

Course Syllabus "Comparative Public Policy Analysis"

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Academic Council
of the Master's Programme
№1 dated 26.06.2018

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Number of credits	6
Contact hours	44
Self-study hours	184
Year of study	1
Educational format	Without use of online course

I. Aim, Results of Mastering the Discipline and Prerequisites

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?

As a results, students 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.

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.

II. Content of the Course

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. 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.

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. Public participation in policy-making on examples of Russia and EU: pitfalls and mechanisms (two weeks). Public or citizens participation is one of the core principles of modern democratic state and good regulation practices in combination with working institutional mechanisms are essential parts of maintaining this principle. Different forms of participation are developing through new information and communication technologies and this process requires proper reaction from governmental side: how to take those new possibilities into effective policy-making and what kind of legislative measures should be developed to tune and coordinate interactions between state and citizens? Recognizing the fact, that elections are not the only one possible option for people to influence their government on different levels, we must pay attention to significant shifts from government to governance, which has an impact on the legal and organizational framework of governmental structures.

7. Comparative environmental policy. Ecological governance and natural resource management have become increasingly important in both developed and developing nations. However, political and economic challenges, and ecological sustainability challenges such as climate change, have raised several critical questions, such as-- what constitutes good and sound environmental policy? To achieve the goals of ecological sustainability, what balances, strategies, and processes are required? And what would be the stages of achievement? There are traditional policies of ecological regulation, prohibition, and standardisation. In contrast – in post-industrial developed economies– there are new sets of market-based instruments and mechanisms of policy regulation and implementation that are non-coercive, incentivised, and cost-effective. Would these instruments be effective in governance? Imperial and colonial powers implicated many developing countries into core–periphery relations of exploitation;

developed at their cost; and gained power in global geopolitics. So, can their interests of managing their national environment be integrated with global environmental goals

8. Comparative education policy. Education policy has become a globalized issue in recent years. This trend has also had implications for comparative education policy. During this lecture, we will analyze and discuss what successful education policy is, how it is delivered and how education policies may be transferred to other contexts. We will examine the role of the OECD in comparing the performance of education policy through international student testing (PISA) and discuss the role of globalization, marketization and privatization in education policy. We will study policy problems and the policy solutions and “lessons learned” of so-called reference societies. In particular, we will look at cases of successful pre-school education in Scandinavian countries, the vocational education system in German-speaking countries, and critically examine the trend towards private provision of education (cases of Sweden, USA, or Chile). To conclude, we will discuss how successful education policies may be borrowed by other countries by looking at the case of transferring Western didactics to China.

9. Research project presentations & discussions. Presentations of students’ policy papers, followed by a brief discussion.

III. Grading

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

$O_{\text{accumulated}}$ formula is: $O_{\text{accumulated}} = O_{\text{current control}} = 0.3*O_{\text{RE}} + 0.3*O_{\text{PPF}} + 0.4*O_{\text{FP}}$

where O_{RE} & O_{RE} are the grade for Reading exercises
 O_{PPF} is the grade for presentation of final paper
 O_{FP} is the grade for final paper

O_{final} formula is: $O_{\text{final}} = 0,6*O_{\text{accumulated}} + 0,4*O_{\text{FE}}$

where O_{FE} is the grade for Final exam

The final and accumulated grades are rounded according to the rounding rules of math. Only the final grade goes into the Master Degree certificate.

IV. Grading Tools

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:

- **Accumulated grade (60% of the final grade)** consists of:
 - **Assignments 1-3 (10% of the accumulated grade each):**

Assignment № 1: Exercise 3.1 from Morse and Struyk, chapter 3, the case must be from the Final Paper

Assignment №2: Exercise 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 from Morse and Struyk, chapter 9, the case must be from the Final Paper

Assignment №3: Exercise 14.1 from Morse and Struyk, chapter 2 and 14, the case must be from the Final Paper
 - **Presentation of final paper (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 for presentation and discussion. Content of the presentation should reflect the content of the policy paper (see policy paper recommendations).
 - **Final paper (40% of the accumulated grade):** 10-20 pages policy paper based on the individual research project.

