

## PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS (IR214)

**Course duration:** 54 hours lecture and class time (Over three weeks)

**Summer School Programme Area:** International Relations, Government and Society

**LSE Teaching Department:** Department of Government

**Lead Faculty:** Dr Daniel Berliner (Dept. of Government)

**Pre-requisites:** At least one introductory course in either social science (e.g. political science, international relations, sociology, economics), history or law.

### Course Description:

This course is an introduction to theories, approaches, and methods for public policy analysis. These include how politics and institutions shape public policy, the processes of public policy change, and the challenges of public sector organization and management. The scope of the course is global, with applications and examples from countries around the world.

The course will introduce students to fundamental social-scientific concepts like power, collective action, institutions, and accountability, as well as tools useful for evaluating policy impact and effectiveness. The course will enable students to understand the trade-offs involved in the design of policies and institutions; the influence of factors like partisanship, policy ideas, information technology, and globalisation; as well as reforms that attempt to improve government efficiency, representation, and transparency. The course will also give students the conceptual tools to be able to analyse specific policy issue areas of their interest, and understand the complex forces that shape policy change.

The twelve daily sessions for the course comprise a lecture that includes discussion, followed by a class which will allow for further discussion and group work.

### Reading:

Each session requires reading around two academic articles or chapters, available through the course website.

### Course Structure:

- Lectures: 36 hours
- Classes: 18 hours

### Formative course work:

- A mock exam, held in class at the end of week one.

**Assessment:**

- An essay of 1,500 words (bibliography does not count, word-count must be stated on the first page of the essay), submitted as an email attachment to be sent to the class teacher by **Friday 5pm at the end of week two**. The essay will count for 25% of the final mark. Students will respond to a prompt distributed at the end of the first week of the course.
- A two-hour written examination at the end of the programme, the precise time and location of the exam will be circulated during the programme. The exam will count for 75% of the final mark.

**Lecture Schedule:**

*Section 1: Public Policy Foundations*

1. Introduction and basic concepts
  - a. Introduction to the summer school and course
  - b. Understanding public policy problems and processes
2. Strategic interaction and collective choice
  - a. Strategic interactions, prisoners' dilemmas, and principal-agent problems
  - b. Collection action and collective choices
3. Institutions and public policy
  - a. Public policy consequences of institutional and constitutional structures
  - b. Electoral accountability and its critics
4. Policy impact and evaluating public policy
  - a. Understanding and supporting causal claims
  - b. The use and abuse of evidence in policymaking

*Section 2: Public Policy Change*

5. Decision-making and implementation in the policy cycle
  - a. Decision-making and agenda-setting
  - b. Policy implementation
6. Parties, public opinion, and interest groups
  - a. Political parties, public opinion, and public policy
  - b. Interest groups and public policy
7. Institutional theories and policy diffusion

- a. Institutional theories of public policy
  - b. Cross-national policy diffusion and learning
8. Global dimensions of public policy
- a. Globalization and public policy
  - b. Global public policy

*Section 3: Making Government Work*

- 9. Bureaucratic power and bureaucratic control
  - a. Introduction to bureaucracy
  - b. The politician-bureaucrat relationship
- 10. Incentives and representation in government
  - a. Bureaucratic motivation, coordination, and collaboration
  - b. Gender and minority representation in government
- 11. Corruption and governance reform
  - a. Understanding and tackling corruption
  - b. Reform and innovation in governance
- 12. Information and communication technologies (ICT) and public policy
  - a. ICT and democracy
  - b. ICT and the public sector

