

Syllabus

Dept. International Relations and Political Sciences
Unit: Public Policy
Code: LRI2041



Professor: Dr. Viviana Ramírez
Office: CS236
E-mail: viviana.ramirez@udlap.mx

Classes: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a 9:50 hrs. Room CS106

Office Hours: With appointment only. To set an appointment please send me an email and include the question or topic you want to discuss during the session.

Unit aims and learning outcomes:

In this unit you will study the ways in which governments intervene in public life and address specific social problems through what is called: public policies. Public policies can be understood as a process composed of key stages. These stages include (1) identifying social problems that can be addressed through government intervention and establishing the government and public agendas, (2) designing policies as solutions to those problems, (3) implementing the solutions through several actors and government agencies, and finally (4) evaluating their impacts in different areas of social life. Throughout the semester, the unit will be structured based on these stages and it will introduce you to a bundle of concepts and analytic tools related each stage as well as to the variety of debates, actors, and issues that emerge within them.

Unit structure:

Introduction

Theme 1: Introduction to the Analysis of Public Policies

- What do we mean by Public Policy?
- What is the process of Public Policies?
- What are the different types of public policies and how can they be classified?
- What is the difference between an Analysis OF and an Analysis FOR public policy?

Presentations: Types of public policies (5%)

Theme 2: Agenda Setting - The public agenda and the government agenda

- What are the differences between the two types of agendas?
- What is a public problem?
- How can a public problem be defined and what are the complexities of providing a definition?

Theme 3: Policy Design – Decision-making process

- What are the processes through which alternative policies are designed to address a particular public problem?
- What criteria are used during the decision-making process: How do we select the best policy alternative?
- What is the nature of the decision-making process and what types of models exist in mainstream literature (rational, incremental, mixed-scanner, etc.).
- Alternative approaches to designing public policies: Nudging

Presentations: Problem Tree Analysis (5%)

Partial Exam 1 (15%)

Theme 4: The implementation process

- What are the characteristics of the implementation stage of a public policy?
- What are the key actors and key issues that arise during this stage?
- What are the different theoretical approaches to analyse the implementation process?

Theme 5: The evaluation tools for public policies

- What is an evaluation and why is it important?
- What types of evaluation methods exist today?
- How can we be sure that we capture the real impact of a policy over the public problem it is addressed to? What is the role of the counterfactual?
- What are the key issues in the design of a policy evaluation method?

Partial Exam 2 (15%)

Final Report and Presentations: An exhaustive Analysis OF a Public Policy (40%)

Learning Methods:

This unit will be delivered in two ways: (1) theoretical lectures and (2) seminars. The professor will provide theoretical lectures of the themes above with the aim of transferring knowledge to the students. These lectures will then be complemented with the seminars on the theme of the week in which the students and will discuss relevant case studies, examples, and videos. The aim of the seminars is to provide a space for the co-production of knowledge between students. Therefore, the participation, attendance and preparation of prior work from the students is essential.

Evaluation Methods:

The unit assessment is based on six criteria:

- 20% Seminars, activities and homework
- 5% Presentations on Types of public policies
- 5% Presentations on Problem Tree Analysis
- 15% Partial Exam 1
- 15% Partial Exam 2
- + 40% Final Report and Oral Presentation
- 100% Final Mark

The students should arrive well prepared for each session (lecture or seminar). This might involve reading a paper at home, doing a piece of work, or being ready to discuss a subject.

To reach the 20% mark of the seminars, activities and homework, students must actively participate in each lecture and seminar, as well as submit all homework and activities at the time/day established. In addition, the unit is assessed based on two partial exams and on three reports and presentations of those reports. The final report is explained next.

Final Report: An Analysis OF a public policy:

The final report must be the result of a research project conducted by a team of 3 or 4 students throughout the semester. This report should apply the concepts and analytic tools learned in class throughout the semester to the analysis of a public policy that has been implemented in the real world.

Specific aims of the report:

The final report should, (1) introduce and describe the key aims of the policy of your choice, and (2) analyse the relevant aspects of the process of this policy, including (a) the agenda setting stage, (b) the design and decision-making stage, (c) the implementation stage, and (d) the evaluations and results (successes/failures) of the policy so far.

This report must be submitted in Word format and a length of 2,000 words (+/- 10%).

General evaluation criteria:

- All documents requested ought to fulfil with the evaluation requirements established by the professor.
- The concepts studied in class need to be adequately applied to each document submitted.
- These should present quality information in an appropriate and clear structure.
- These should offer an argument that is clear and at an undergraduate degree level.
- The adequate use of formal references and bibliography is essential to show knowledge and avoid plagiarism.
- Any instance of **plagiarism** will receive a mark of CERO in the plagiarised document.
- All documents must be submitted in Word and/or PowerPoint formats (not PDF or others).

