

## SYLLABUS

### Public Policy

### Fall 2018

#### 1. General information about the course

Course title: Public Policy

ECTS (number of credits): 5

Year and Semester: Semester 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

#### 2. General information about the instructor

Instructor's name: Bianca Radu

Contact information: bianca.radu@fspac.ro

Office hours: Monday, 12-13, room I/6, or by appointment

#### 3. Course description

**General objective of the discipline:** The course is designed to introduce students the study of the public policy cycle. In particular, the course examines the various methods of identifying and structuring public policy problems and issues, formulating and analyzing alternative responses, recommending policy actions for decision making, and designing and evaluating implementation plans and the means to monitor and evaluate the resulting policy outcomes.

#### Specific objectives

- Problem identification & definition—how an issue becomes part of the policy agenda.
- The identification and design of policy options and programs.
- The pre-decision assessment of policy options with emphasis on estimating future consequences.
- How to give advice on important policy decisions.
- The post-implementation evaluation of policies and programs

#### 4. Required bibliography

1. Birkland, T.A., *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2011.
2. Cairney, P., *Understanding Public Policy. Theories and Issues*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
3. Dye, T., *Understanding Public Policy*, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 2008.
4. Howlett, M., Ramesh, M. and Perl, A., *Studying Public Policy. Policy Cycles & Policy Subsystems*, Oxford University Press, 2009.
5. Kingdon, J., *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies*, New York: Harper Collins College, 1995.
6. Kraft, M.E. and Furlong, *Public Policy. Politics, Analysis and Alternatives*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2013.
7. Paton, C.V., Sawicki, D.S. and Clark, J.J., *Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning*, Pearson, 2013.

#### 5. Optional bibliography

1. Anderson, J.E., *Public Policymaking. An Introduction*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2011.

2. Bardach, E., *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis. The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2009.
3. Gerston, L.N., *Public Policymaking in a Democratic Society. A Guide to Civic Engagement*, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2002.
4. Lindblom, C., 'The Science of „Muddling Through”', 1959, *Public Administration Review*, vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 79-88.
5. Weimer, D.L. and Vining, A.R., *Policy Analysis*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, New York: Longman, 2011 All the readings are scanned and uploaded on Moodle.

