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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, 2022/2023
Year	Free choice course
Credits	6
Modular	No
Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	-
Total exercise hours	-
Attendance	Suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	No specific prerequisite is foreseen,
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-social-sciences/
Specific educational objectives	<p>This is a free choice course of the PPE, in the disciplinary sector of Political Science. The course focuses on the exploration of the public policy process in modern democracies. Firstly, it provides an overview of the main theoretical approaches to study the policy-making process. Secondly, it delves deeper into the application of such approaches 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"> • Have a strong knowledge of the major theories developed to study the public policy process • Apply these theories to study different aspects of how policy decisions are made and how policies are shaped in action • Understand the central components of the policy-making process, from policies' emergence to formulation and implementation • Identify the role of key political actors and organized interests in driving the policy-making process • Recognize the institutions' role in enabling and constraining the policy-making process • Understand and critically analyze public policies.
Lecturer	Benedetta Carlotti https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/45699-benedetta-carlotti

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=13182%2C13324
Lecturing assistant	-
Teaching assistant	-
List of topics covered	<p>During this course, you will learn the analytical tools fundamental to understand how both national and international policy-making works. The course is mainly structured around the following three subsections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The study of public policy and its context</u>: this first part of the course will explain to you the meaning of “public policy”, the main theoretical approaches used, and its contextual endeavors. 2. <u>How policies see the light</u>: this part of the course will provide you with a review of the core stages of the policy cycle from its definition to the identification, and the selection of policy alternatives, and the consequent implementation. 3. <u>The changing of policies</u>: this final part of the course will be dedicated to understanding policy change, what it is, and how it happens. This last section will focus on a series of case studies (e.g.: the European Union).
Teaching format	Frontal lectures + individual or group presentation.
Learning outcomes	<p>This course is intended to provide you with the needed knowledge and understanding of patterns of decision-making applied to different national and international contexts. This will allow you to understand which are the drivers of public decisions and how they are different or similar within various decision-making contexts at the international and national levels. The course will provide you with the tools to understand and critically analyze policy positions and preferences concerning international or national policies. During the course, you will be confronted with processes of policy formation and negotiations, and you will be able to understand how they are influenced.</p> <p>One of the core objectives of the course is to make you skilled to understand and critically analyze the public policy process and the eventual connection between policy actors and institutions.</p> <p>You will learn how to critically evaluate the policy-making’s dynamics expressing yourself appropriately and professionally. Lastly, you will be confronted with original</p>

	<p>research text that you will be able to understand and summarize professionally.</p>
Assessment	<p>The assessment modality will be the same both if you attend or not the course. The assessment will be divided into two steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group or individual presentation of an argument of your choice treated during the course (50% of the evaluation). For those students who do not attend the classes it will be possible to schedule the presentation in due time. - Written exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 "quick-answer" questions • 1 analytical question with a maximum of 8 lines answer • 1 analytical question with a maximum of 15 lines answer
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>There is no distinction between attending and non-attending students.</p> <p>Both the written exam and the individual/group presentation are evaluated according to their conceptual clarity, their analytical approach, and the degree of appropriateness of the used lexicon.</p>
Required readings	<p>Textbook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. HOWLETT, M. RAMESH, A. PERL, <i>Studying Public Policy</i>, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2009. <p>Original research or book chapters will be made available to you online.</p>
Supplementary readings	<p>Further readings will be provided during the course and made available to you online.</p>