<p>The recommended structure for the policy paper:</p> <p>1.1. Introduction</p> <p>1.2. Background</p> <p>1.2.1. Analysis of the policy context (and external factors)</p> <p>1.2.2. Review of a current policy</p> <p>1.3. Policy Problem</p> <p>1.3.1. Identification, detalization, and verification of the policy problem</p> <p>1.3.2. Identification of main actors, their aims and interests</p> <p>1.4. Policy Monitoring/Evaluation</p> <p>1.4.1. Define policy program to monitor, its main indicators</p> <p>1.4.2. Define program model and logical frame</p> <p>1.4.3. Assess program efficiency (effectiveness), define additional problems</p> <p>1.5. Policy Alternatives</p> <p>1.5.1. Define political alternatives</p> <p>1.5.2. Detail political alternatives</p> <p>1.5.3. Evaluate and Compare policy alternatives (based on established evaluation criteria)</p> <p>1.5.4. Select the best Policy among the alternatives considered</p> <p>1.6. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations</p>	<p>Recommendations on the content of the policy paper:</p> <p>2.1. Make it comparative, use:</p> <p>2.1.1. Comparative tables and diagrams,</p> <p>2.1.2. Point out similarities and differences between cases</p> <p>2.1.3. Describe main trends and regularities between cases</p> <p>2.2. In Introduction be clear about:</p> <p>2.2.1. Time period for analysis</p> <p>2.2.2. Countries and policy issue</p> <p>2.2.3. Case selection criteria (what methods you apply?)</p> <p>2.2.4. Who are your client, sponsor, and beneficiaries</p> <p>2.3. For policy problem structuring use Stakeholder analysis:</p> <p>2.3.1. Were they included and how?</p> <p>2.3.2. How they have to be included?</p> <p>2.4. For policy alternatives be clear about:</p> <p>2.4.1. Selection criteria</p> <p>2.5. In Conclusion:</p> <p>2.5.1. Be clear about policy outputs and outcomes: planned and achieved</p> <p>2.5.2. Define policy change</p> <p>2.5.3. Recommend what we can transfer and what to learn from best experience?</p>
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Final exam (40% of the final grade). It is done in the form of the policy paper 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.

V. Sources

5.1. Main Literature

1. Bryman, A. Social research methods / A. Bryman. – 4th ed. – Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2001, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016. – На англ. яз. - ISBN 0-19-874204-5; 0-19-926446-5; 978-0-19-920295-9; 978-0-19-958805-3; 978-0-19-968945-3.
2. Comparative Policy Studies : Conceptual and Methodological Challenges, edited by Isabelle Engeli, et al., Palgrave Macmillan Limited, 2014. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1699386>.
3. Rose, Richard. Learning from Comparative Public Policy : A Practical Guide, Routledge, 2004. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=200405>.
4. Pollitt, C. Public management reform: a comparative analysis / C. Pollitt, G. Bouckaert. – 2nd ed. – New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001 or 2004. – На англ. яз. - ISBN 0-19-829722-X or 0-19-926849-5.
5. Wilder, M. (2017), Comparative Public Policy: Origins, Themes, New Directions. Policy Stud J, 45: S47-S66. doi:[10.1111/psj.12200](https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12200)
6. Knoepfel, Peter, et al. Public Policy Analysis, Policy Press, 2007. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=419269>.

5.2. Additional Literature

1. John Lawrence, (1986) "Comparative study of social policy: conceptual and methodological issues", International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, Vol. 6 Issue: 3, pp.1-12, <https://doi.org/10.1108/eb013012> Permanent link to this document: <https://doi.org/10.1108/eb013012> Downloaded on: 25 January 2019
2. Prakash, A., & Potoski, M. (2012). Research Frontiers in Comparative Policy Analysis: An Introduction. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 31(1), 93-93. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41429259>
3. Roberts, P. (2015). A century of international affairs think tanks in historical perspective. *International Journal*, 70(4), 535-555. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24709306>
4. Blank, R., & Burau, V. (2006). Setting Health Priorities across Nations: More Convergence than Divergence? *Journal of Public Health Policy*, 27(3), 265-281. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3879079>
5. Rudel, T., Roberts, J., & Carmin, J. (2011). Political Economy of the Environment. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 37, 221-238. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41288606>
6. John C. V. Pezzey. (2004). Sustainability Policy and Environmental Policy. *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 106(2), 339-359. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3440937>

5.3. Software

№	Name	Access conditions
1.	MicrosoftWindows 7 Professional RUS MicrosoftWindows 10 MicrosoftWindows 8.1 Professional RUS	<i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i>
2.	Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010	<i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i>

5.4. Professional databases and reference systems. Internet resources (electronic educational resources)

№	Name	Access conditions
<i>Professional databases and reference systems</i>		
1.	Consultant Plus	<i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i>
2.	URAIT Electronic library system	URL: https://biblio-online.ru/
<i>Internet resources (electronic educational resources)</i>		
1.	Open Education	URL: https://openedu.ru/

5.5. Material and technical support

Classrooms for lectures on the discipline provide for the use and demonstration of thematic illustrations corresponding to the program of the discipline, consisting of:

- PC with Internet access (operating system, office software, antivirus software);
- multimedia projector with remote control.