

DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTION

1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher education institution	Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj–Napoca
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences
1.3 Department	Political Science
1.4 Field of study	Political Science
1.5 Level of study	Graduate
1.6 Study program /Qualification	Political Science

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Discipline title	Public Policy Analysis (Analiza Politicilor Publice)						
2.2 Course lecturer	Daniel Pop, PhD (email: daniel.pop@ubbcluj.ro); office hours: Tuesdays, 1.00 pm to 2 pm, please seek appointment in advance)						
2.3 Seminar assistant	Daniel Pop, PhD (email: (daniel.pop@ubbcluj.ro); office hours: Tuesdays, 1.00 pm to 2 pm, please seek appointment in advance)						
2.4 Year of study	2	2.5 Semester	2	2.6. Evaluation type	E	2.7 Discipline type	compulsory

3. Total estimated time (hours of didactic activities per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	4	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	1
3.4 Total hours in the study plan	42	of which: 3.5 course	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	14
Time distribution: 3 hours classroom work and 6 hours individual study.					hrs
Studying the manual, course reader, bibliography, and notes:					53
Supplementary documentation in the library, on electronic platforms and in the field:					14
Preparing seminars/laboratories, homework, syntheses, portfolios, and essays:					14
Tutorials					3
Examinations					4
Other activities:					
3.7 Total hours of individual study				84	
3.8 Total hours per semester				126	
3.9 Number of credits				9	

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 based on the curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not the case
4.2 based on competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not the case

5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 for the course	<p>The notion of plagiarism is defined by the Department of Political Science policies (http://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/resurse/formulare-regulamente/reguli-etice-si-deontologice/). Plagiarism and attempted fraud at examination is punishable by 1 to this note and the case presented to the Dean to take appropriate administrative measures.</p> <p>Final exam fraud is punishable by removal from the exam.</p>
5.2 for the seminar/ laboratory	<p>University regulations require attendance at seminars to a level of 75%.</p> <p>Note: the final exam includes a seminar component. If the work done by the student does not meet the seminar requirements to promote this discipline, the student will not be admitted to the final exam.</p>

6. Accumulated specific competencies

Professional competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of reports and analysis regarding the evolution of local, regional, national, and international policy processes. • The identification of key concepts and methods to evaluate public policy processes and critical policy events. • The application of tools and instruments specific to comparative public policy analysis. • The use of domain-specific tools and instruments in evaluating public policy processes.
Transversal competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to effectively operate in a multidisciplinary and hierarchic environment. • The ability to assimilate, operationalise, synthesise, and communicate complex information in at least one international language.

7. Discipline objectives (from the accumulated competencies grid)

7.1 General objective	<p>This course provides a general introduction to the extensive field of public policy analysis. The principal aim of this course is to equip students with key public policy concepts, theoretical perspectives and principal methods and strategies of public policy analysis. In a world of poly-crisis, multiple transitions (sustainability, digital, net-zero society and demographic) and rising geopolitical rivalry, the issue of developing a comprehensive and robust understanding of the rationale informing the actions of governments is critical. Therefore, in this class, we will explore how the government approaches solving collective problems, the resources available and the expectations of results of such governmental actions. Throughout the semester, we will learn approaches to dissect the constraints and logic of such governmental action to identify the characteristics of effective and ineffective policies. Also, I expect to explore the paradoxes inherent in public policy analysis by focusing on the core topics of social opportunity systems, equality, sustainability, social programming, and so forth.</p>
7.2 Specific objectives	<p>The key specific objectives of the course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce students to the principal tenets and methods of public policy analysis and research. • To have students acquire the core knowledge to effectively apply various social science theories and methods to governmental action seeking to address collective action problems. • To problematise the policy alternative concept and social functions, operate effectively with market failure conditions, and differentiate effectively among types of private and public goods. • Students are to be able to discuss the principal arguments in favour of and against state intervention in solving social problems and to analyse and describe possible solutions to inefficiencies in the production, distribution, and allocation of opportunity and resources. • To help students acquire the skills and competencies and learn about the key analytical tools necessary to write for policy and present policy ideas. • To help students acquire the competencies to explain current events through the lenses of incentives and institutions.

8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Observations
Week 1. Introduction to public policy analysis. Review of syllabus	Introduction and explanation of key course concepts and theories. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 2. The process of policy analysis Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 1	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 3. Policy analysis in the policymaking process Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 2	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 4. Structuring policy problems Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 3	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 5. Forecasting expected policy outcomes Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 4	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 6. Prescribing preference options Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 5	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Week 7. Monitoring observed policy outcomes Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 6	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 8. Evaluating policy performance Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 7	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 9. Developing policy arguments Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 8	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 10. Communicating policy analysis Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 9	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 11. Communicating policy analysis Dunn, W. N. 2018. ch. 9	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 12. Policy integration Jeroen J. L. Candel (2021)	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 13. Policy failures Hudson, B., Hunter, D., & Peckham, S. (2019).	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Week 14. Summarizing it all	Exposure to a set of concepts and theories in this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus.
Bibliography:		
Dunn, William N. 2018. <i>Public policy analysis</i> . Routledge.		
Hudson, B., Hunter, D., & Peckham, S. (2019). Policy failure and the policy-implementation gap: can policy support programs help?. <i>Policy design and practice</i> , 2(1), 1-14.		
Jeroen J. L. Candel (2021) The expediency of policy integration, <i>Policy Studies</i> , 42:4, 346-361, DOI: 10.1080/01442872.2019.1634191		

