

Public Policy Analysis and Management

Code: 42271
ECTS Credits: 10

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313335 Political Science	OB	0	1

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Teachers

Francesc Xavier Ballart Hernández

Raquel Gallego Calderón

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Prerequisites

As a minimum level, students should hold a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent, in any knowledge area within social sciences.

Objectives and Contextualisation

To understand the main theoretical debates in public policy and methodological analysis and management.
To provide with an overview of the main issues currently alive in debates on social policy, public administration reform and in public management
To learn how to apply those theoretical and methodological models in order to carry out research in this field.
To understand how to apply that knowledge to the analysis of and intervention in complex social and political problems.
To comprehend how similar issues and public policy dilemmas are expressed differently in different national contexts
To acquire the knowledge and the necessary skills to apply it within organizational environments in the field of politics and public management.
To be able to have an informed opinion of the current tensions between fiscal and social policies that in the current context of austerity many countries are faced with.

Competences

- Analyse public policies in different sectors.
- Applied theoretical knowledge acquired from the analysis of real situation and using political analysis generate useful orientations for decision-making.
- Demonstration reading comprehension for specialist texts in English.
- Possess and understand knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in the development and/or application of ideas, often in a research context.
- Recognise the complexity of politics today, its diversity and the tensions to which it is exposed, with special emphasis on the Spanish and European contexts.
- Student should possess the learning skills that enable them to continue studying in a way that is largely student led or independent.
- Work in international and interdisciplinary teams whose members have different origins and backgrounds.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse public policies independently of their sectorial specialisation.
2. Anticipate the consequences of designing a specific public policy.
3. Apply the main theories for the analysis of processes for drawing up, implementing and evaluating public policies.
4. Demonstration reading comprehension for specialist texts in English.
5. Design instruments to evaluate a specific public policy.
6. Identify the different agents involved in the definition of a policy, its scope for action, interests and resources.
7. Identify the different factors and variables that may be involved in the definition and results of public policy.
8. Identify the importance of specific political contexts when designing policies.
9. Identify the main agents involved in the generation and design of policies, with special emphasis not only on their particular complexity but also that of the interrelated network environments.
10. Possess and understand knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in the development and/or application of ideas, often in a research context.
11. Student should possess the learning skills that enable them to continue studying in a way that is largely student led or independent.
12. Work in international and interdisciplinary teams whose members have different origins and backgrounds.

Content

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT TOPICS (Details in the syllabus to be distributed)

Bureaucracies and post bureaucracies

Public leadership and strategic management

Organizational configurations. From hierarchy to networks

Objectives and performance information

Human Resources Management

Contract like relations and bringing in the third sector

Public Service Motivation

Public service use and perceived performance

Public management and innovation

Citizen participatory instruments and public consultation

PUBLIC POLICY TOPICS

Concepts and instruments: defining Public Policy and the approaches to study Public Policy

Methodologies in Public Policy

Democracy and the Welfare State

Social Investment and the Welfare State

Policy changes: retrenchment, resilience and recalibration

From Austerity to Permanent Strain: Italy, Spain, Greece

Family Policy

Methodology

Learning is based on the reading and discussion about theoretical and empirical knowledge. The aim of learning is to acquire the capacity to formulate questions and answers -always provisional ones. To this end, students will have to be active and autonomous in searching and selecting relevant information, in reading and reflecting in order to create a rich and informed dialogue with the lecturer.

In this course, this autonomous effort will be required previously to each session, via reading and essay writing. This work will then be complemented with seminar discussions and oral presentations, which will help to better understand both theory and practice-based knowledge as well as to question it.

Class teaching will combine lectures and seminar/case discussions on theoretical and empirical knowledge -always trying to find the applicability of theory to empirical cases. Tutorial teaching will focus on the preparation of essays and presentations.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures, attendance and participation	125	5	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 10, 12
Type: Supervised			
Seminars and tutorials	50	2	2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 10, 12
Type: Autonomous			
Reading, essay writing and solving exercises	70	2.8	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 10, 12

Assessment

Evaluation will be an ongoing process and will be based on the outputs of the different activities in which students will have to engage to show whether they have achieved the expected competencies.

Such activities and outputs include:

1. Practical exercises proposed in class (public management sessions)
2. Short essays on readings (public policy sessions)

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Participation in class	10%	0	0	4, 10, 12
Practical exercises Public Management and critical essay Public Policy	60%	2.5	0.1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 6, 7, 8, 11, 10, 12
Test	30%	2.5	0.1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 10, 12

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