



STUDY PROGRAMME

EG

ACADEMIC YEAR

2020 - 2021

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

Good Administration : The Principle, the Right and the Practice

COURSE PROFESSOR

Nikiforos Diamandouros, Ian Harden

COURSE ASSISTANT

Yana Brovdiy

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Optional

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

POL: 4 ECTS, POL/EPPA: 3.5 ECTS, ECO/(ELEA, EPPA, EEIB): 3 ECTS, LAW: 3 ECTS, LAW/ELEA: 2 ECTS.

1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The course aims to enhance the capacity of College of Europe students to operate in and with public institutions, primarily in the context of the EU, by enabling them to acquire a deep understanding of: (i) good administration and its relationship to the rule of law, fairness, legitimacy and citizenship; (ii) institutions and processes for checking and enhancing the quality of administration; (iii) the role of the European Ombudsman in the institutional landscape of the EU. Through active participation in a simulation game, the student will also obtain a practical understanding of how these concepts and these rights and obligations are applied in practice.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of the course, the student will be expected to understand:

- the theoretical basis of the concept of good administration;
- the different aspects of good administration and how they relate to each other;
- the relevance of good administration to economic activities;
- how good administration is implemented in practice at the EU level;
- the European Ombudsman's role and main activities.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

An overarching concept is proposed that links good administration to the rule of law and to the quality of democracy. The course then focuses on the institutional characteristics of the ombudsman institution in general and the European Ombudsman in particular. Different aspects of good administration are studied, primarily through examining how they are elaborated in practice at EU



level. The course concludes with an assessment of the relationship between good administration and the citizenship of the Union.

Structure of the course:

1. The analytical framework and the broader institutional context
2. The classical ombudsman model and the origins of the European Ombudsman
3. Principles of Good administration and of Public Service
4. The search for legitimacy through transparency
5. Integrity, conflicts of interests, revolving doors and civil service independence
6. *Simulation Game*
7. Administrative due process and the Ombudsman
8. Where to Ombudsman?: perspectives, possibilities and challenges in the search for a "Citizen's Europe"

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course adopts an inter-disciplinary approach, combining insights from law, political science public administration and economics. It involves the presentation of key concepts and information, followed by active debate with intense student participation. Students are encouraged to question the views put forward and to develop a thorough understanding of key concepts. The two professors, both of whom are present in all eight sessions, draw on their wide professional and academic experience to put forward ideas and examples for debate. The course commences by building a strong conceptual foundation for good administration and then proceeds to explore key areas in greater depth. The course also places emphasis on a simulation game, in which students work in teams to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Students are expected to read the core reading for each week and to explore if they have time optional readings. Please refer to the intranet page of the course for access to the detailed reading list (required and supplementary readings).

6. EVALUATION

Students are evaluated on the basis of three criteria:

- active class participation (20%),
- the presentation of a paper on a subject falling within the scope of the course (30%),
- an open book oral examination (50%).