

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 semester a.y. 2023/2024
Year	1st year
Credits	6
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	--
Total exercise hours	--
Attendance	recommended, but not required
Prerequisites	none
Course page	Course Offering - enrolled before 2023 / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz.it)

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.</p> <p>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
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Lecturer	Benedetta Carlotti Office 2.01 E-mail benedetta.carlotti@unibz.it Lecturer's page Benedetta Carlotti / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz.it)
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SPS/04

Teaching language	English
Office hours	18 hours Cockpit – students’ zone – individual timetable Webpage: Timetables / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz.it)
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 presentations, seminar discussions, group exercises and eventual policy-making simulations.
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. You will learn how to critically evaluate the policy-making’s dynamics expressing yourself appropriately and professionally. Lastly, you will be confronted with original research text that you will be</p>

	<p>able to understand and summarize professionally</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Please note that even if course attendance is not mandatory, it will determine different exam modalities. Indeed, the exam modalities are to be intended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Attending students</u>: Please note that you will be judged upon two assignments (group or individual) structured as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <u>Individual presentation</u>: you will have the chance to present an argument of your choice, connect it to the course's program and present it in front of your colleagues. Please note that you can decide to use a traditional method for the presentation of your work (i.e.: individual presentation), however, the use of innovative tools is strongly encouraged (e.g.: audio-visual material; data collection and so on) o <u>Final exam</u>: for attending students the exam will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 quick answer questions (short reply) ▪ 2 analytical questions (long reply maximum 15 lines). <p>Please mind the fact that to obtain your final grade you will have to take part to both the activities listed above. Each activity will be judged following the criteria listed below. The final grade will consist of the average between the two activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Non-attending students</u>: for those of you who will not attend the lectures you will be judge according to the results obtained via a written exam. The written exam will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 20 quick answer questions (0.5 points each) o 4 Analytical questions with a maximum of 8 lines answer (2.5 points each) o 2 Analytical questions with a maximum of 15 lines answer (5 points each) <p>Please note that further information concerning the exam modality and schedule will be provided to you during the first lectures of the course.</p>
<p>Assessment language</p>	<p>English</p>
<p>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</p>	<p>The evaluation will be based on your ability to recall and apply the content of the reading. Attention will be given to your ability to express yourself in a precise and appropriate fashion and to your critical approach to the discipline (i.e.: critical reasoning of the studied political concepts and phenomena).</p>



Required readings	Textbook: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• M. HOWLETT, M. RAMESH, A. PERL, <i>Studying Public Policy</i>, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2009. Original research or book chapters will be made available to you online.
Supplementary readings	Further readings will be provided during the course and made available to you online.