

Course Title: Politics and Policies of the European Information Society

Course Code: CMM269E

Teacher Responsible: Luciano Morganti PhD, MA

Course Description

The course deals with the European approach to a policy domain which is of renown importance today at global level for political, economic and social reasons: the development of the Information and Knowledge Society. The course focuses on the EU approach to the development of the so-called European Information Society (EIS). During the course, the students will be able to understand the history and development of the EIS and to assess it in a global perspective, becoming familiar with the most important actions and policies for the development of the EIS at EU level, understand the politics and the issues at stake for the EU and for its Members States and develop a critical mind-set in relation to the politics and policies of the EIS.

Course objectives

The course objectives are to provide the students with critical theoretical and practical knowledge on the EIS. Students will be able to understand how EU Politics works in the area of the Information and Knowledge Society (aims, needs, challenges) and how the EU tries to foster a sustainable Information and Knowledge society (EU programmes and support measures).

Outline of Content

- Introduction to the EU and EU Decision Making Process;
- The EIS in a Global Context: What is the IS? What is the EIS? Other approaches to the IS;
- EU Audiovisual Policies;
- EU Telecommunication Policies;
- EU sector specific approach to e-health, e-learning, e-Government and e-Inclusion;
- EU R&D policies for the EIS

Teaching methods

The course will try to stimulate as much as possible the interest and the participation of the students. It is taught with a mix of ex-cathedra lectures given by the Teacher Responsible and by a number of guest speakers coming mainly from EU institutions. Students will be invited to present to their colleagues a topic taken from a predefined list. When and if appropriate, visits to the EU institutions will be organized.

Students evaluations

Students will be evaluated on the base of a mid term and a final exam, a presentation, and their participation in class. The mid term will count for 30%, the final exam will count for 40%, the presentation for 20% and participation during class for 10% of their final grade.

The grade breakdown is:

A= 85-100 A-81-84, B+ 77-80, B 73-76, B- 69-72, C+ 66-68, C 62-65, C- 58-61, D+ 54-57, D 50-53; F Below 50.

Major Readings

Selected Chapters of :

- Attilio Stajano, (2006), *Research, Quality, Competitiveness - European Union Technology Policy for the Information Society*, Springer, NY
- Michalis M. (2007), *Governing European Communications - - From Unification to Coordination*, Lexington Books, Plymouth
- Van Gerven W. (2005), *The European Union: a polity of states and people*, Hart, Oxford

Institutional documents (such as research reports, statistical outlooks, European Union Publications, and especially EU Directives, Regulations and Communications) will be also used as reference material for the course.