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**Reading Schedule:**

- 1. Introduction and basic concepts
  - Chapters 1-2 from: Cairney, Paul. *Understanding public policy: Theories and issues*. Macmillan, 2011.
- 2. Strategic interaction and collective choice
  - Two chapters from: Shepsle, Kenneth. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*.
- 3. Institutions and public policy
  - Norris, Pippa. "Choosing electoral systems: proportional, majoritarian and mixed systems." *International political science review* 18, no. 3 (1997): 297-312.
  - Keefer, Philip, and Stuti Khemani. "Democracy, Public Expenditures, and the Poor: Understanding Political Incentives for Providing Public Services." *World Bank Research Observer* 20, no. 1 (2005): 1-27.
- 4. Policy impact and evaluating public policy
  - Haynes, Laura, Ben Goldacre, and David Torgerson. "Test, Learn, Adapt: Developing Public Policy with Randomised Controlled Trials." United Kingdom Cabinet Office. (2012).
  - Weiss, Carol Hirschon. "The interface between evaluation and public policy." *Evaluation* 5, no. 4 (1999): 468-486.

5. Decision-making and implementation in the policy cycle
  - Downs, Anthony. "Up and Down with Ecology-the Issue-Attention Cycle." *The Public Interest* 28 (1972): 38.
  - Hogwood, Brian, and Lewis Gunn. "Why 'perfect implementation' is unattainable." *The Policy Process. A Reader.* (1993): 217-25.
6. Parties, public opinion, and interest groups
  - Mair, Peter. "The challenge to party government." *West European Politics* 31, no. 1-2 (2008): 211-234.
  - Gilens, Martin, and Benjamin I. Page. "Testing theories of American politics: Elites, interest groups, and average citizens." *Perspectives on politics* 12, no. 3 (2014): 564-581.
7. Institutional theories and policy diffusion
  - Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary CR Taylor. "Political science and the three new institutionalisms." *Political studies* 44, no. 5 (1996): 936-957.
  - Weyland, Kurt. "Theories of policy diffusion lessons from Latin American pension reform." *World politics* 57, no. 2 (2005): 262-295.
8. Global dimensions of public policy
  - Chapter 9 from: Rodrik, Dani. *The globalization paradox: democracy and the future of the world economy.* WW Norton & Company, 2011.
  - Nordhaus, William D. "A new solution: the climate club." *The New York Review of Books* 62, no. 10 (2015): 36-39.
9. Bureaucratic power and bureaucratic control
  - Chapter from: Wilson, James Q. *Bureaucracy.* New York: Basic Books, 1989.
  - Chapter 1 from: Lipsky, Michael. *Street-Level Bureaucracy: The Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Service.* Russell Sage Foundation, 1983.
10. Incentives and representation in government
  - Perry, James L., and Lois Wise. "The motivational bases of public service." *Public Administration Review* (1990): 367-373.
  - Riccucci, Norma M., and Gregg G. Van Ryzin. "Representative bureaucracy: A lever to enhance social equity, coproduction, and democracy." *Public Administration Review* 77, no. 1 (2017): 21-30.
11. Corruption and governance reform
  - Persson, Anna, Bo Rothstein, and Jan Teorell. "Why anticorruption reforms fail—systemic corruption as a collective action problem." *Governance* 26, no. 3 (2013): 449-471.
  - Chapter 1 from: Rose-Ackerman, Susan, and Bonnie J. Palifka. *Corruption and government: Causes, consequences, and reform.* Cambridge University Press, 2016.
12. Information and communication technologies (ICT) and public policy
  - Fung, Archon, Hollie Russon Gilman, and Jennifer Shkabatur. "Six models for the internet+politics." *International Studies Review* 15, no. 1 (2013): 30-47.
  - Buffat, Aurélien. "Street-level bureaucracy and e-government." *Public Management Review* 17, no. 1 (2015): 149-161.



**Credit Transfer:** If you are hoping to earn credit by taking this course, please ensure that you confirm it is eligible for credit transfer well in advance of the start date. Please discuss this directly with your home institution or Study Abroad Advisor.

As a guide, our LSE Summer School courses are typically eligible for three or four credits within the US system and 7.5 ECTS in Europe. Different institutions and countries can, and will, vary. You will receive a digital transcript and a printed certificate following your successful completion of the course in order to make arrangements for transfer of credit.

If you have any queries, please direct them to [summer.school@lse.ac.uk](mailto:summer.school@lse.ac.uk)