

PS392 Public Policy

Seminar Leader: Agatha Siwale

Course Times: Monday, 5:30 – 7:00pm; Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:00pm

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Office Hours: Thursday, 2pm – 4pm.

Course Description

Students in this course will engage with how public policies are made and implemented and why policies fail or succeed. Case studies of policy processes and outcomes from various countries will be analysed to provide students with a real-life exposure to public policies in both developed and developing country contexts. Specific cases for analysis will include immigration policy and its impacts on host and recipient countries, environmental policies, and development policies. Students will also gain insights into the theoretical traditions that have shaped various policy approaches before moving on to analysing how politics (political interests and institutions) and past policies shape agenda setting and result in either policy change or stasis. The course will be designed to encourage students to engage with various policy challenges through a series of seminars and team activities that challenge them to devise viable policy solutions for identified problems based on evidence (e.g. formulating a policy brief for submission to policy makers). The course aims to prepare students for work in government, non-governmental organisations and multilateral organisations.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- i) Understand the context of policy making and analyse policy processes
- ii) Engage with theoretical debates in public policy
- iii) Formulate a policy brief for presentation to policy makers
- iv) Undertake secondary research and write a social science research paper
- v) Effectively communicate policy positions both verbally and in writing.

Requirements

The key requirements of the course and grade breakdown are as follows:

1. Contributions to discussion and peer feedback/participation: 10%
2. Presentation: 20%
3. Mid-term test: 25%
4. Final Essay: 45%

1. Participation (10%)

Developing the ability to engage confidently and in an informed manner in policy discussions is a key skill that this course seeks to build. It is therefore important that each of you reads the assigned texts

before the class and are able to share insights and critiques that enrich the collective discussion. You need not speak on each occasion but must regularly demonstrate that you have understood the readings and can raise important questions and observations related to both the texts and the contributions of your peers. The highest grades for participation will be awarded to those who are able to demonstrate the afore-mentioned aspects while attendance without participation on a consistent basis will attract low participation grades.

2. Presentation (20%)

You will be required to conduct one presentation either individually or in pairs based on journal articles assigned in the course. Presentations will last no more than 15 minutes and should seek to: (1) briefly summarise the central argument of the author(s) and their underlying research question; and (2) critique the strength of the argument presented through analysis of methods used, evidence presented and the internal logic of arguments. Ten minutes (10) will then be devoted to class comments and discussions. Students, where possible, can also reflect on the relevance of the argument to wider theoretical debates. A list of presentation topics and readings will be circulated during the first class and uploaded on the online learning platform where students can sign-up for preferred sessions.

Presentations will be linked to the broader topic of discussion for the class and will complement wider class readings. The classes will be organized in such a way as to allow for a presentation and discussion in the first 30minutes of the class before proceeding to the second half of the class that will be facilitated by the instructor. Presentations will begin in **the second week of classes (10th September)**.

3. Mid-Term Test (25%)

This test will be based on readings and lecture material covered in the first half of the term. These short answer and short essay questions in the test are aimed gauging how well you can analyse policy issues and apply key concepts covered in the class.

4. Final Essay (45%)

You will be required to author an academic research essay in which you identify a policy relevant problem and come up with a research question that investigates that problem. Your research question should be drawn out of a critical review of the literature (class readings and wider literature), should hold significance for theoretical and/policy debates and should demonstrate that the position you take is based on evidence. Your essay will be assessed based on how well you formulate your research question, the clarity and logic of your argument, evidence presented to support it and the strength of analysis. Essay should be between **4000 - 4500 words** in length.

Having written the essay, extract an executive summary from your long paper (**500 words**) that condenses the problem, approach, findings and key recommendations. The executive summary should be targeted at policymakers who are pressed for time.

Possible research questions will be discussed during classes throughout the term to allow you to reflect on and formulate your own questions. You are also encouraged to draw questions from the

topics you present on during class. You will be required to submit an outline of your final essay by the 8th of October, 2018. The final essay is due on the 19th of December (Week 16).

