“EU socio-economic governance”

MA class – 2 credits

Winter Term 2012 (2 credits)

Time: Wednesdays, 9.00-10.40 hrs
Information about the course: aims, objectives, learning outcomes

This course is aimed at MA students with a specialised interest in EU economic and social policy who already have a good knowledge of EU policy-making in general and/or in other policy areas - both at an empirical and theoretical level. The course provides access to core policies and governance mechanisms in the field of EU socio-economic governance. It combines insights into fundamental and historical developments – such as the development of freedom of movement for labour in the context of the single market or the establishment of Economic and Monetary Union – with a review of contemporary policies choices – such as within the context of the Stability and Growth Pact and the Lisbon process. The course aims at engaging students with core theories and research perspectives which have been applied to EU socio-economic governance with a view of developing core analytical skills required for independent post-graduate research in this policy field.

At a methodological level the course is based on an interactive teaching format with an emphasis on student involvement. A course reader will assemble all compulsory readings following the course structure (see below) and will refer students to further readings. Students will engage in group and project work with view to applying empirical and conceptual knowledge in a case-based context. All students will be required to complete a small independent research project for in-class presentation using ICT techniques and collective review. At the end of the course students will have to submit a research paper.

At the end of this course student will have developed a profound understanding of the EU’s role in economic and social policy-making. Students will be able to analyse and understand contemporary debates over policy choice and institutional design in the light of historical processes of institution building and diverse models of domestic economic governance. Moreover, students will have developed a critical understanding of the core theories and research perspectives applied in this field of study. They are able to engage in independent research activities covering aspects of EU economic and social policy and can critically review alternative policy options.

With a longer term view to their further academic and professional development this course prepares students for career in policy practice. As civil servants, policy analysts and representatives of civil society organisations they have obtained the qualifications necessary to make or advise on informed policy choices on a range of subjects relating to EU socio-economic governance and contribute to innovative thinking and policy solutions.

Literature

REQUIRED READINGS need to be prepared by all course participants. All texts in this category are available through the electronic journal databases of the library. Book chapters are either provided through the course website at http://e-learning.ceu.hu and/or are on reserve as hardcopy in the book section provided for this course in the CEU library. FURTHER READINGS are recommended for further research and should be consulted by those writing their research paper on the related topic. Those preparing an in-class presentation are required to consult the sources listed under the PRESENTATION section of the course outline.

There are no required core text books for this class but students looking for books covering a wide range of aspects of the topics studied in this class may find the following books particularly helpful:


Course requirements

Successful completion of the course will require the completion of a research paper of 2800 words (60%), one in-class presentation (20%) and your participation in-class discussions (20%).

Active participation in the in-class discussions is a precondition for the success of the course. Students are expected to participate in all seminars, to prepare the required readings for each session and to participate actively in the discussion. In addition, each student is encouraged to demonstrate a deeper knowledge of the course topics through consulting the additional readings as well as through independent research activity.

Missing more than two classes without presenting a written note to the instructor may result in a failing grade.

All students are required to offer one 15 min. in-class presentation. Presentation topics will be allocated during the first session. The main aim of the presentation is to critically assess the specified readings, to present and suggest other contributions on the topic including own research where applicable. A presentation should conclude with clearly identifying points for further discussion in the class. Students are encouraged to make use of presentation techniques such as overhead projectors, Power Point or the flip chart. You should indicate which type of ‘technology’ you want to use for your presentation at least one week before the relevant session. The DPP MA coordinator will help you with ordering the equipment for the respective session.

You are required to complete a research paper in this course. Students need to discuss their choice of questions with the instructor to confirm choice and outline of the research paper. Your work will be judged on the basis of the quality of your presentation of the relevant literature and empirical information, as well as on your ability to critically assess these sources. Each paper should be approximately 2800 words in length. All essays should be typed (word-processed) and double-spaced. Please leave broad margins on both sides (4 cm)! Essays must be properly referenced, with a standard form of citation used (see the DPP Student’s Handbook for further details and consult with the Center for Academic Writing). You must also include a bibliography of all works consulted. All written contributions need to be original, i.e. produced exclusively by the student who submits the work. References to all other sources must be clearly indicated following accepted academic standards. Any text reproduction which is not clearly identified will have to be considered as
plagiarism and, consequently, the submitted work will be acknowledged with no more than 0% of the mark. For further information, please do not hesitate to consult with the instructor of this course.

