

Sciences Po
Master of Public Affairs 2007-2008

Syllabus, Core/Elective Course, 1st semester (5 credits)

Course Title:

Risk Governance (2)

Policymaking, knowledge and uncertainty

Instructors:

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Course Description:

In today's world, policymaking can be a highly contentious and difficult process, due to the multiple uncertainties which characterize policy issues. The paradox of living in a "knowledge society" is that a growing number of problems on the agenda of governments, international organizations, multinational firms and large non-governmental organizations reveal gaps in the available data ("known unknowns" and "unknown unknowns"), rely on information open to multiple viewpoints (ambiguity and controversy), and rest on a difficulty in anticipating the future.

Risk governance offers a framework for the management of this state of uncertainty. Although this framework covers a wide range of instruments, tools and concepts, risk governance revolves around a central process: the production, interpretation and use of knowledge for policymaking, when knowledge is either initially lacking, incomplete, open to debate or dependent on alternative futures. Albeit closely related to risk management, the use of the term governance highlights the political nature of decision making on uncertain issues.

Health and environmental issues offer the opportunity to study some of the most uncertain issues of all, aggregating scientific, natural, technological, social, political and financial uncertainties, not to mention legal, ethical and moral constraints. Health and environmental risks entail problems of assessment, regulation, coordination, standardization, mitigation, alert, learning and insurance. Often associated to crises, scandals and controversies, they are at the heart of many commercial and political conflicts at the international level, and have involved in recent years institution building (agencies, organizations, treaties, rules and procedures). Nonetheless, our societies remain vulnerable in many areas to both natural and man-made risks.

Course Objectives:

The objective of Risk Governance (2) overview course is to provide advance professional training for students aiming at specializing in this area. Teaching is performed by leading academics and it focuses on regulation, organizations, trade conflicts and evidence-based policy making. By the end of this course, students will be prepared to analyze complex situations of risk governance and will be ready to apply for positions as risk governance officers.

Course Requirements:

- Students following this Overview Course will revise the essay they produced for the 1st semester, based on comments by the instructors, additional readings and data collection.
- There will be required readings to do prior to each class.
- Attendance to the class is compulsory.

Assessment and Grade Distribution:

- 50% of the grade each semester will be based on participation in class discussions
- 50% of the grade each semester will be based on an individual essay

Course Outline:

Module 1/ Knowledge in the Policy Process

Claire Dunlop - Centre for Regulatory Governance, University of Exeter

Session 1. Evidence-based policies: genealogy of the concept and general principles (3 mars)

- Radaelli, C. M. (1995) 'The role of knowledge in the policy process' in *Journal of European Public Policy* 2(2): 159-183.
- Young, K., Ashby, D., Boaz, A. and Grayson, L. (2002) 'Social science and the Evidence-based Policy Movement' in *Social Policy and Society* 1 (x): 215-224.

Session 2. International experiences (4 mars)

- Haas, Peter M., (1992) 'Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination' in Haas, Peter M., ed. *Knowledge, Power, and International Policy Coordination* Columbia: University of South Carolina Press.
- Peter M. Haas, "Banning Chlorofluorocarbons: Epistemic Community Efforts to Protect Stratospheric Ozone" in Peter M. Haas ed., *Knowledge, Power, and International Policy Coordination* Columbia: University of South Carolina Press.
- Grundmann R. (2007) 'Climate change and knowledge politics' in *Environmental Politics* 16(3):414-432
- Dunlop, C.A. (2007) 'Up and Down the Pecking Order, What Matters and When in Issue Definition: The Case of rbST in the EU' in *Journal of European Public Policy* 14: 1.

Session 3. International experience – institutional arrangements and relevance for risk governance (11 mars)

- Radaelli, C.M. and F. De Francesco (2006) *Regulatory Quality in Europe: Concepts, Measures, and Policy Processes* Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Renda, A. (2006) *Impact Assessment in the EU* Brussels: CEPS.
- Hahn, Robert, W., Paul C. Tetlock, Michael Abramowicz, Joyce E. Berg, Robin Hanson, John O. Ledyard, Thomas A. Rietz, Cass R. Sunstein, Justin Wolfers and Eric Zitzewitz (2006) *Information Markets: A New Way of Making Decisions* AEI-Brookings (available at: <http://www.aei-brookings.org/publications/>)

Module 2 / Risks in organisations

Diane Vaughan - Professor / Columbia University (department of Sociology and School of International and Public Affairs)

(teaching package forthcoming)

Session 4. 18 mars

Session 5. 19 mars

Module 3 / Science and Politics

Sheila Jasanoff - Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies / John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

(teaching package forthcoming)

Session 6. Science and constitutionalism (26-30 mars)

Session 7. science, sovereignty and trade conflicts (26-30 mars)

Module 4 / Risk regulation

Henry Rothstein - Kings Centre for Risk Management / Kings College in London

(teaching package forthcoming)

Session 8. Risk regulation regimes (1er avril)

Session 9. The colonization of risks (2 avril)

Module 5 / Epidemiology and the management of risk issues

Denis Zmirou - Director Research unit "Assessment and prevention of occupational and environmental risks" (INSERM ERI n°11) / Medical School - Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy

(teaching package forthcoming)

Session 10. Epidemiology and the management of risk issues (8 avril)