

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Introduction to public policy
Course code	27168
Scientific sector	SPS/04
Degree	L33 – Bachelor in Economics and Social Sciences
Semester and academic year	1 st semester, 2020/2021
Year	Free choice course
Credits	6
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	-
Total exercise hours	-
Attendance	Suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	The study of the public policy process is part of the wider area of political studies. For this reason, successful completion of 'Political Science 1' or "Comparative Politics" is recommended in order to take full advantage of the lectures.
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-social-sciences/

Specific educational objectives	<p>The course focuses on the exploration of the public policy process in modern democracies, providing first an overview of the main theoretical approaches developed to study policy making and then applying these theories to the study of the policy process. Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a strong foundation of knowledge concerning major theories developed to study the public policy process; • apply these theories to study different aspects of how policy decisions are made and how policy is shaped in action; • understand the central components of the policy making process, from the emergence of policies in the agenda, to policy formulation and policy implementation; • identify the role of key political actors and organized interests in driving policy making; • recognize the role of institutions in enabling and constraining policy making; • Understand and critically analyse public policies.
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Lecturer	Paolo Roberto Graziano Office SER E3.10 https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SPS/04

Teaching language	English
Office hours	18 hours Cockpit – students’ zone – individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13141%2C13182
Lecturing assistant	-
Teaching assistant	-
Office hours	-
List of topics covered	<p>The course provides the main analytical tools needed to understand the functioning of national and international policy making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief introduction on the relations and main differences between political science and public policy analysis. • In the first part the emphasis is on public policy analysis theory and on the various phases of the policy process (such as formulation, adoption, implementation). • The second part focuses on a number of case studies such as the European Union and the United States, and the tools provided in the first part of the course are used in order to understand specific policy evolutions and changes over the past decades.
Teaching format	Frontal lectures

Learning outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand patterns of decision-making in various national and international contexts. • Unpack the policy content into various dimensions in order to better grasp the different drivers of policy-oriented political behaviour and public decisions. • Detect similarities and dissimilarities among various policy preferences of policy actors in various decision-making contexts. <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify policy preferences and map the positioning of various actors with reference to a specific international or national policy. • Provide policy feedbacks under the form of comparative assessments and comparative policy background analyses. • Draft and communicate policy recommendations and write policy briefs and/or memos aimed at influencing preference formation and negotiation of policy actors. <p>Making judgments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the ability to critically analyse the public policy process by identifying the connections between political actors and institutions and by comparing and contrasting different policy issues.
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	<p>Communication skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire the ability to discuss and critically evaluate the dynamics of policy making and assess the role played by different actors and institutions, using the appropriate lexicon. <p>Learning skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibit knowledge and ability to comprehend and synthesize academic and professional research in the field of public policy.
Assessment	Written individual exam (60%) and individual/group assignment (40%)
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	There is no distinction between attending and non-attending students. Both the written exam and the essay/presentation will be evaluated following criteria: conceptual clarity and analytical capacity.
Required readings	Textbook: M. HOWLETT, M. RAMESH, A. PERL, <i>Studying Public Policy</i> , Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2009. Course-pack: Collection of scientific articles, which are made available online.
Supplementary readings	Further readings on specific case studies will be provided during the course.