PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

Dual Degree in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Economics & Bachelor in Data and Business Analytics PPLEDBA SEP-2023 PPA-PPLD.3.M.A
Area Comparative Politics
Number of sessions: 30
Academic year: 23-24
Degree course: THIRD
Number of credits: 6.0
Semester: 1º
Category: COMPULSORY
Language: English

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Jose Piquer holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies from the University of Cambridge (UK), a Masters' Degree in International Relations (IE University), a degree in Political Science and Public Administration and a degree in Journalism (University of Valencia). He has completed postgraduate courses in social research techniques and data analysis. He has been a Marie-Curie Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at the University of Cambridge. His research interests span the disciplines of political science, political economy and European studies. He has carried out research stays at the Hertie School of Governance (Berlin, Germany) and the Clingendael Institute (The Hague, Netherlands). From 2014 to 2017, Jose was the Executive Director of Undergraduate Studies in International Relations at IE University. He previously worked at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). He currently serves as Director of the Neurosurgery, Education and Development (NED) Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to international cooperation and global health in Africa.

I will be available before and after the classes for office hours. Students can contact me directly to confirm meetings in face-to-face or online format. Please contact me at: jpiquer@faculty.ie.edu

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

The world is not short of problems. At all levels of government, politicians and decision-makers must confront challenges of the highest order. In the last decade alone, we have experienced the worst global financial crisis of modern times, a global pandemic and a war that has disrupted energy and food markets. Alongside this, the consequences associated with climate change are becoming more evident and less reversible. At the same time, companies and managers must operate in an environment that is increasingly complex to understand, more volatile, and subject to periodic disruption. The emergence of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the latest example. What tools do decision-makers have to design effective policy solutions to these challenges? How can we analyse and understand the effects of these policies?

This course provides a foundational introduction to public policy analysis. The goal is to equip students with a set of ideas, methods and tools to make sense of public policies across a wide range of issue areas. The first part of the course covers the key aspects of policy formulation and implementation. It also presents the fundamentals of policy analysis adopting a multidisciplinary perspective. The second part of the course takes a more hands-on approach. To this end, students will become familiar with different data analysis techniques of policy choices. This part will give particular attention to the evaluation of public policies. Finally, the course focuses on the communication and advocacy aspects of policy analysis, providing examples on how to communicate results effectively and practical advice to maximise the impact of policy recommendations. Overall, the course offers a mixed perspective on policy analysis, taking both an academic and practitioner perspective.

In this course, students will conduct their own analysis of an issue/policy of their interest as they learn the relevant content. Students will work independently on this project as the course progresses with the goal of presenting their own analysis before the final exam. The relevant indications for working on each part of the project are indicated by an asterisk (*) in each session. These annotations allow you to link the course content to your own analysis, and to focus on the relevant aspects as the course progresses.

The content and skills acquired in this course will be useful for analysis, proposal design and recommendations in different professional settings, whether in public administration, government, business, international organisations or research. It is especially useful for those interested in the policy environment and the intersection between the public and private sectors.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Apply ideas and frameworks from political science, philosophy, law and economics to debates and analyses of public policy
- Practice of independent policy analysis
- Present and defend effective policy arguments using a clear language, rigorous data analysis and relevant visual aids
- Justify the use of alternative methods for policy analysis and evaluation
- Oral and written communication skills

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor's main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as sessions with lectures, discussions and applied analysis of real cases. This course will rely on reference books, case studies, videos, official policy documents and external data sources to enrich the learning process. Relevant teaching material not specified in the syllabus will be provided by the professor in due time. Learning is expected to progress through class attendance, independent work on assigned materials, two quizzes on the course content, an individual policy analysis and a final exam.

Learning Activity	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	26.67 %	40.0 hours
Discussions	10.0 %	15.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	23.33 %	35.0 hours
Group work	13.33 %	20.0 hours
Individual studying	26.67 %	40.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150.0 hours

PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1 - 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Course overview and Introduction

•Course objectives and learning outcomes
•The importance of policy analysis
•Introduction to the multidisciplinary nature of the course

SESSIONS 3 - 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The process of policymaking• How we can think about policymaking in 'ideal' terms
•How we should think about policymaking in 'realist' terms.

* Selecting a Policy Issue: Guidance on identifying and choosing a policy issue that aligns with your interests and the course objectives

SESSIONS 5 - 6 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Political Science, Philosophy, Law, and Economics in policy analysis

•Exploring the intersection of political science, philosophy, law, and economics in analyzing public policy
•Case studies highlighting the influence of each discipline in policy decision-making and how political, legal and institutional factors constrain policymakers

* Researching a Policy Issue: Conduct preliminary research on your chosen policy issue using different sources (legislation, economic assessments, political analysis, position papers…)

SESSIONS 7 - 8 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Normative and moral considerations in public policy decision-making

•Ethical and normative frameworks for policy analysis
•The Moral Machine
•Case studies highlighting ethical dilemmas and trade-offs in policy-making

* Thinking about normative constraints, ethical considerations and trade-offs in your policy arena. Reflect on these ethical considerations for your analysis.

