

Course Syllabus "Foundations of Public Policy"

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

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Number of credits	3
Contact hours	70
Self-study hours	44
Year of study	1
Educational format	Without use of online course

I. Aim, Results of Mastering the Discipline and Prerequisites

The objective of the discipline "Foundations of public policy" is to introduce students with the evolution of the field of public policy, with different theories and conceptual frameworks of public policy, and approaches to do actual policy analysis. Public policy is about what governments do, why they do it, and how they do it. Therefore, this module focuses on the analysis of different policy issues, as well as on normative questions of what good public policy is. Public policy also puts emphasis on problem-solving; therefore, the module prepares students for real life problem solving. The course integrates political science, economics, management and related disciplines in analyzing public policy.

As a result of studying this course students should:

Know:

History, evolution, and various theories of the public policy process as well as broader conceptual underpinnings of these theories

Be able to:

Demonstrate theoretical grasp over various dimensions of the public policy process and critically appraise them

Acquire the skills for:

The analysis of practical public policy problems, required methods and tools to analyze problems and propose solutions

This course is based on the following knowledge and competences:

Basic economic concepts like supply and demand, equilibrium analysis, market failure

Basic political science concepts like various political theories and types of power in politics

General knowledge of and interest in various political systems and in the questions like what governments do, why, and how.

Main competences developed by studying this discipline can be used to study the following:

Policy studies, policy research, policy analysis (role of interests, institutions, and ideas)

Specializations such as social policy, health policy, development policy, energy policy, climate policy, international public policy, global governance, public administration, leadership and management, etc.

II. Content of the Course

1. Introduction to Public Policy

Topics: What is public policy? Differences policy, politics and polity. Public policy as a discipline. Re-search questions in public policy. Impact model of a public policy.

2. Policy Cycle Theory

Topics: The Policy Cycle Theory. The stages of the policy cycle: Agenda-Setting, Policy Formulation, Decision-making, Policy Implementation, Policy Evaluation. Agenda-Setting: What is a policy problem? The construction of policy problems

Policy Formulation: Categories of policy instruments and tools

Decision-making: Actors in the decision-making process

Policy Implementation: Actors in policy implementation. Policy failure and implementation failure.

Policy Evaluation: criteria of policy evaluation, accountability and policy learning.

Critics and usefulness of the Policy Cycle Theory.

3. Advocacy Coalition Framework

Topics: Overview over public policy theories: Advocacy Coalition Framework. Multiple Stream Approach. Punctuated Equilibrium Framework. Neo-Institutionalism.

The Advocacy Coalition Framework: Policy subsystems. Coalitions, their policy belief systems and re-sources. Policy-oriented learning. Policy change.

4. Public policy in Russia

Topics: Russian approach to studying public policy. Groups and networks in field of public policy. Ration-al actors and exogenous influence: factors and characteristics Features of the discourse on public policy in modern Russia

5. Multiple streams approach

Topics: Problem, policy and politics streams. Garbage can model of policy making and comprehensively rational policy-making

6. Punctuated Equilibrium Framework

Topics: Bounded rationality of policy-makers. Phenomenon of disproportionate attention: asymmetric in recognition of challenges and attentions. Policy monopolies.

7. Neo-Institutionalism and Path dependency framework

Topics: How initial environmental conditions leave a persistent mark on societies and institutions? Devel-opment issues and vicious circle theory. Determination of events in public policy.

8. Policy Discourse, Policy Narratives and Framing

Topics: The argumentative turn in policy analysis. Positivism and interpretivism. The importance of dis-course in policy-making. Policy narratives and the Policy Narrative Framework. Frames and framing.

9. Policy transfer and policy learning

Topics: The concepts of policy transfer, policy translation, policy borrowing and policy convergence. Factors favouring and hindering policy learning
Class-10: Policy Capacity framework

10. Policy capacity framework

Topics: What is policy capacity? The policy capacity framework. Individual, organisational and systematic capacity; analytical, operational and political capacity.

11. Evidence-based policymaking

Topics: The use of evidence in policymaking. Instrumental, conceptual, political and process use of evidence. Criticism of evidence-based policymaking.

III. Grading

The final grade is composed of a cumulative grade and the exam. The cumulative grade is composed of participation in class and the group presentation according to the following formulas (O stands for "grade"). Only the final grade is rounded and goes into the Diploma.

$$O_{\text{cumulative}} = 0.6 * O_{\text{presentation}} + 0.4 * O_{\text{participation}}$$

$$O_{\text{final}} = 0.6 * O_{\text{cumulative}} + 0.4 * O_{\text{exam}}$$

IV. Grading Tools

Presentation.

The presentation consists of a group work on the detailed and precise application of one or several of the public policy frameworks to a given public policy issue. Students must prepare a group presentation which should reflect their work and explain why they choose this or these framework(s) with strong argumentation.

Exam (Essay).

Student must choose a particular policy issue (preferably the topic of the term paper) and write an essay by choosing one public policy framework / theory related to this issue.

Evaluation criteria

In the presentations and class discussions students are expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the issue at hand and various scholars' arguments. Student's work in the class is assessed taking into account both the attendance and the preparedness for each class. That means that students need to demonstrate an understanding of the required readings for the class and participate in the discussion. Students missing all the classes receive "zero".

When writing the final exam (essay) students need to demonstrate sophisticated, nuanced, and critical analysis of policy issues in addition to the grasp of the literature. Students shall also show skills in employing various approaches and methods to analyze public policy problems and propose solutions.

V. Sources

5.1. Main Literature

1. Public Policy, Karolinum Press, 2017. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5325778>.
2. Public policy: art and craft of policy analysis / R. K. Saprú. – 2nd ed. – Delhi: PHI Learning Private Limited, 2013. – 368 с. – На англ. яз. - ISBN 978-81-203-4438-9.
3. Routledge Handbook of Public Policy, edited by Eduardo Araral, et al., Routledge, 2012. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1101355>.

5.2. Additional Literature

1. Policy analysis and public policy research in and on modern government and public sector reform: мастер-класс в рамках курса "Политанализ-2" для бакалавров прикладной политологии 2-го курса: ридер / Авт.-сост. Х. Вольманн; Сост. Д. Б. Цыганков. – М.: ГУ-ВШЭ, 2004. – 162 с. – На англ. яз.
2. Dehaven-Smith, I., & Ripley, R. (1988). Political-theoretical foundations of public policy. *Public Administration Quarterly*, 11(4), 419-438. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40862268>
3. Knoepfel, Peter, et al. *Public Policy Analysis*, Policy Press, 2007. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=419269>

5.3. Software

№	Name	Access conditions
1.	Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS Microsoft Windows 10 Microsoft Windows 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.