



STUDY PROGRAMME

EG

ACADEMIC YEAR

2021 - 2022

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

Good Administration and Open European Societies

COURSE PROFESSORS

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, Ian Harden

COURSE ASSISTANT

Raquel Ugarte Diez

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 OBJECTIVES

The course aims to enhance the capacity of 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) the importance of public administration(s) in giving effect to the principles of liberal democracy and the rule of law in the European Union; (ii) the concept of “good administration” and its significance for European societies; (iii) the role of non-judicial institutions and processes for checking and enhancing the quality of public administration, in particular the ombudsman; (iv) how the European Ombudsman functions and the institution’s place in the institutional landscape of the EU.

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, to the quality of democracy and to citizenship. 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, including through a simulation game, based on a hypothetical European Ombudsman inquiry. The course concludes with an assessment of the future role of the Ombudsman in the light of contemporary challenges to implementing good administration in European societies.



Structure of the course:

1. The analytical framework
2. Complaints, control mechanisms and the classical ombudsman model
3. Good administration; the principle the right and the practice
4. Openness and transparency
5. Integrity, conflicts of interests, revolving doors and civil service independence
6. Administrative due process
7. *Simulation Game*
8. Whither the 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 three-hour sessions, draw on their wide professional and academic experience to put forward ideas and examples for debate. The course begins by building a strong conceptual foundation for good administration and then explores key areas in greater depth. A key element of the course is the simulation game, in which students work in teams to apply their knowledge and skills.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

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