## 6. Topics and course schedule

	Topics
4.10.2018	Opening of the academic year
11.10.2018	<b>1. What is public policy?</b> An introduction to the material. Market failures. Need for government intervention
18.10.2018	<b>2. Public policy problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kraft, M.E. and Furlong, <i>Public Policy. Politics, Analysis and Alternatives</i>, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2013, Chp. 5 Public Problems and Policy Alternatives, pp. 147-165.</li> </ul>
25.10.2018	<b>3. Public policy actors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Birkland, T.A., <i>An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making</i>, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2011, Chp. 4 – Official Actors and Their Roles in Public Policy, pp. 92-123.</li> </ul>
1.11.2018	<b>4. Models for Public Policy Thinking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thomas Dye, <i>Understanding Public Policy</i>, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 2008, Chp. 2 Models of Politics: Some Help in Thinking about Public Policy, pp. 11-28</li> </ul>
8.11.2018	<b>5. Issue identification and agenda setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kingdon, J., <i>Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies</i>, New York: Harper Collins College, 1995, chp. 8, pp. 165-195</li> <li>▪ Howlett, M., Ramesh, M. and Perl, A., <i>Studying Public Policy. Policy Cycles &amp; Policy Subsystems</i>, Oxford University Press, 2009, Chp. 4 Agenda-Setting, pp. 92-109.</li> </ul>
15.11.2018	<b>6. Formulation of alternatives. Policy instruments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Howlett, M., Ramesh, M. and Perl, A., <i>Studying Public Policy. Policy Cycles &amp; Policy Subsystems</i>, Oxford University Press, 2009, Chp. 5 Policy Formulation: Policy Instruments and Policy Design, pp. 110-138.</li> </ul>
22.11.2018	<b>7. Policy instruments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Birkland, T.A., <i>An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making</i>, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2011, Chp. 8 Policy Design, Policy Tools, and Decisions, pp. 228-260.</li> </ul>
29.11.2018	<b>8. Public policy decision-making – Decision making theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cairney, P., <i>Understanding Public Policy. Theories and Issues</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, Chp. 8 Multi-level Governance, pp. 154-174.</li> <li>▪ Cairney, P., <i>Understanding Public Policy. Theories and Issues</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, Chp. 9 Punctuated Equilibrium, pp. 175-199.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cairney, P., Understanding Public Policy. Theories and Issues, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, Chp. 10 The Advocacy Coalition Framework, pp. 200-219.</li> </ul>
6.12.2018	<b>9. Decision-making techniques</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paton, C.V., Sawicki, D.S. and Clark, J.J., Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning, Pearson, 2013, Chp. 7 Evaluating Alternative Policies, pp. 243-295</li> <li>▪ Paton, C.V., Sawicki, D.S. and Clark, J.J., Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning, Pearson, 2013, Chp. 8 Displaying Alternatives and Distinguishing among Them, pp. 314-336.</li> </ul>
13.12.2018	<b>10. Public policy implementation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hill, M. and Hupe, P., Implementing Public Policy, Sage Publications, 2009, Chp. 3 The Top-Down/Bottom-Up Debate, pp. 42-56</li> <li>▪ Hill, M. and Hupe, P., Implementing Public Policy, Sage Publications, 2009, Chp. 7 Researching Implementation, pp. 132-163</li> </ul>
20.12.2018	<b>11. Public policy evaluation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Howlett, M., Ramesh, M. and Perl, A., Studying Public Policy. Policy Cycles &amp; Policy Subsystems, Oxford University Press, 2009, Chp. 8 Policy Evaluation: Policy-making as Learning, pp. 178-196.</li> <li>▪ Cairney, P., Understanding Public Policy. Theories and Issues, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, Chp. 12 Policy Transfer, pp. 244-264.</li> </ul>
10.01.2018	<b>12. Introduction to public policy analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hill, M., The Public Policy Process, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson, 2013, Chp. 14 The Policy Process in the Age of Governance, pp. 269-294.</li> </ul>
17.01.2018	Course review. Students' presentations of final papers

## 7. Evaluation:

Final grade is composed of:

- **50% - written final exam** - The exam will be an in-class open questions written exam
- **30% - 2 papers** - Each student has to turn in two papers which are parts of one, larger paper. The topic of the larger paper is to choose a public policy problem and to analyze it, identify policy alternatives for solving the problem, formulate a policy recommendation for solving the problem and in the end to write an implementation plan. In the first part of the paper, students have to analyze the public policy problem, the policy actors involved in solving the problem and the legal framework that establishes constraints on how the problem can be solved. In the second paper, students have to identify and describe policy alternatives, use decision-making techniques to analyze the policy alternatives, formulate a policy recommendation and write an implementation plan. At the end of the semester, students have to make a presentation of the entire paper.
- **5%** - Students have to make an **in-class presentation of public policy problems** that they identify in an area of Cluj-Napoca city. The area of to be analyzed is at their choice and they have to use a visual support to present the problems (power point presentation or a poster) and to include photos in their presentation that illustrate the problems. No paper has to be turned in for this assignment.
- **5%** - Students have to make an **in-class presentation of a major event which created a window of opportunity** for bring into public discussion different public problems. The analysis can be on a Romanian case study or of an event from another country, and it has to consist in a description of

the event and the policy discussions that followed the event. No paper has to be turned in for this assignment.

- **10%** - Students have to make a **presentation of two City Council meetings**. If you do not have time, you do not have to attend the meetings. Most of the City Halls have reports of the meetings posted on their webpages, and some City Halls have video records of the meetings (for example, Cluj-Napoca and General Council of Bucharest). The presentation should consist in an analysis of number of policy proposals analyzed, domains of the policy proposals, who initiated the proposal, number of people attending the meetings, if proposals were posted in advance on City Hall website, number of recommendations received from citizens and NGOs, if the policy proposals posted on the website contain all necessary documents etc. A student should be conducted on the same institution, and two students can choose the same institution but analyze different council meetings.

**Attendance.** Students have to attend at least 75% of the seminars in order to be allowed to enter the final exam.