8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
Week 1. Introduction and seminar activities review Taylor, Timothy et al. 2017. ch. 1.	Case study illustrations of economics, politics and political economy	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 2. The process of policy analysis Capano, G., & Howlett, M. (2020).	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 3. Policy sub-subsystems and Multiple Streams Framework (MSF) Lemke, N., Trein, P. & Varone, F. (2023)	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 4. Variants of cost-benefit analysis Shaffer, M. (2010). Ch. 1-2.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 5. Elasticity measuring benefits Shaffer, M. (2010). Ch. 3-4.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 6. Policy estimation and aggregation methods Shaffer, M. (2010). Ch. 5-6.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 7. Policy issue paper draft presentation	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 8. Governing the economic Garriga, A. C., & Rodriguez, C. M. (2020).	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 9. Policy change Ollier, L., Melliger, M., & Metz, F. (2023).	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 10. Policy recommendations Policy recommendation no. 2023/C 167/17	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 11. Revised and extended presentation of policy issue papers	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 12. Policy integration Karlsson, M., Alfredsson, E., & Westling, N. (2020)	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 13. Policy effectiveness Pattyn, V., Álamos-Concha, P., Cambré, B., Rihoux, B., & Schalembier, B. (2022)	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed in the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students must read the literature indicated in the syllabus and engage in seminar debates.
Week 14. Final seminar paper presentations by students.		

Selected bibliography:

- Capano, G., & Howlett, M. (2020). The knowns and unknowns of policy instrument analysis: Policy tools and the current research agenda on policy mixes. *Sage Open*, 10(1), 2158244019900568.
- Garriga, A. C., & Rodriguez, C. M. (2020). More effective than we thought: Central bank independence and inflation in developing countries. *Economic Modelling*, 85, 87-105.
- Karlsson, M., Alfredsson, E., & Westling, N. (2020). Climate policy co-benefits: a review. *Climate Policy*, 20(3), 292-316.
- Lemke, N., Trein, P. & Varone, F. (2023). Agenda-setting in nascent policy subsystems: issue and instrument priorities across venues. *Policy Sciences*, 56, 633–655. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11077-023-09514-5>
- Ollier, L., Melliger, M., & Metz, F. (2023). How Do Governments’ Policy Priorities Change as the Energy Transition Progresses? A Cross-Country Comparison. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, 1-15.
- Pattyn, V., Álamos-Concha, P., Cambré, B., Rihoux, B., & Schalembier, B. (2022). Policy effectiveness through configurational and mechanistic lenses: Lessons for concept development. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, 24(1), 33-50.
- Shaffer, M. (2010). *Multiple account benefit-cost analysis: a practical guide for the systematic evaluation of project and policy alternatives*. University of Toronto Press.

Recommended complementary readings:

- Afonso, A., & Coelho, J. C. (2023). Public finances solvency in the Euro Area. *Economic Analysis and Policy*, 77, 642-657.
- Bloomfield, M., Eldridge-Thomas, B., Iqbal, A., Mackinlay, K., Mahadevegowda, A., Ollard, I., Pearce-Higgins, R., & Smith, A. (2022). Proposal for a Cambridgeshire Carbon Advisory Service and Strategic Business Case for a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund: Executive Summary. <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.86144>
- Mukherjee, I., Coban, M. K., & Bali, A. S. (2021). Policy capacities and effective policy design: A review. *Policy sciences*, 54(2), 243-268.
- Øvald, C. B. (2023). Advancing the multiple streams framework for decision-making: the case of integrating ethics into the Norwegian oil fund strategy. *Policy Sciences*, 1-20.
- Flammer, C. (2020). Green bonds: effectiveness and implications for public policy. *Environmental and Energy Policy and the Economy*, 1(1), 95-128.

9. The corroboration of discipline contents with the expectations of epistemic community representatives, professional associations and representative employers in the study program’s corresponding field

The course is intended to synthesise the key and core concepts, theories and techniques in the field of public policy analysis during the undergraduate learning cycle. This way, the course is helping students to understand further the nature of their professional formation and the practical utility of their acquired skills and competencies in the labour market. From the employer's point of view, graduates' mastery in understanding political economy theories and methods and the related distribution of welfare effects makes graduates a fundamental resource for their strategic planning and operations.

10. Evaluation

Type of activity	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Weight in final mark
10.4 Course	Evaluation of expert knowledge taught in class.	The written final exam - evaluate knowledge on the subjects treated in lectures to the time of the test.	50%
10.5 Seminar/ laboratory	Work in the seminars	Substantive contributions to the discussions of the seminar.	20%
		Case presentation –public policy analysis	30%
10.6 Minimum performance standard			
Course attendance is not compulsory but strongly recommended. Grading:			

- Students must attend at least 75% of seminars and complete assigned readings.
- Students will also prepare and deliver a previously agreed original public policy analysis case presentation during the semester following the format requirements and guidelines provided by the instructor. This will count for 30% of your final grade.
- A written final exam comprising all course readings will be up to 50% of the final grade. Failing to obtain a passing grade (at least a 50% score) on the final exam implies failing the class.

The Department of Political Science regulations defines the notion of plagiarism.

Any academic paper relies on information with proper sources cited according to scientific rules. Using one of the existing bibliographical styles (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) is strongly recommended. The Department of Political Sciences recommends using the [APSA](#) style (American Political Science Association). If any other style is preferred, it should be used consistently throughout the paper. Evaluation of the papers will also consider the correct use of the bibliographical style.

Date

Signature of course coordinator

Signature of seminar coordinator

25 September 2024

Date of approval

Signature of the head of department

25 September 2024