**Revision of the course presentation of STV4445B EU and the Nation State – Institutional dynamics and political processes**

**Course content**

EU has a profound impact on the Norwegian polity, policy and politics. Influencing and executing domestic political governance often rely on a good understanding of how the EU and the EEA (EØS) agreement functions. This course gives you the competence required to work with EU issues within Norwegian ministries, agencies, business associations and elsewhere. This course will enable you to grasp the political and institutional development of the EU, as well as how EU and domestic policy developments are inter-related. The added value of this course within the overall master programme is its focus on the role of the EU and the ‘multi-levelness’ of the polity, politics and policies.

The EU consists of many organizations, and multiple actors contribute to EU-level developments. This course pays particular attention to the European Commission, the Council, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Parliament, as well as organized interests. We will discuss the drivers of European integration and how we can use theories of state formation to understand the EU, how polity level developments interact with the politics within the various EU-institutions, but also how it might eventually shape the implementation of EU rules and regulations at the national level. In addition, the special Norway-EU relationship will be highlighted, and you will learn how this situation differs from EU membership and the UKs relationship to the EU. The course includes presentations by guest-lectures working with EU and EEA issues in practice.

Participants will learn how to distil knowledge from scientific literatures, and how to make it applicable to real world political situations. This skill will enable students to be informed by updated scientific insights also after their master studies.

**Learning outcomes**

Through attending this course, you will:

Gain *knowledge* about scientific progress on:

* the functioning of the European Commission, the Council, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Parliament, and the relationship between them
* the political dynamics of EU cooperation, and the relative importance of the various EU-level institutions in driving European integration.
* how EU-level executive bodies relate to national governments
* how the EEA-agreement conditions Norwegian implementation of EU policies.
* how to explain cross-country variation as regards the implementation of EU policies

Develop *skills* that enable you to:

* analyse decision processes within the multilevel EU system of governance, across policy areas
* assess and explain EU-level and domestic policy change
* assess the quality of the scientific literature within a specific area
* identify the domestic room for manoeuvre within policy areas regulated by the EU

Obtain general *competence* to:

* identify weaknesses as well as strengths in various strands of scientific literature
* evaluate actors’ strategies aimed at influencing outcomes by identifying access points to a policy process and by knowing how to structure future processes

**Examination**

Term paper

The term paper shall be

* A literature review
* Between 3500-5000 words.
* On a topic related to the curriculum but selected by the student.
* Meet the formal requirements for submission of written assignments

Obligatory activity

* Submission of a draft literature review midway
* Participation in the midway seminar where the drafts are discussed