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Late submission of essays by up to 24 hours late will result in a downgrade by one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Essays that are more than 24 hours late maybe rejected for grading. Where a late essay is accepted for grading, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Syllabi should note that, instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Attendance

Students must attend ALL classes and participate actively in sessions. Absence from two sessions of 90 minutes in a semester will attract a C or less of the participation grade, unless permission is sought in advance in accordance with the Student Handbook’s regulations on illness or leaves of absence. Attendance without participation will attract a C/C+; Good faith attempts at participation and evidence of having done readings will attract B/B+; valuable contributions that engage with readings, peer contributions and wider experiences will attract A/A+.

Reading Material:

The key textbooks for this class are:

- Birkland, T. A. (2011). An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making. Third edition

You are advised to purchase a copy of the textbook for reference throughout the course. Other book chapters, articles and additional readings will be posted on the online platform.

Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change depending on emerging class needs during the term. I will inform students in advance of any changes and the online platform will also be used give advance notices of changes.

	Topics	Readings and Assignment Deadlines
Week 1 Mon, 3 Sept	<i>Course Introduction:</i> - What is Public Policy? -Can we distinguish between the private and	- Kraft, M. E., & Furlong, S. R. (2018). Public policy: Politics, analysis, and alternatives. 7 th edition. Sage and CQ Press. Chapter 1, (pp. 2-14).

	<p>public sphere? -Syllabus overview and Assignments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birkland, T. A. (2011). An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making. Third edition. Routledge. Chapter 1 (pp. 3-13) <p><u>Further Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nicolas Blomley, 'Flowers in the bathtub: boundary crossings at the public-private divide', <i>Geoforum</i>, 36(3) 2005: 281-296. - McLaughlin, Kenneth, 'Revisiting the public/private divide: Theoretical, political and personal implications of their unification', <i>Practice</i>, 19(4) 2007: 241 – 253
Wed, 5 Sept	<p>The Policy Context – What is it and how does it shape policy?</p> <p>-Do politics shape policies or is it policies that shape politics?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birkland, T. A. (2011). An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making. Third edition. Routledge. Chapter 2 - Heinelt, H. (2007). Do Policies Determine Politics? In Fischer, F., Miller, G. J., & Sidney, M. S. (Eds). <i>Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics, and Methods</i> (109-122). New York: Taylor and Francis Group. <p><u>Further Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immergut, E.M. (1990). Institutions, veto points, and policy results: A comparative analysis of health care. <i>Journal of Public policy</i> 10 (4) 391-416
Week 2 Mon, 10 Sept	<p>Policy Actors inside Government (1): Legislatures, the Executive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birkland, T. A. (2011). An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making. Third edition. Routledge. Chapter 4, (pp. 92-129). - Anderson, James E. (2014). <i>Public policymaking</i>. 8th ed. Cengage. Chapter 2, Legislatures (pp 50-53); The Executive (pp.53-57) <p>Presentation 1</p>
Wed, 12 Sept	<p>Policy Actors inside Government (2): Courts, administrative agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anderson, James E. (2014). <i>Public policymaking</i>. 8th ed. Cengage. Chapter 2, Administrative Agencies; The Courts (pp. 48-59)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - F. W. Scharpf, “The Joint-Decision Trap: Lessons from German Federalism and European Integration”, <i>Public Administration</i>, 66:3 (1988) - G. Tsebelis et al “Legislative Politics in the European Union: An Empirical Analysis”, <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>, 31 (2001), 573-599. <p><u>Further Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birkland, T. A. (2011). <i>An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making</i>. Third edition. Routledge. Chapter 4 <p>Presentation 2</p>
Week 3 Mon, 17 Sept	Policy Actors outside of Government (2):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birkland, T. A. (2011). <i>An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making</i>. Third edition. Routledge. Chapter 5 - Anderson, James E. (2010). <i>Public policymaking</i>. 7th ed. Cengage. Chapter 2, ‘Nongovernmental participants’ (pp. 59-68) <p>Presentation 3</p>
Wed, 19 Sept	Theories in Public Policy (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jones, B. D., Boushey, G., Workman, S. (2007). <i>Behavioral Rationality and the Policy Processes: Toward A New Model of Organizational Information Processing</i> - Kraft, M. E., & Furlong, S. R. (2018). <i>Public policy: Politics, analysis, and alternatives</i>. 7th edition. Sage and CQ Press. Chapter 3 (pp. 78-85 on elite and group theory). <p>Presentation 4</p>
Week 4 Mon, 24 Sept	Theories in Public Policy (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kraft, M. E., & Furlong, S. R. (2018). <i>Public policy: Politics, analysis, and alternatives</i>. 7th edition. Sage and CQ Press. Chapter 3 (pp. 85-89). <p>Presentation 5</p>
Wed, 26 Sept	The Policy Process Model: Problem Definition and Agenda setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anderson, Chapter 3 – Policy Problems (pp. 83-107)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stone, Deborah A. (1989). Casual stories and the formation of policy agendas. <i>Political Science Quarterly</i>, 104, 2 (Summer): 281-300. <p><u>Further Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downs, Athony. (1972). Up and down with ecology: The issue attention cycle. <i>Public Interest</i> 28: 38-50. - Anne Schneider and Helen Ingram 1993. Social Construction of Target Populations: Implications for Politics and Policy. <i>The American Political Science Review</i>, 87:2, pp. 334-347. <p>Presentation 6</p>
Week 5 Mon, 1 Oct	Policy Formulation/ Alternative formulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anderson, Chapter 3, 'The formulation of policy proposals' (pp. 114-120) - Sidney, M. S. (2007). Policy Formulation: Design and Tools. In Fischer, F., Miller, G. J., & Sidney, M. S. (Eds). <i>Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics, and Methods</i> (109-122). New York: Taylor and Francis Group. - (pp. 79) <p>Presentation 7</p>
3 Oct	Public Holiday: Day of German Unity	
Week 6 Mon, 8 Oct	Policy design: underlying principles and processes <i>*Possible Guest Speaker</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weimer, David L. (1992). Claiming races, broiler contracts, heresthetics and habits: Ten concepts for policy design. <i>Policy Sciences</i> 25: 135-159. <p>Deadline for Essay Outline</p>
Wed, 10 Oct	Policy Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birkland, T. A. (2011). An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making. Third edition. Routledge. Chapter 9 - Anderson, Chapter 4, Policy Adoption (pp. 133-34; 140-150; 150-153) <p>Presentation 8</p>
Week 7 Mon, 15 Oct	Policy Implementation <i>*Possible Guest Speaker</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birkland, T. A. (2011). An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making. Third edition. Routledge. Chapter 9 - Anderson, Chapter 6 – Policy Implementation (pp. 225-239) - Batory, A.. "Why do anti-corruption laws fail in Central Eastern Europe? A target compliance

