

2022

Policy Analysis and Design (ISS-4209-22-23)

Practical information

Course ID

ISS-4209-22-23

Credits

8 EC

Instruction language

English

Themes

- AFES Optionals
- ECD Optionals
- GDP Major Course
- GMD Optionals
- International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)
- MMAPP Elective Courses
- SJP Optionals
- SPD Optionals

Course description

Content

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This is a course about preparing, designing and selecting public policy (public strategies, programmes and projects). It is mainly on analytical approaches and methods that are intended to guide policy design and to structure policy choice. The course looks at approaches and techniques in a politically aware way, and considers throughout how they may work in practice. This shows fundamental limits upon, as well as specific roles for, prescriptive policy analysis. While policy makers may see themselves as producing social change through intellectual endeavour, they are embedded in and are the product of broad processes of social and intellectual change. Policy making is a social (multi-actor) process involving a battle of ideas and struggles over resources, with competitive and collaborative interactions between various groups who have diverse beliefs, interests and information. Policy documents are parts of these battles. Policy making is in part an exercise in cultural construction, legitimising authority, and motivating people.

Indicative readings

Bardach, E.S. (2009). [*A Practical Guide For Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*](#). Washington DC: CQ Press.

Sabatier, P. 1991. Toward Better Theories of the Policy Process. *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 124,

Tankha, S. (2009) '[Lost in Translation: Interpreting the Failure of Electric Power Privatization in Brazil](#)', *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 41(1): 59-90.

Learning goals

Learning objectives

To increase your capacity to contribute in identifying, analysing and assessing policy problems and options, and to understand roles of and limits to methods in prescriptive policy analysis; including to be better able to (1) analyse the assumptions and logic behind policy documents and proposals, and (2) help to generate alternative policy arguments, options, scenarios and advice.

Specific targets:

- To be able to critically assess the use of a set of important methods and approaches, including stakeholder analysis, argumentation analysis, logical framework analysis, economic cost-benefit analysis, other cost-utility techniques and multi-criteria analysis, rights-based approaches; and methods to promote critical and creative thinking.
- To be able to explain the contributions and limitations of a set of influential background perspectives in public policy and public management, including: "managerialism", where criteria for choices are set by managers and leaders; "econocracy"; where criteria for choices are set by purchasers; and democratic pluralism, where criteria and choices are negotiated between multiple stakeholders.

Study materials

Required material

- Canvas
- Reader

Instructional modes

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- Participatory Lecture
- Workshop

Period

Enrolment periods

- Block TERM2
Enrolment period
28 November 2022 until 16 December 2022 23:59

Unenrolment
until 16 December 2022 23:59

Start courses
12 January 2023

Lecturers

Contactperson for the course

- SM Spaa

Coordinator

- dr. S Tankha

Lecturer

- dr. S Tankha

Assessment

Assessments (result in OSIRIS)

- Essay

Test weight
90

- Presentation

Test weight
10

Test enrolment

Essay

- Block TERM2
- Block TERM3

Presentation

- Block TERM2
- Block TERM3