Session 1
Economic ideas, varieties of capitalism, epistemic communities – theoretical perspectives and approaches on European socio-economic governance

REQUIRED READING


FURTHER READINGS
Hix, S. (2005), The political system of the European Union (Houndmills Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan).
   - chapter 8: pp. 235-270


PRESENTATION
   - chapter 3

Session 2
The institutional architecture of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)

REQUIRED READINGS

Lisbon Treaty, Consolidated Version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Title VIII, Economic and Monetary Policy
   - chapters 1-4

(see http://europa.eu/documentation/legislation/index_en.htm for the electronic version of the Lisbon Treaty)

FURTHER READINGS
   - chapter 6


- chapter 16

**PRESENTATION**

How was agreement on EMU reached? How was it conceived by core EU member states? What influenced the final shape of its institutional architecture? Consult the reading below and check out the digital archives of the European Navigator library for original documents and statements at [http://www.ena.lu/](http://www.ena.lu/)


- chapter 4: pp. 124-137
- chapter 6: pp. 256-274

**Session 3**

**EU social and employment policy – integration through law**

**REQUIRED READINGS**


- chapter 14, The development of a social dimension, pp. 341-366
- chapter 15, Equality law and policy, pp. 367-392

**FURTHER READINGS**


- chapter 3, pp. 78-96


- chapter 2: Functional participation in social regulation: the case of European occupational health and safety policy

**PRESENTATION**

Session 4
The European Central Bank and the European System of Central Banks

REQUIRED READING
- chapter 2: The European Central Bank as a reluctant EU institution, pp. 21-37


FURTHER READINGS
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan.
- chapters 3 and 5


- chapter 8


PRESENTATION
- chapter 2

- chapter 3.1 (pp. 77-90)

Summarise and discuss how the European Central Bank conducts monetary policy in the euro area.

Session 5
EU social and employment policy – integration through policy coordination

REQUIRED READING

FURTHER READINGS


PRESENTATION

In the view of the EU’s legislative competences in the field of social policy identified in Session 3 elaborate on Armstrong’s discussion of state of the art literature on the open method of coordination. In particular, explain how helpful – in your view – the distinction between ‘hard and soft law’ is for the analysis of different types of social policy-making.

- chapter 1 and 2

Session 6
The role of trade unions and organised business – consultation, corporatism, new governance

REQUIRED READING


FURTHER READINGS


PRESENTATION

There are various mechanisms through which the European Union institutionalises tripartite consultations between the Commissions and the Council, the trade unions and organised business. One format is the “social dialogue”, another one is the “macroeconomic dialogue”. Introduce both
formats and explain how they function. Discuss whether they provide a venue for trade unions and business organisations to influence EU policy? Reversely, what may be the influence EU institutions exercise through these procedures? The resources below provide a good basis for your research:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/index_en.htm


http://www.etuc.org/

http://www.businesseurope.eu

http://www.ceep.eu

Session 7
The Eurogroup

REQUIRED READINGS

- chapter 2, Why does EMU require informal governance?, pp. 36-62

- chapter 3, The rise and fall of the Eurogroup, pp. 38-56

FURTHER READINGS


PRESENTATION
- chapter 3, The informal working method, pp. 63-85
- chapter 4, The agenda, pp. 86-111

Euro Summit, Statement, Brussels, 26 October 2011

Review the Euro Summit conclusions for statements relating to the future status and role of the Eurogroup. Compare the recent changes with the original institutional basis of the Eurogroup and its informal working method.

Session 8
The EU’s responses to the global economic and financial crisis

REQUIRED READING


FURTHER READINGS

Hodson, D. (2008), 'EMU und Political Union: What, if anything, have we learned from 10 years of the euro?', Journal of European Public Policy, 16 (4), 508-526.


PRESENTATION
The difficulties for the EU and the euro area in dealing with the global economic and financial crisis have led to a renewed debate about the future of Europe. Some argue that the EU cannot deal with the crisis unless it integrates further and creates a full political union. Others argue that the crisis underlines the need for individual member states to take responsibility themselves and think that EU solidarity should have limits.

Session 9
The challenge of macro-economic policy coordination – procedures and mechanisms

REQUIRED READING

- chapter 4, Profligacy, prudence, and the Stability and Growth Pact, pp. 57-77
- chapter 5, Why the BEPGs failed to bite, pp. 78-94

consult for the legal foundations of the Stability and Growth Pact:

FURTHER READINGS


PRESENTATION

After the re-launch of the Lisbon Strategy the EU has more recently adapted the original coordination framework once again. The new framework operates under the title "Europe 2020". Introduce the new mechanisms and compare the most recent adjustments in the context of Europe 2020 with the previous arrangements.

All necessary resources and documents for preparing this short case study can be found online at http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

Session 10
The enlargement of the euro area

REQUIRED READING

FURTHER READINGS
- edited volume on euro area enlargement featuring a set of country case studies


PRESENTATION
Discuss the contribution by Tuytschaever, which was written when the first group of EU member states launched the single currency, with a view to the years 2010 and beyond and the prospects for euro area enlargement? What institutional features may prevent or, conversely, accelerate the process of accession to the single currency?


Session 11
The external representation of the euro area and the EU-27 in global economic and financial coordination forums

REQUIRED READINGS


FURTHER READINGS

- chapter 5


PRESENTATION
- chapter 6, Ensemble acting in the G20 and the IMF, pp. 95-113
- chapter 7, Bilateral diplomacy in Beijing and beyond, pp. 114-130
Session 12
The future of EU socio-economic governance and the political integration of the Union

Review session