

POP88084: EU Policy Making - *Outline*

Raj Chari, Professor in Political Science
Term 2, 2025-26, Weeks 8-12

Course Objective and Learning Outcomes: 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. The conceptual insights gained will be used to analyze developments in a number of substantive policy areas, including single market, competition, and security policies. We will also examine Europe's reaction to COVID-19 given Chari's recent work/book on the politics and science of COVID-19 (see www.viral-politics.com; please note that this book by Chari and Rozas, *Viruses, Vaccines, and Antivirals: Why Politics Matters*, is freely available in TCD Library if you want to have a look at it).

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 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. *Please note*, while we will review the main institutions of the EU in the first seminar, the module assumes that you have some familiarity with the main institutional actors in the EU from the previous M.Sc. module on European Union institutions. 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 readings with current overviews of these policy areas on the EU's website: <https://europa.eu/>

Assessment: This course will be assessed as follows:

- Participation – 20%
- Presentation – 30%
- Essay – 50%