Interdisciplinary Master course on Governance: Course Summary

Coordinator: Cécile Pelaudeix
Teachers: Cécile Pelaudeix, Maria Ackrén, Pelle Tejsner, Anders Mosbech
Invited lecturer: Kai Holst Andersen (TBC)
Number of lectures: 12
Teaching period: weeks 15 and 16.
Exam: week 19 (day TBA)
ECTS: 5

Objectives

As climate change not only has environmental impacts but also dramatic social and economic impacts on Arctic societies, opening the way to further development of natural resources and shipping, this course intends to provide Master students from both natural science or social science background, with a general understanding of the governance challenges in the Arctic region.

The course will provide tools for an understanding of governance processes. Indeed, whereas a holistic approach of many changes affecting the Arctic is more and more recognized, the education of scientists and of the future employees of the Greenlandic authorities to governance issues is paramount.

Content

The course is theoretically rooted in the field of governance studies. Described as a more encompassing phenomenon than government, the concept of governance refers to the process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and co-operative action taken. It allows analyzing complex societies and network of actors and also serves to enlighten the role of non-state actors in the mechanisms of political regulation.

The geographical area covered by the course is the Arctic region, with a specific focus on Greenland. The course will explain the various interests, concerns and strategies of actors in the Arctic when dealing with climate change and economic development, focusing on indigenous communities, national and regional governments, corporations, but also on NGOs. The course will also analyze and discuss the role of natural and social science knowledge in the governance processes, in particular in the regulatory settings and public consultation processes.

Learning outcomes and competences
Upon course completion, students should be able to:

- Know basic concepts of the course (governance, sustainable development)
- Know the principles of main law instruments applying to the Arctic (environmental law and indigenous peoples rights)
- Identify key actors and issues of an Arctic local governance process
- Analyze the political context and refer to the relevant public policies
- Understand the processes and challenges of SIA and EIA in Greenland
- Use these learned materials and articulate these abilities in a synthetic report

Final exam
Home exercise in form of a written report, max. 15 pages excl. appendix, and an oral presentation

Course requirements
- Lecture participation 40 %
- Report (max 15 pages, excl. appendix) 40 %
- Report presentation 20 %