

Government of the Russian Federation

National Research University Higher School of Economics

Public Policy Department

Syllabus of the course

Comparative Public Policy Analysis

for Master degree in Political Science (41.04.04)

for Master degree program “Political Analysis and Public Policy”

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Approved by the meeting of the all-university Department of Public Policy

on «___»_____ 2016

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This syllabus cannot be used by other university departments and other higher education institutions without the explicit permission of the Department of Public Policy.

1. Scope of Use

The present program outlines minimum demands of students' knowledge and skills and the content of the course.

The syllabus is intended for the department teaching this course, its teaching assistants, and students of the degree program 41.04.04 'Political Science', master's program 'Political Analysis and Public Policy'.

This syllabus meets the standards required by:

- Standards of National Research University Higher School of Economics of Federal Masters' Degree Program 41.04.04 "Political Science",
- Master's program 'Political Analysis and Public Policy' of Federal Master's Degree Program 41.04.04 "Political Science",
- Curriculum of the master's program 'Political Analysis and Public Policy' as of 2016/2017 study year.

2. Learning Objectives

Learning objectives of the course are to provide students with a solid grasp of the basic concepts, historical backgrounds, theoretical perspectives and the practice of comparative public policy. Some of the questions that the course will seek to answer are:

- What is comparative public policy?
- Why compare public policies?
- What are the main questions in such policy domains as healthcare, pension, family, trade and so on?
- How can we explain variations in policy responses across countries?
- How can a public management reform be successfully carried out?
- Which theoretical perspectives can be usefully applied to project implementation?

3. Learning outcomes

As a result of studying of the discipline the student should:

- Know the basics of political theory, the basic concepts of public policy (government, public policy and the public sphere, the state, democracy, civil society), the theoretical and methodological approaches to political research, methodology of public policy analysis
- Be able to apply the concepts and methods of political research in the applied areas of public policy analysis
- Have the skills (to gain experience) of writing analytical documents (papers, reports, and memos) in several areas of public policy

The following knowledge and competences are needed to study the discipline:

- Good analytical skills
- Medium to advanced English language skills
- Successful completion of Theories and Methodology of Political Science and Contemporary Political Science.

Competence	NC/NRU-HSE Code	Descriptors (indicators for achieving the result)	Forms and methods of education which help the students to acquire the competence
Ability to analyze, verify, estimate the accuracy of information in his/her professional activities. Ability to fill in the gaps, to synthesize the missing information and to work in uncertainty	SC-6	70 percent in the cohort has achieved at least 5 of 10	Lectures and seminars Individual research Group work Presentations
Ability to carry out research and other professional activities in different country and regional settings	SC-8	70 percent in the cohort has achieved at least 5 of 10	Lectures and seminars Individual research Group work Presentations
Ability to prepare analytical materials (reviews, notes, reports, recommendations, etc) and policy proposals for decision-makers.	PC-6	70 percent in the cohort has achieved at least 5 of 10	Seminars Individual research Group work Presentations
Ability to apply knowledge of contemporary research methods, to interpret the results of research and to present them with ethical considerations in mind	PC-10	70 percent in the cohort has achieved at least 5 of 10	Seminars Individual research Group work Presentations

4. Place of the discipline in the Master program structure

This course is an elective course for the Master's Program "Political Analysis and Public Policy".

It requires prior knowledge in political science, public policy analysis, social research methodology and IT skills and group work skills provided by the mandatory and elective courses of the master's program during the 1st year of studies.

Main competencies developed by this course can be used during the preparation for the master's dissertation and for further professional activities.

5. Course Plan

№	Topic	Total hours	Contact hours	Indepennt students'
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			Lectures	Seminars	work
1	Introduction in public policy analysis	18	4	0	14
2	Think tanks and analytical communities as actors of PPA	18	4	0	14
3	Comparing across nations: quantitative vs qualitative methods, comparative approach & methods	18	4	0	14
4	Reading discussions	42	0	8	34
5	Health & family policies: learning from German and Sweden cases	22	2	2	18
6	Anti-corruption policy: learning from foreign experience	22	2	2	18
7	Research projects discussions	88	0	16	72
	Total:	228	16	28	184

6. Requirements and Grading

Type of grading	Type of work	1 st.year				Department	Characteristics
		1	2	3	4		
Current	Participation in discussions (PD)			1		PPD	The students are preparing for discussions on the basis of the reading and other preparation.
Current	Reading presentation (RP)			1		PPD	The students present chapters of the books on CPPA. The reading is distributed and assigned to students by the teacher or the teaching assistant. 10 minutes presentation and Q&A session.
Current	Presentation of policy paper (PPP)				1	PPD	Presentation of the students' policy papers : 10 minutes presentation and Q&A session
Current	Policy paper (PP)				1	PPD	Submission of comparative policy analysis paper (policy paper)
Final	Policy paper defense (PPD)				1	PPD	Defense of the policy papers prepared by the students

6.1. Course Evaluation Criteria

Students' participation in the course activities is based on their individual research projects. The research project is to comply with the following:

- Comparative analysis of specific public policy in 2 countries
- Choose specific policy issue in education, migration, family, health care, anti-corruption, STI, economic, environmental, urban, symbolic, transport, etc.
- Choose 2 countries using comparative approach

Students' assessment will be based on the following:

