

## Syllabus

### Course description

<b>Course title</b>	Policy Design, Democracy, and Citizen Engagement
<b>Course code</b>	27603
<b>Scientific sector</b>	SPS/04
<b>Degree</b>	Master in Public Policy and Innovative Governance
<b>Semester and academic year</b>	1st semester 2024/2025
<b>Year</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Credits</b>	8
<b>Modular</b>	No

<b>Total lecturing hours</b>	48
<b>Total lab hours</b>	-
<b>Total exercise hours</b>	-
<b>Attendance</b>	Recommended, but not required
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None
<b>Course page</b>	<a href="https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/master-public-policies-administration/">https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/master-public-policies-administration/</a>

<b>Specific educational objectives</b>	<p>The course refers to the typical educational activities of the programme and belongs to the scientific area of Political Science (SPS/04).</p> <p>The focus is mainly (but not exclusively) theoretical with hints at the effects or policy implications of measures designed to engage citizens in political processes. The course illustrates the ways democratic concerns translate into policies, citizens' initiatives, and design features of political institutions. The course addresses, from a theoretical and normative standpoint, the merits and strengths of the recent ideational turn in political science and public administration, focusing on the role of (creative) ideas in policymaking and on how citizens participate in knowledge co-creation for sustainability transitions.</p> <p>Among the educational objectives is to show that, over and beyond the use of incentives to influence people's behavior, initiatives aimed at shaping democratic experience and "everyday politics" are tools that help citizens develop new democratic habits. A part of the course is on political communication, understood as a two-way process that links citizens with institutions.</p>
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<b>Lecturer</b>	Roberto Farneti
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<b>Scientific sector of the lecturer</b>	SPS/04 Political Science
<b>Teaching language</b>	English
<b>Office hours</b>	<p>24 hours          Office hours are scheduled before the course starts, but in general they take place before and after each lecture (or by appointment).</p>
<b>List of topics covered</b>	<p>Design thinking in policymaking; the “ideational turn” in political science and public administration; the “European Democracy Action Plan”; patterns and strategies of citizens’ engagement; “citizen engagement” in sustainability transitions research; the potential of social media for the innovation of public sector organizations; “everyday politics” and democratic experience as new frames for devising policies.</p>
<b>Teaching format</b>	<p>Lectures, group discussions, students’ presentations on case studies, and in-class labs.</p> <p>Guest lecturers (especially from the public administration) will be occasionally invited to contribute to the course with their first-hand experience, to explain how institutions connect with citizens. In-class workshops, ‘ted’ presentations, and labs are tools used to engage students on practical activities, like organizing a Ted, drafting a report, making a presentation, and writing a project.</p>

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p><b>Knowledge and understanding:</b>          Students will acquire a deep understanding of the scholarly discourse and debates surrounding the methodologies and strategies for fostering democracy, with a special focus on the pioneering studies on co-creation and design as novel approaches for public sector innovation. They will obtain insights into the sequential connection between civic engagement and the progression of democratic governance, along with an appreciation for the role of innovation and creative thought in formulating policies with democratic potential.</p> <p><b>Applying knowledge and understanding:</b>          Students will utilize simulations and laboratory exercises to explore the social impact of policy initiatives, gaining hands-on experience in assessing their effects. They will also engage in project development, employing tools such as CERV and Creative Europe Media, to foster citizen engagement and</p>
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	<p>promote democratic development.</p> <p><b>Making judgments:</b> Students will acquire specific abilities as to the ideational step in devising democratic policies. Students will be able to appreciate ideas, contexts, and policy measures on their imagined potential for democratic development.</p> <p><b>Communication skills</b> Students will be able to effectively present and explain the roles of policy design, democratic principles, and citizen engagement in political processes, adapting their communication to different audiences. They will Skillfully engage in discussions, leveraging two-way communication to link theoretical insights with practical implications in public administration and policy-making.</p> <p><b>Learning skills</b> Students will develop the ability to identify thematic connections and establish relationships between various cases and analytical contexts. They will learn to systematically categorize new problems and create appropriate taxonomies, enhancing their analytical capabilities in policy design, democracy, and citizen engagement within political processes.</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p><b>For Attending Students</b> Students can earn between 1 to 4 additional points towards their final grade by making in-class presentations.</p> <p><b>For Attending and Non-Attending Students</b> The final exam consists of 22 MC questions (1 point each) plus a short (maximum 350 words) essay prompted by a choice of 2 questions (maximum 10 points).</p>
<p><b>Assessment language</b></p>	<p>English – B1 level in English is required to do the exam</p>
<p><b>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</b></p>	<p>Specific instructions on the composition of the grade and the grading strategy will be uploaded in the Teams’ course folder on week 3.</p>
<p><b>Required readings</b></p>	<p>Béland, D., &amp; Cox, R. H. (2011). <i>Ideas and politics in social science research</i> (New York, NY: Oxford University Press)</p> <p>Vlassis, A. (2019). "The international politics of the nexus 'culture and development': four policy agendas for whom and for what?" <i>The Routledge Handbook of Global Cultural Policy</i>, pp. 417-429</p> <p>Ansell, C. &amp; Torfing, J. (2014). <i>Public Innovation through</i></p>

*Collaboration and Design* (London: Routledge)

Cardullo, P. (2022). *Citizens in the 'Smart City': Participation, Co-production, Governance* (London: Routledge)

Huttunen, S., Ojanen, M., Ott, A., Saarikoski, H. (2022). "What about citizens? A literature review of citizen engagement in sustainability transitions research". *Energy Research & Social Science*

Van de Ven, A.H. (2007). *Engaged Scholarship: A Guide for Organizational and Social Research* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)