

P08044: EU Policy Making

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Term 2, 2020-21, Weeks 8-12

Draft Outline, January 2021

Course Objective: The main aim of this course is to develop students' knowledge of 'what EU public policy is' and 'how policies are made in the EU.' The course starts with a theoretical examination of the policy making process and then considers the importance of interest groups and their regulation as they seek to influence policy. The conceptual insights gained will be used to analyse developments in a number of substantive policy areas. These include competition, single market, economic and monetary, freedom, security and justice as well as common foreign and security policies.

After the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the evolution of and main developments in key areas of EU policy.
- Explain policymaking processes and outcomes in the EU by applying relevant political science approaches and theories.
- Critically appraise research on EU policies.

Course structure: This module is of 5 weeks duration and is worth 5 ECTS. It starts in week 8 of Term 2 (therefore meeting in weeks 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). There is one two-hour online seminar each week. The seminar will consist of a short introduction by the lecturer, followed by in-depth class discussion on the main themes found in the readings. It is expected that every student will attend every seminar and have read the required readings before class. Equally important, this class will only work if everyone fully participates in class discussion.

Readings: The module assumes that you have some familiarity with the main institutional actors and decision-making procedures in the EU from the previous M.Sc. module on European Union institutions taught in Term 1.

Beyond the readings noted in the full course outline, students should read a good European newspaper on a daily basis. **Students should also consult relevant electronic resources found in the TCD library.** Please note that for all policy areas discussed in the class, you may want to supplement your reading of books and articles with current overviews of these policy areas on the EU's website: <https://europa.eu/> and on news services that focus on EU affairs, such as <http://www.euractiv.com/en/HomePage>

Assessment: This course will be assessed as follows:

- Essay 1 – 50%
- Essay 2 – 50%

Topics:

- *Week 1:* Theoretical Approaches to Better Understanding Policy Making
- *Week 2:* The Role of Interest Groups in the EU Policy Making Process and their Regulation.
- *Week 3:* Single Market and Competition Policy
- *Week 4:* EMU
- *Week 5:* Freedom, Security and Justice; CFSP