UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Public Policies

Code: 106204
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2504216 Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	OB	2	2

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can check it through this link. To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject. Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2023.

Teachers

Irina Khayrizamanova Khayrizamanova

Prerequisites

The students must have an acceptable level of the English language, which allows them to follow the classes and understand academic texts written in this language. It is recommended to read regularly news coverage on national and international politics.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course is intended to introduce the most important theoretical and empirical references in the public policy analysis and to develop the students' ability to use this knowledge to understand and interpret dynamics and processes of public policies formulation, implementation and change.

Specifically, the students will work on main concepts and models that currently are most frequently used in the public policies studies. On the other hand, the course will draw on empirical cases of comparative public policies, with the analysis of cases in different social and cultural contexts.

Competences

- Describe and analyse the functioning of public administrations on different territorial scales.
- Innovate in the methods and processes of this area of knowledge in response to the needs and wishes of society.
- Manage and apply data to solve problems.

- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Work cooperatively in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams implementing new projects.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing and explaining the economic dimensions behind public policies.
2. Analysing public policies, both in their elaboration and implementation processes.
3. Collect and process data to critically analyse the process of formulating the public agenda.
4. Collectively analyse public policies from a multidisciplinary perspective both in the process of production and implementation.
5. Describing and understanding the functioning of the Public Administration on a state, sub-state and supranational level.
6. Identify situations in which a change or improvement is needed.
7. Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
8. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
9. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
10. Using different tools for the analysis and explanation of the formulation, decision, implementation and evaluation processes in public policies.

Content

CONTENTS

Note that the course will introduce the analysis of empirical cases of public policies in each topic. Examples of empirical cases will include among others: gender-based policies and policies on abortion.

BLOC 1. Public policy fundamentals

Topic 1. Public policy: definition, dimensions and typologies of public policies. Importance and goals of public policies.

Topic 2. Building policy problems. Public value of the public policies

Topic 3. Theoretical approaches to public policy analysis.

Topic 4. Market failures and role of the public policies.

Topic 5. The context for policy-making: Institutions, actors and resources. Game theory applied to public policies.

BLOC 2. Politics and policies. Public policy cycle

Topic 6. Problem definition and agenda-setting

Topic 7. Policy formulation and decision-making

Topic 8. Rationality and learning in policy decision making

Topic 9. Implementing public policies

Topic 10. Role of the policy networks

Topic 11. Policy evaluation

Topic 12. Policy change and policy convergence.

Topic 13. Policy communit¡cation. Preparing policy briefs.

Topic 14. Public policies beyond the nation state

BLOC 3. Conclusions

Topic 15. What have we learned? Public sector challenges.

Methodology

This is a 6 ECTS course on Public policy analysis, i. e. 150h of the work of the students (25h/1 ECTS). This work is divided in different types of educational activities, following different teaching methods.

Directed activities:

Lectures: oral presentations with the presence of the teacher and with ICTs support. Examples of public policies and class debates.

Seminars: text and case discussion in smaller groups and in more empirically oriented cases. Introduction, presentation, analysis and discussion. Public policies simulations. Short written exams.

Public presentation and discussion of group exercises. Group presentations. Discussions and general evaluation.

Supervised activities:

Tutorials: support in the elaboration of the group exercises and following the general aspect of the course.

Autonomous activities:

Reading: individual reading of theoretical essays and policy cases.

Studying and preparing documents and schemes. Online exercises

Elaboration of the group project . Working on the analysis of a public policy case, following the lecturer's instructions. The format of this kind of exercise will be specified during the course.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes

Type: Directed			
Lectures	30	1.2	4, 2, 6, 9, 8
Public presentation of group project	8	0.32	4, 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 7, 8, 3, 10
Seminars and case discussions	25	1	4, 1, 2, 6, 7, 3, 10
Type: Supervised			
Preparation and written submission of the group project	20	0.8	4, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
Tutorials	7	0.28	
Type: Autonomous			
Reading of the texts	30	1.2	9, 8
Subject study. Online exercises	30	1.2	9, 7, 8

Assessment

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

The evaluation of this course consists of three parts:

1) Final exam. It represents 40% of the final grade.

2) Group exercise. Elaboration of a group exercise (4 students) that consists of working on the analysis of a public policy case, following the lecturer's instructions. The format of this kind of exercise will be specified during the course. It represents 35% of the final grade.

