



Syllabus

Academic Year	2020/2021
Program	Law, Digital innovation and Sustainability
course	Governance of innovation and sustainability
Term	I Semester
Year	1
SSD	SPS/04 -Political Science
Credits	6

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

This course is an interdisciplinary seminar. It adopts an interactive and applied study component, co-taught by two faculty members with a strong interdisciplinary attitude. The course is oriented toward groundbreaking issues in governance research with specific topics explored through interdisciplinary readings and wide-ranging discussion. The course cultivates cross-disciplinary, collaborative and problem-based research among faculty and graduate students. It also focuses on applied research and scholarship and identifying innovative solutions. The course will involve guest lectures and workshops with scholars as well as representatives of community actors, public and private actors to carry out simulations as well as design prototypes of effective policies and programs to solve pressing challenges related to the governance of innovation (research-based innovation; innovation generated by policy experiments; social innovation) and climate change (also in relation to the targets and goals set by the global agenda on sustainable development and urban sustainable development; social, environmental and climate justice; community-based local development). The goal is to inspire new ways of thinking. The aim of the course is ultimately to provide the students with the necessary analytical tools and knowledge to understand the process of governance of innovation and sustainability from the perspective of public policy-making at both local and international context.

Knowledge and understanding:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Analyze, discuss and debate some of the policy areas that are the most challenging for many national and local governments concerning innovation and sustainability;
- Identify and obtain a basic understanding of the main legal issues affecting national and local government authority to set policy across a variety substantive areas concerning sustainability and innovation.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Applying knowledge and understanding:

Upon completing the study program, students will be able to:

- evaluate the impact of future changes in the policy framework to regulate pressing social and economic challenges related to the innovation and sustainability ecosystem;
- assess and interpret different hypotheses explaining key economic, political, legal and social developments related to innovation and sustainability.

Making judgements:

Upon completing the study program, students will be able to:

- present an informed scientific opinion in the public debate; concerning the current challenges of intellectual property systems;
- prepare original research supported by relevant bibliography and data analysis, and debate different perspectives to address the issue;



- Articulate and discuss aspects of economics, politics, sociology, history that bear on key policy issues facing many policy makers and policy communities across the world on the topics of innovation and sustainability.

Communications Skills:

Upon completing the study program, students will be able to:

- More confidently communicate policy-relevant ideas, both verbally and in writing.

Learning skills:

Upon completing the study program, students will be able to:

- build an analytic toolbox for policy evaluation and assessment;
- solve problems in dynamic and collaborative settings.

Pre-requisites	Good knowledge of English is required (oral and written). Compulsory course attendance.
Course content	<p>This course will explore a range of policy and legal problems currently affecting policy makers when dealing with the governance of innovation and sustainability ranging from urban issues (i.e. innovative efforts to encourage economic development and implement strategies to expand tech-based social justice) to global issues (i.e. environmental justice concerns; the implementation of global agenda on sustainable developments among others). The course analyzes the underlying social, economic, and political causes of these problems and the responses made by policymakers and courts. We will examine the limits of existing policy frameworks and legal doctrines when dealing with issues related to innovation and sustainability.</p> <p>The course is divided into four parts. The first part introduces to the fundamental aspects of governance of innovation and sustainability. It will explore the different meanings of innovation (i.e. social innovation, technological, digital innovation, policy innovations) and sustainability (social, environmental and financial/economic sustainability; sustainable economic development) and how they apply to policy and the policy cycle. It will then explore the general principles of law and governance of innovation and sustainability. It will address the tension between promoting innovation-based development. It will stress the role of cities that are becoming increasingly relevant in this area and are investing serious efforts in achieving the goal of a sustainable and inclusive, community-led development.</p> <p>Topics that will be covered by this part of the course include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• introduction and theoretical lenses. Different meanings of governance for innovation and sustainability;• governance and the reform of the State. Polycentricity and stewardship as governance design principles;• economic governance, governance of sustainable development and urban integrated development;• European governance, governance of missions-oriented innovation;• democratic governance. Social justice and technological justice;• governance of risks. Environmental and climate justice;• global governance. The role of cities;• Experimentalist governance;• co-governance and multi-stakeholder partnerships of innovation and sustainability. Urban governance;



Guest lecturers might be participating to this part of the course. The first workshop on how to prepare the final brief paper will be organized in this part of the course.

The second part will explore the emergence of new approaches and methodologies in policy making as well as law making that overcome traditional approaches views of the role of science and disruptive technology in society. It will consider experiences in both EU and North America. Successful case studies as well as challenging ones will be considered. Presentations, guest lectures and simulations based on concrete case studies will be organized in this part of the course.

Third part will focus on the workshop on the design principle for a policy cycle/ appropriate legal framework to govern sustainable innovation. Workshops on problem-based field projects will be included in this part of the program. Guest speakers may also be participating during this session. At least one other workshop on how to prepare the final brief paper will be organized in this part of the course.

The fourth part concludes the course by looking at methodologies, future steps and risks in sustainable innovation policies: how far is the creation of a sustainable innovation ecosystem in EU or US contexts? What are the main risks embedded for vulnerable individuals and communities in the regulatory approaches analyzed during the course and in the projects that students are working on?

Reference Books

The analysis of very recent or current issues means that it is impossible to refer to a specific textbook. The slides, referring to a given lesson, will be made available to students in advance. However, in order to have a general and analytical view on the governance of innovation and sustainability, students can refer to:

D. Levi-Faur (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Governance* (2012);

Brownsword, R. Scotford, E. and Yeung, K. 2017. *The Oxford handbook on law, regulation and technology*. Oxford University Press

Christiansen, T., Neuhold, C. (eds) 2012, "International Handbook on Informal Governance" Edward Elgar.

Foster, S. and Gerrard, M., 2008, "The Law of Environmental Justice: Theories and Procedures to Address Disproportionate Risks (2nd Edition) American Bar Association.

Foster, S. and Iaione, C. 2020. *The Co-City: Collective Governance, Urban Commons and Experiments In Social and Economic Pooling*, MIT Press.

Mazzucato, M., 2019, "Governing Missions in the European Union". European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

Pelkmans J and Renda A, 2014, 'Does EU regulation hinder or stimulate innovation?' CEPS Special Report, available at <https://www.ceps.eu/system/files/No%2096%20EU%20Legislation%20and%20Innovation.pdf>.

Teaching Methods

Lectures and interactive class discussion; students' presentations, laboratory sessions and workshops, simulations and the problem-based field project; inspirational speeches by guest lecturers (name to be announced). The course will provide workshops on how to prepare the final paper.

Assessment

The assessment of students learning will be centered on a written exam consisting in a brief paper (50% of the final grade) and on class participation based on students' presentation on assigned readings, interactive class discussion and proactive participation to the workshops and the laboratories including simulations and the problem-based field project (50% of the final grade).

The final week will conclude with students' presentations (15 minutes per presentation, plus 5 minutes for questions and discussion) on their individual research project which is the core of the final brief paper. There will be time for feedback and suggestions for how to improve the course going forward.



During the laboratories, students are asked to work in groups to tackle a policy problem concerning the governance of a specific problem related to the tension between innovation and sustainability and to prepare original research supported by relevant bibliography and data analysis, to design a problem-based field project and to participate to a structured discussion in class presenting different perspectives to address the problem identified also with the support of the readings assigned by the teacher, the case studies presented and the guest lectures.

Students unable to participate will be assessed on the basis of the written exam (100%).
