

Syllabus

Course title	Comparative Public Policy
Course code	27414
Scientific sector	SPS/04
Degree	Public Policies and Administration (Master)
Semester and academic year	1 semester – ay 2020-21
Year	2
Credits	8
Modular	no

Total lecturing hours	48
Total lab hours	-
Total exercise hours	-
Attendance	Strongly recommended, but not required
Prerequisites	None
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/master-public-policies-administration/course-offering-2/

Specific educational objectives	<p>This is an obligatory course for the Public Policy concentration in the Master's in Public Policy and Administration. It is a political science course and the bibliography will draw largely on how the study of public policy has developed within this discipline. The aim of the course is to give students two important foundations for the study of public policy. The first are the conceptual frameworks that might help us understand how policies decisions are made in different contexts and what drives political actors to make them. Asking why some policy-makers act in a particular way helps us understand what a policy is meant to address and whether it was successful. The second foundation is to understand exactly what have been the policy responses that have emerged from policy processes. The aim is to have students become familiar with the range of policy choices to address challenges ranging from the environment to economic crisis to public health.</p>
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Lecturer	Prof. Vincenzo Della Sala
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SPS/04 Political Science
Teaching language	English
Lecturing assistant	-
Teaching assistant	-
Office hours	Office hours are scheduled before the course starts, but in general they take place before and after lecture hours. Depending on what restrictions may be applied to meet social distancing requirements, some office hours may be held

<p>List of topics covered</p>	<p>online.</p> <p>The topics covered in the course reflect the courses two principal objectives: providing a conceptual grounding to understand and compare contemporary public policy; an examination of the different ways that contemporary public policy in industrialised democracies has addressed policy challenges. The emphasis will be on how we understand the politics of public policy in different contexts. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What and how to compare public policy? • Actors and decision-making processes • Ideas, interests and institutions in policy making • Economic policy • Labour market policy • Industrial policy • Health and education • Comparing welfare states • Immigration and multiculturalism • Language policy • Environment and energy
<p>Teaching format</p>	<p>Frontal lectures; case studies.</p>
<p>Learning outcomes</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glean insights into the leading approaches and theories and the variety of policy tools used to address different policy goals. <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn to use a policy perspective in assessing the tasks and performances of democracies. • They will learn how politics works in dynamic context, by focusing on the policy process and its practical outcomes. <p>Making judgments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to understand the political rationale and viability, assessing their consistency and applicability. <p>Communication skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to construct clear, concise arguments using scientific language and methods. • Ability to synthesize complex arguments. • Ability to research and write research reports aimed at evaluating policies and their impact <p>Learning skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to apply concepts in empirical research
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>80% written exam, 20% policy brief</p>

	<p>The exam will be based on readings and other course activities. The policy brief will be a short analysis of a policy area in different countries. The aim is not only to gain insight into a particular policy area but also to gain experience in writing policy briefs.</p>
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>Assessment will be based on the students' ability to demonstrate effective understanding of readings and issues covered in the course. Students will be expected to not only describe different public policies but also provide an analysis as to why they were chosen and the political factors that drive them. The emphasis is on how our understanding of how and what policies are made is enhanced by the conceptual tools that the discipline has developed over time.</p>
Required readings	<p>The required readings for the course will be drawn from a range of sources. However, the basic readings will come from this textbook:</p> <p>Anneliese Dodds (2016). Comparative Public Policy. Second Edition. Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Readings will be assigned from the second edition of this book but you can also read corresponding chapters from the first edition if you have this version.</p> <p>A detailed bibliography will be made available online at the start of the course. The readings will include both those that try to provide a framework for comparing policies as well as those that present how policies have evolved in different cases.</p>
Supplementary readings	<p>The reading list will provide a number of readings for each topic. It will highlight which are obligatory for exam purposes and which are strongly suggested.</p>