3) Seminars and assessed exercises (reading control or work on empirical cases), online participation and attendance. 25% of the final grade.

Important considerations:

- There is no official schedule of final exams. The lecturer will inform students about the dates of all assessed activities at the beginning of the course.

-To pass this course you will need to pass the final exam with a minimum grade of 5/10.

- On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (via Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

Retake process

-*"To be eligible to participate in the retake process, it is required for students to have been previously been evaluated for at least two thirds of the total evaluation activities of the subject. "*Section 3 of Article 112 ter. The recovery (UAB Academic Regulations)*.*

- A student can do a re-sit examif s/he has obtained at least a 3.5 as a final grade of the course.

- It is possibleto take a re-sit exam only if a student hastaken and has failed the final exam. The re-sit exam gives an opportunity only to pass an exam (a 5 is the maximum grade that can be obtained). If the students do not pass the re-sit exam (5/10), the final grade of the course will be FAIL (NO APROVAT). Clarification: the maximum grade in the retake exam is 5/10.

- The retake exam includes only the synthesis final exam. It is not possible to re-take the continuous assessment activities (group work, participation in seminars, in-class and online assessed exercises).

- The retake exam will be scheduled by the Dean's Office.

-Students will obtain a "Not assessed/Not submitted" course grade unless they have done evaluation activities that count for more than 30% of the course mark.

SINGLE ASSESSMENT

The Single Assessments consists of three parts:

1) Final exam. It represents 40% of the final grade.

2) Project. Individual. In-depth case study analysis of a public policy. The format of the project will be specified at the beginning of the course. 35% of the final grade.

3) Writing a policy brief to promote evidence-based public policies. 25% of the final grade.

Retake process.

- to be eligible for the retake, students must submit all the task stipulated in the syllabus.

-the same assessment method as continuous assessment will be used.

Irregularities in evaluation activities:

- In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject. The submissions with irregularieis (plagiarism, unauthorised use of AI etc) are not eligible for re-sit.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final exam	40% of the final frade	0	0	4, 2, 5, 9, 8, 3, 10
Group project	35% of the final grade	0	0	4, 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 7, 8, 3, 10
Seminars, exercises, participation and attendance	25% of the final grade	0	0	4, 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 7, 8, 3, 10

Bibliography

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Barbieri, Nicolas. (2015). "A narrative-interactionist approach to policy change analysis. Lessons from a case study of the cultural policy domain in Catalonia", *Critical Policy Studies*, 9 (4), 434-453.

- Bobbitt-Zeher, Donna. (2011). Gender discrimination at work: Connecting Gender Stereotypes, Institutional Policies, and Gender Composition of Workplace. *Gender & Society,* 25(6), 764-786.

- Cairney, Paul. (2022). *Understanding public policy: Theories and issues*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Dery, David. (1984). *Problem definition in policy analysis*, Lawrence KS.

- Fischer, Frank, and Gerald J. Miller (2017) . *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics, and Methods* (eds). Boca Raton : Routledge.

- Klijn, Erik (1997) "Policy networks: An overview", In Kickert, Walter and Klijn, Erik. (eds.) *Managing complex networks*. London: Sage, pp. 14-34.

- Knoepfel, Peter . *Public Policy Analysis.* Bristol: Policy Press, 2007.

- Knill Christoph and Tosun Jale. (2020). *Public Policy: A new introduction*. Bloomsbury Publishing

- Moran, Michael, Rein, Martin, and Goodin, Robert.E. (2010*). The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy,* Oxford University Press

- Richardson, Jeremy. (2012) *Constructing a Policy-Making State?: Policy Dynamics in the EU.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Stone, Deborah. (1988), *Policy Paradox*, New York, pp. 232-256.

- Weible, Christoher M., and Sabatier, Paul.A. (Eds.). (2018). *Theories of the Policy Process* (4th ed.). Routledge.

- Weimer, David Leo, and Aidan R. Vining. (2017) *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice. (* 6th ed.) . New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

REFERENCES FOR TOPICS

The professor will define specific readings for each topic in the detailed course programme (to be shared on moodle at the beginning of the course). Some of these lectures will be objects of the seminar discussions.

THE MOST RELEVANT JOURNALS

Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

Journal of European Public Policy

Journal of European Social Policy

Journal of Policy Analysis and Management

Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory

Journal of Public Policy

Journal of Policy Reform

Policy Studies Journal

Software

No specific requirements