- All documents must be submitted through **Blackboard** within the time/day established for each piece of work. Not submitting it on time will warrant a penalty of ONE point of the final grade of that document (1/10).
- All documents must meet the extension (word limit) required. Not doing so will warrant a penalty of ONE point of the final grade of that document (1/10).

Bibliography:

Aguilar, Villanueva, L.F. (2012). Política pública. Ciudad de México: Siglo XXI editores.

Aguilar Villanueva, L.F. (1992). Antología de políticas públicas, Volumen 1: El estudio de las políticas públicas. Miguel Ángel Porrúa, México.

Aguilar Villanueva, L.F. (1992). Antología de políticas públicas, Volumen 2: La hechura de las políticas públicas. Miguel Ángel Porrúa, México.

Bibliography by theme:

Theme 1:

Aguilar Villanueva, L. F. (1992), "Estudio introductorio", en Antología de políticas públicas, Vol. 1: El estudio de las políticas públicas, Miguel Ángel Porrúa Grupo Editorial, México.

Theme 2:

Elder, Charles D. Y Roger W. COBB (1993). Formación de la agenda. El caso de la política de los ancianos, en Aguilar Villanueva, Luis, Antología de políticas públicas, Vol. 3: Problemas públicos y agenda de gobierno, México DF, Miguel Ángel Porrúa.

Theme 3:

Allison, Graham T. (1993). Modelos conceptuales: La crisis de los misiles cubanos, en Aguilar Villanueva, Luis, Antología de políticas públicas, Vol. 2: La hechura de las políticas públicas, Miguel Ángel Porrúa, México.

Theme 4:

Saetren, Harald (2005). Facts and Myths about Public Policy Implementation: Out-of- Fashion, Old Fashioned, Allegedly Dead, but Still Very Alive and Relevant", Policy Studies Journal, vol. 33, N° 4, pp. 559-582.

Lindblom, Charles E. (1991). El proceso de elaboración de políticas públicas, MAP, Madrid, Cap. 8: "La implementación y el juego político en la burocracia".

Banco Mundial (2004). Servicios para los pobres. Capítulo 1. Los servicios pueden funcionar para los pobres pero con demasiada frecuencia fallan.

Theme 5:

Martínez Nogueira, Roberto (2004). Desafíos estratégicos en la implementación de políticas sociales, presentado en el Encuentro Hacia una visión estratégica de la implementación de programas sociales, organizado por el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, Washington, noviembre.

Theme 6:

Feinstein, Osvaldo (2007). Evaluación pragmática de políticas públicas. ICE Evaluación de políticas Públicas, No. 836

Unit Policies:

Work Submission: With the goal of keeping consistency and being fair with all students, late submissions will not be accepted for any work or document (only in case of emergencies that have a formal justification).

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is strongly punished in this course. Plagiarism implies using the work of another person without referencing her or him correctly. For example, using cheat sheets (acordeones) during exams, copying the work of other classmates, using information from own or other's notes, books, articles, or webpages without appropriately referencing them through any citing format. Plagiarism also involves translating or copying a text and presenting it exactly as the original form without showing it is a direct quote from somebody else.

Every piece of work submitted for this class is expected to present all the literature and references that the student used to do the work both on the appropriate section of the text and in the bibliography section at the end of the document. Academic bibliography should be given preference at all times (e.g. academic articles and books).

Order and behaviour during class: The students have the responsibility of making this class a respectful and effective learning space for all throughout the semester. To achieve this, the students must avoid any act of rudeness or disrespect towards others.

Overall, any act of **dishonesty** (copying during exams; partial, total, voluntary or involuntary plagiarism; falsifying information, cloning homework or essays from this or other units or semesters) and **any act of disrespect during class will be punished with CERO in the grade of such work or in some cases will be warranted the maximum penalty established by the "Reglamento General del Estudiante" of the university.**

Using electronic devices: The use of cell phones during class must be avoided at all times. Laptops are accepted only if used exclusively for any work related to class or for taking notes. However, electronic devices cannot be used for activities that distract students from the class. If anybody is discovered using these devices for unrelated activities, all electronic devices will be prohibited for everyone for the rest of the semester. Be respectful to your classmates.

Recording or taking pictures during class is prohibited.

Syllabus: Although the syllabus is sufficiently stable, the professor reserves the right of making changes to it.

The student is responsible of regularly checking (at least once a week) his or her university email as well as visiting the Blackboard site for this unit.

Student must be aware of the “Reglamento General de Estudiantes” and the guidelines that derive from it. This regulation can be found at the following link:

http://comunidad.udlap.mx/departamentos/normatividad/Documents/Estudiantes_General%20Reglamento.pdf