		perspective." Regulation & Governance 6, no. 1 (2012): 66-82.
Wed, 17 Oct	Policy Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anderson, Chapter 7 – Policy Impact, Evaluation and Change (pp. 290-316) - Chelwa, G., Pellicer, M. and Maboshe, M. (2018). Evaluation of the rural hardship allowance in Zambia <p>Presentation 9</p>
Week 8 Mon, 22 Oct	Why do policies fail?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birkland, T. A. (2011). An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making. Third edition. Routledge. Chapter 9 - Immergut, E. M. (2006). Institutional constraints on policy. In R.E. Goodin, (ed.) The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy. Oxford, (pp. 557-572). - Dunleavy, P. (1995) ‘Policy Disasters: Explaining the UK’s Record’, Public Policy and Administration, 10 (2): pp. 52 - 70. <p><u>Further Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - McConnel, A. (2010). Policy Success, Policy Failure and Grey Areas In-Between. Journal of Public Policy, 30(03), 345–362. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0143814X10000152 - Quiggin, J. (2006). Economic constraints in public policy. In R.E. Goodin, (ed.) The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy. Oxford, (pp. 529-543). <p>Presentation 10</p>
Wed, 24 Oct	How and why do policies change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kingdon, J., Agendas, alternatives and public policies, London: Longman, 1995. Chapter 1. - Nikolaos Zahariadis, “Ambiguity, Time and Multiple Streams”, in Sabatier (eds), Theories of the Policy Process. 2007. <p>Mid-Term Test</p>
Week 9	FALL BREAK (October 29th – November, 2nd)	
Week 10 Mon, 5 Nov	Policy Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simmons, B. A., F. Dobbin, et al. (2006). " Introduction: The International Diffusion of Liberalism." International Organization 60(Fall): 781-810. - David P. Dolowitz and David Marsh, “Learning from Abroad: The Role of Policy Transfer in Contemporary Policy-Making”, Governance, 13. 2000. <p>Presentation 11</p>