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- **Participation in discussion (PD):** 10% of the accumulated grade is based on the evaluation of students' participation in the class activities. Only substantial participation in a discussion counts.
- **Reading presentation (RP):** 20% of the accumulated grade. A student chooses one of the chapters from the recommended reading (the choice must be approved by the teacher or the teaching assistant), applies it to her/his research project and presents it. 10 minutes presentation is followed by Q&A session.
- **Presentation of policy paper (PPP):** 30% of the accumulated grade. A student presents the policy papers prepared on the basis of the individual research project. Brief discussion is to provide opportunities for further improvement of the final policy paper. 10 minutes per presentation. Content of the presentation should reflect the content of the policy paper (see policy paper recommendations).
- **Policy paper (PP):** 40% of the accumulated grade. 10-20 pages policy paper based on the individual research project.
 - **The recommended structure for the policy paper:**
 - **Introduction**
 - **Background**
 - *Analysis of the policy context (and external factors)*
 - *Review of a current policy*
 - **Policy Problem**
 - *Identification, detalization, and verification of the policy problem*
 - *Identification of main actors, their aims and interests*
 - **Policy Alternatives**
 - *Define political alternatives*
 - *Detail political alternatives*
 - *Evaluate and Compare policy alternatives (based on established evaluation criteria)*
 - *Select the best Policy among the alternatives considered*
 - **Conclusion and Policy Recommendations**
 - **Recommendations on the content of the policy paper:**
 - *Make it comparative, use:*
 - *Comparative tables and diagrams,*
 - *Point out similarities and differences between cases*
 - *Describe main trends and regularities between cases*
 - *In Introduction be clear about:*
 - *Time period for analysis*
 - *Countries and policy issue*
 - *Case selection criteria (what methods you apply?)*
 - *Who are your client, sponsor, and beneficiaries*
 - *For policy problem structuring use Stakeholder analysis:*
 - *Were they included and how?*

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- *How they have to be included?*
- *For policy alternatives be clear about:*
 - *Selection criteria*
- *In Conclusion:*
 - *Be clear about policy outputs and outcomes: planned and achieved*
 - *Define policy change*
 - *Recommend what we can transfer and what to learn from best experience?*
- **Policy paper defense or Final exam (PPD)** constitutes 40% of the final grade. The defense includes discussion of the policy paper and questions on the actual individual research project of a student and *may include relevant questions on the course content*.

7. Course Description

1. Introduction in public policy analysis. Introduction in Public Policy Analysis: PPA as an Applied Discipline (key concepts: science vs art; polity, politics, policy, public policy, public policy analysis - PPA); Model of PPA, PP community (policy analysts & stakeholders; Client-test & Stakeholder Analysis); Policy outcome & impact (policy change, policy transfer & policy learning) Plan of Final Paper/

2. Think tanks and analytical communities as actors of PPA. Think Tanks as Policy Actors: current state of research. Think tanks as an institute of intellectual policy support: concept, definitions, distinctive features and typologies. Think tanks' influence on decision making process: problems and methods for evaluation.

3. Comparing across nations: quantitative vs qualitative methods, comparative approach & methods. Choices in comparative research. Challenges for comparative public policy research. The practicalities of comparative research.

4. Reading discussions (2 weeks). Students present analysis and application of the assigned reading to their research projects.

5. Health & family policies: learning from German and Sweden cases. Theories of health and family policy development. Comparing health and family policies across nations. The scope of health and family policies.

6. Anti-corruption policy: learning from foreign experience. International anticorruption efforts: applications of international AC policy in different contexts. Limitations of international policy transfer and perspectives of policy learning.

7. Research projects discussions (4 weeks). Presentation of the students' policy papers, discussion.

8. Teaching Methods and Recommendations

The course is built upon the combination of modern educational techniques. It combines active and interactive forms of teaching. It relies more on discussion and group work than on conventional lecturing. So the students are supposed to actively participate in the in-class group work. They are also expected to do their homework and additional reading and then present their findings and ideas during the classes.

9. The rule of forming cumulative grade

O stands for "grade". It is divided into accumulated and final grades which are described by their own formulas.

O_{accumulated} formula is:

$$O_{\text{accumulated}} = O_{\text{current control}} = 0.1 * O_{\text{PD}} + 0.2 * O_{\text{RP}} + 0.3 * O_{\text{PPP}} + 0.4 * O_{\text{PP}}$$

where O_{PD} is the grade for **Participation in discussion**

O_{RP} is the grade for **Reading presentation**

O_{PPP} is the grade for **Presentation of policy paper**

O_{PP} is the grade for **Policy paper**

O_{final} formula is:

$$O_{\text{final}} = 0,6 * O_{\text{accumulated}} + 0,4 * O_{\text{PPD}}$$

where O_{PPD} is the grade for **Policy paper defense or Final exam**

Only the final grade goes into the Master Degree certificate.

10. Reading and Materials

Required Reading:

- Young, E., Quinn, L. Writing Effective Public Policy Papers. A Guide for Policy Advisers in Central and Eastern Europe. Open Society Institute. 2002
- Morse K., Struyk R. Policy Analasis for Effective Development. Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. 2006
- Dodds A. Comparative Public Policy. Palgrave Macmillan. 2013

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The course relies on the IT infrastructure of HSE (LMS). Some course materials are circulated electronically. Other use of e-interaction is to be determined collectively by the lecturer and the students.

11. Equipment

Standard IT infrastructure is required.