SESSIONS 9 - 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Fundamentals of policy analysis

•Key concepts, methods, and techniques in policy analysis
•Breaking down the policy analysis process into stages: problem definition, policy options, evaluation criteria
•Introduction to the toolkit for policy analysis (e.g., quantitative-qualitative analysis, data visualization, recommendations, communication)

Book Chapters: A practical guide for policy analysis (Part I) (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Public Policy Analysis: An integrated approach (Chapter 1) (See Bibliography)

* Provide guidance on how to apply each stage to your independent policy analysis.

SESSIONS 11 - 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Analysing policy issues and problems

•Agenda setting: From identifying issues to defining problems
•The politics of policymaking: 'In the thick of it'
•The crucial role of the media

Book Chapters: A practical guide for policy analysis (Part I) (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Public Policy Analysis: An integrated approach (Chapter 3) (See Bibliography)

* Guidance on gathering relevant data and information for your analysis

SESSIONS 13 - 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Assessing policy instruments and their effectiveness

•A framework for policy design: Data, instruments and targets
•Introduction to different policy instruments (regulation, taxation, etc.)
•Behavioural insights for assessing the effectiveness of policy

Book Chapters: A practical guide for policy analysis (APPENDIX A: THINGS GOVERNMENTS DO) (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Behavioral Science and Public Policy (IE Library)

The entire Sunstein (2020) book is good, but for these sessions you should read Chapter 4 (Government).

* Identifying relevant policy instruments in your policy domain

SESSION 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Mid-term review

•In-class quiz
•Discussion of students' projects, feedback and guidance for further development

SESSIONS 16 - 17 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Fundamentals of (quantitative) data analysis for policy analysis (I)

•Causal inference for public policy
•Causation and correlation

Book Chapters: Thinking Clearly with Data: A Guide to Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis (See Bibliography)
 * Suggestions on applying quantitative analysis to your policy analysis

SESSIONS 18 - 19 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Fundamentals of (quantitative) data analysis for policy analysis (II)

•Regression for describing, measuring and predicting

Book Chapters: Thinking Clearly with Data (See Bibliography)
 * Suggestions on applying more advanced quantitative analysis to your policy analysis

SESSIONS 20 - 21 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Fundamentals of (qualitative) data analysis for policy analysis (III)

•Interviews, focus groups, ethnographic work

Book Chapters: When the State meets the Street: Public Service and Moral Agency(Optional)
 * Suggestions on applying qualitative analysis to your policy analysis

SESSIONS 22 - 23 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Policy Evaluation and Impact Assessment

•Experiments (Randomized Control Trials)
•Systematic reviews and meta-evaluation
•The role of independent evaluators

 * Guidance on incorporating evaluation and impact assessment into your independent policy analysis

SESSIONS 24 - 25 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Communication, data visualization and advocacy in policy analysis

•Effective policy communication strategies: techniques and examples
•The power of visualizing data: tools and visual aids
•Advocacy and policy recommendations: influence and impact

Book Chapters: Public Policy Analysis: An integrated approach (chapters 9 and 10) (See Bibliography)
 ** Take-home quiz

SESSIONS 26 - 27 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Students presentations and feedback (I)

•Students present their independent policy analysis to the class

SESSIONS 28 - 29 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Students presentations and feedback (II)

•Students present their independent policy analysis to the class
•Q&A, recap and exam preparation guidance

SESSION 30 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Final Exam

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The final grade will be based on your performance on four different components, weighted as follows: (1) a final exam (40% of the grade), (2) an individual public policy analysis project (30% of the grade) composed by an individual presentation (10%) and a report (20%), (3) two quizzes throughout the course (20% of the grade, or 10% each), and (4) in-class participation (10%).

The first quiz will be held in class during session 15. The second quiz will be a take-home exercise delivered between session 25 and 26.

More detailed information for the public policy project will be provided in the first session, and individual feedback will be given regularly throughout the course.

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Final Exam	40 %		
Quiz	20 %		Two quizzes (10% each)
Policy analysis project	30 %		Presentation (10%) and final report (20%)
Individual presentation	0 %		
Group Work	0 %		
Other	0 %		
Group Presentation	0 %		
Class Participation	10 %		

RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the retake exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility). Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules: The retakes will consist of a comprehensive exam or equivalent assignment. The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.

Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed. The exam/assignment will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory

 - Eugene S. Bardach and Eric M. Patashnik. (2019). *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving.* 6th edition. CQ Press. ISBN 9781544372204 (Printed)

- Ethan Bueno de Mesquita and Anthony Fowler. (2021). *Thinking Clearly with Data: A Guide to Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis.* Princeton University Press. ISBN 9780691214368 (Printed)

Recommended

- William N. Dunn. (2017). *Public Policy Analysis An Integrated Approach.* 6th edition. Routledge. ISBN 9781138743847 (Printed)

https://www.routledge.com/Public-Policy-Analysis-An-Integrated-Approach/Dunn/p/book/9781138743847

BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct here. The Program Director may provide further indications.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy here. The Program Director may provide further indications.

ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code here. The Program Director may provide further indications.