Wed, 7 Nov	Alternative Model for the Policy Process: The advocacy coalition framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sabatier, Paul A. and Christopher M. Weible. 2007. —The Advocacy Coalition Framework. II In <i>Theories of the Policy Process</i>. 2d ed., edited by Paul A. Sabatier, 191-99 - Weible, Christopher M., Paul A. Sabatier, and Kelly McQueen. (2009). Themes and variations: Taking stock of the advocacy coalition framework. <i>Policy studies Journal</i> 37(1): 121-140. - Bogason, P. (2006). Networks and Bargaining in Policy Analysis. In Peters, G. B. and Pierre, J. (Eds.). <i>Handbook of Public Policy</i> (pp. 201 - 216). London, England: Sage Publications. <p>Presentation 12</p>
Week 11 Mon, 12 Nov	Writing a Policy Memo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weimer, D. L., & Vining, A. R. (2017). <i>Policy analysis: Concepts and practice</i>. Sixth edition. Routledge. Chapter 1 'Preview' (pp. 1-30) <p>Presentation 13</p>
Wed, 14 Nov	How do motivation and agency shape public policies?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - J. LeGrand, <i>Motivation, Agency and Public Policy</i>, OUP 2003, esp. chapter 4 on public service motivation [361.6/109/41 LEG] J. - March & G. Olsen, <i>The Logic of Appropriateness</i>, Arena Working Paper 4/09 http://www.arena.uio.no/publications/wp04_9.pdf
Week 12 Mon, 19 Nov	Public Policy and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G. Stoker, "Governance as Theory: Five Propositions", <i>International Social Science Journal</i>, 50:1 (1998) 17-28 [e-learning] - R. A. W. Rhodes, "The New Governance: Governing without Government", <i>Political Studies</i>, 44 (1996) 652-667
Wed, 21 Nov	Multi-level Governance in the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kohler-Koch B, Rittberger B, 2006, "The 'governance turn' in EU studies" <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> 44 (annual review) 27-49 - Markus Perkmann. 2007. <i>Policy entrepreneurship and multilevel governance: a comparative study of European cross-border regions</i>, <i>Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy</i>, 25, pp. 861-879.
Week 13 Mon, 26 Nov	Holiday: Repentance Day	
Wed, 28 Nov	The Place of Knowledge and Evidence in Policy Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Davies et. al (2000), "What Works? Evidence-based Policy and Practice in Public Services." The Policy Press. Chapter 1, 2.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P. Haas, "When Does Power Listen to Truth? A Constructivist Approach to the Policy Process", <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> 11(4). 2004.
Week 14 Mon, 3 Dec	Ethics in Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bryner, G. (2006). Ethics in Public Policy. In Peters, G. B. and Pierre, J. (Eds.). <i>Handbook of Public Policy</i> (pp. 201 - 216). London, England: Sage Publications.
Wed, 5 Dec	Institutions and Institutional change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North, D. C. (1998). Five Propositions about institutional change. In Knight and Sened, ed. <i>Explaining Social Institutions</i>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 15-26
Week 15 Mon, 10 Dec	<i>Specific Policy Areas</i> Development Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gore, C. (2000). "The Rise and Fall of the Washington Consensus as a Paradigm for Developing Countries." <i>World Develop</i> 28(5): 789-804.
Wed, 12 Dec	Immigration Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rosenblum, M. R and Tichenor, D. J. (2012). Introduction. In <i>The Oxford Handbook of the politics of International Migration</i> (pp. 1-21) - Hainmueller, J., & Hopkins, D. J. (2014) 'Public Attitudes Toward Immigration'. <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 17: 225- 249. - Bridge, O. (2018). Is the government changing its stance towards asylum seekers? Don't hold your breath. LSE Blog http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/government-policy-asylum-seekers/
Week 16 Mon, 17 Dec	Environmental Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knill, C. (2006). Environmental Policy. In Peters, G. B. and Pierre, J. (Eds.). <i>Handbook of Public Policy</i> (pp. 201 - 216). London, England: Sage Publications. - Adger, W. N. and E. al. (2003). "Adaptation to climate change in the developing world." <i>Progress in Development Studies</i> 3(3): 179- 195.
December 19 th	<i>Wrap-Up</i>	<i>Submission of final essay</i>