Objectives

This course introduces students to the theoretical tools used to explain and understand regulatory choices and practices and the implications that flow from them. It devotes attention both to institutional engineering and regulatory tactics on the one hand and to broad patterns of regulation across countries and eras on the other. Students are challenged not only to take note of these theories, but also to think critically about what each of them does well and does poorly.

Each week’s topic lists required readings and recommended readings. The latter provide you with additional sources of information and reflection on the theoretical approach dealt with that week.

Literature

Various readings will be provided on the teletop site in PDF format, which you can then download to read. In addition, the following books are useful for both the course and ongoing studies in regulation:


Preparation and Grading

The class meets primarily as a seminar in which the readings are discussed to reveal their insights and limitations. Prior to each session, the instructor provides a list of questions which seminar participants should consider whilst reading that week’s material, and an introductory lecture which lays out the principle question, approach and context of the theory being read and discussed.

Students should note that theory, as an abstract conceptual tool, is often complex and requires time for reflection on what is being said. What is the main focus of study (What is the theory trying to explain and what does it not try to explain)? Who are the main actors? What are their motivations? How do they try to go about achieving their
goals? Is the theory intended to be valid universally, or is it limited to a particular period in history or to particular countries or groups of countries? Is the theory trying to explain and understand factors at the international level, at the national level or at the sectoral level?

Evaluation takes the form of a take-home examination (80%) and seminar participation (20%). The questions are distributed during the last week of classes and must be returned on the first Monday of Quarter 2. There are four questions, each of which requires an answer of 4-5 pages in length.

**Week 1: Theories of regulation: goals and approaches**

Theories of regulation broadly cover the following topics:

- Functional, rent-seeking and politically-motivated reasons for regulation
- Descriptive accounts of institutional arrangements and regulatory tactics
- National comparisons (Varieties of Capitalism)
- Similarities of regulatory systems


**Week 2: Functional and rent-seeking theories of regulation**

Baldwin and Cave (1999) *Understanding Regulation: theory, strategy and practice*. Oxford UP, Chapters 2, 3 (pp. 9-33).


**Further reading:**


Albert Shonfield (1968) *Modern Capitalism*. Oxford UP.


Week 3:  Policy ideas and coalitional theories of regulation


Further Reading:


Week 4:  Traditional modes / tactics of regulation

Baldwin and Cave (1999), Chapter 4

Further Reading:


Week 5:  Newer modes / tactics of regulation


http://www.ippr.org/events/exchange/?id=3207

**Further reading:**


**Week 6:** Independent regulatory agencies and legitimacy


**Further reading:**


**Week 7:** Regulatory eras


**Further reading:**


**Week 8: Varieties of capitalism**


*Further Reading:*


