counts for 100pc of the final grade.