

## INTERNATIONAL POLICY LAB

### SEMESTER 1 – FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY

#### *Course Description*

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The International Policy Lab course in first semester is a hands-on learning experience designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of public policy theories, frameworks, and practical applications in a global context. This course adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from various social science disciplines and emphasizing student interaction through problem-based learning, simulations, and real-world case studies.

In the first semester, students will establish a solid foundation in the fundamental theories and concepts in public policy. The focus will be on understanding the various actors, influences, and instruments that shape public policy in an international and national context. Topics covered include agenda-setting, the policy process, policy instruments, policy implementation, the role of the media, policy consultation, evidence-based policymaking, and policy paradigms and ideas. Students will also explore the complexities and challenges that arise in global policy-making, including cultural diversity, political dynamics, and cross-border coordination.

The course emphasizes experiential learning and student engagement. Students will participate in simulations of real-life policy settings, requiring them to think critically, adapt to new situations, and apply their theoretical knowledge to practical policy challenges. Classes will provide opportunities for students to select, investigate, and critically analyze real-world governance and public policy problems, with a focus on developing practical skills such as communication, teamwork, and ethical decision-making.

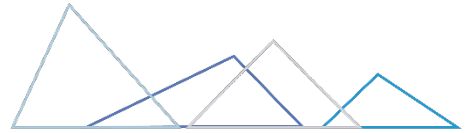
A policy lab is a mode of study that depends on student interaction. Students will carry out simulations in real-life policy settings, which will sometimes ask students to stretch their minds and imagine themselves in certain situations. Each class will provide students with opportunities to select, investigate, and critically analyse real-world governance, and public policy problems.

The public policy arena presents a complex framework of actors, politics, instruments, and practices. In the first semester, we will examine the broad range of theories, models, influences, and players that shape public policy. Classes will equip students with a knowledge of the field's theoretical underpinnings and real-world challenges. Students will study foundational public policy theories, including agenda-setting, the policy process, policy instruments, policy implementation, the role of the media, policy consultation, evidence-based policymaking, and policy paradigms and ideas.

#### *Teaching Faculty*

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## Learning Objectives

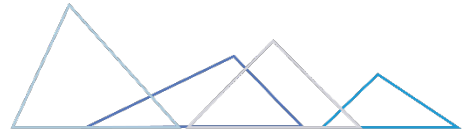
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1. **Understanding key policy concepts and frameworks:** Students should be able to identify and analyze key policy concepts, theories, and frameworks, and understand how they apply to real-world policy issues.
2. **Developing analytical and critical thinking skills:** Students should be able to assess policy issues, identify root causes, and evaluate potential policy options, drawing on evidence-based research and qualitative and quantitative methods.
3. **Enhancing cross-cultural communication and presentation skills:** Students should learn to effectively communicate their policy analysis and recommendations, both in writing and orally, to diverse audiences from various cultural backgrounds, including policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public.
4. **Fostering teamwork and collaboration in diverse settings:** Students should learn to work effectively in diverse, multicultural teams, leveraging the strengths and expertise of their peers to collaboratively address complex international policy issues.
5. **Engaging with stakeholders and understanding diverse perspectives:** Students should develop the ability to engage with various stakeholders, understand their perspectives and needs, and incorporate these insights into the policy-making process.
6. **Cultivating ethical awareness and decision-making:** Students should learn to recognize and navigate the ethical dimensions of policy-making, ensuring that their policy recommendations are grounded in principles of fairness, transparency, and social responsibility.
7. **Applying knowledge to real-world policy issues:** Students should be able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the course to analyze, develop, and implement policy recommendations for real-world policy problems, demonstrating their ability to translate theory into practice.

## Assessment

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- Organisation of a Policy Lab (30%) **Group Work**
- Policy briefs for simulations (30%)
- Participation in class and in simulations (10%)
- Final Exam - oral (30%) December



## Bibliography

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### **Core Texts:**

Lodge, Martin, Edward C. Page, and Steven J. Balla (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Classics in Public Policy and Administration*, Oxford Handbooks (2015; online edn, Oxford Academic, 7 July 2016), <https://doi-org.iepnomade-1.grenet.fr/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199646135.001.0001>

Weible, M.C., & Sabatier, P.A. (2018). *Theories of the Policy Process* (C. M. Weible, & P.A. Sabatier, Eds.) (4th ed.). Routledge. <https://doi-org.iepnomade-1.grenet.fr/10.4324/9780429494284>

### **Weekly Readings:**

Atkinson, Michael M., and William D. Coleman. "Policy Networks, Policy Communities, and the Problems of Governance." *Governance* 5, no. 2 (1992): 154-80.

Béland, Daniel, Martin B. Carstensen, and Leonard Seabrooke. "Ideas, Political Power and Public Policy." *Journal of European Public Policy* 23, no. 3 (2016): 315-17.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2015.1122163>.

Herweg, Nicole, Nikolaos Zahariadis, and Reimut Zohlnöofer. "The Multiple Streams Framework: Foundations, Refinements, and Empirical Applications." In *Theories of the Policy Process*, edited by Christopher M. Weible and Paul A. Sabatier. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2018.

Jenkins-Smith, Hank C., Daniel Nohrstedt, Christopher M. Weible, and Karin Ingold. "The Advocacy Coalition Framework: An Overview of the Research Program." In *Theories of the Policy Process*, edited by Christopher M. Weible and Paul A. Sabatier. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2018.

Jones, Bryan D. "Behavioral Rationality as a Foundation for Public Policy Studies." *Cognitive Systems Research* 43 (2017): 63-75.

Mintrom, Michael, and Phillipa Norman. "Policy Entrepreneurship and Policy Change." *The Policy Studies Journal* 37, no. 4 (2009): 649-67.

Ostrom, Elinor. "Coping with Tragedies of the Commons." *Annual Review of Political Science* 1999, no. 2 (1999): 493-535.

Shanahan, Elizabeth A., Michael D. Jones, Mark K. McBeth, and Claudio M. Radaelli. "The Narrative Policy Framework." Chap. 5 In *Theories of the Policy Process*, edited by Christopher M. Weible and Paul A. Sabatier, 173-213. New York: Routledge, 2018.

Wedel, Janine R., Cris Shore, Gregory Feldman, and Stacy Lathrop. "Toward an Anthropology of Public Policy." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 600, no. July 2005 (2005): 30-51.