

# PO977-40 Theories and Traditions in Public Policy

**20/21**

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Gabriel Siles-Brugge

**Credit value**

40

**Module duration**

22 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

The module complements the core and optional modules in existing PAIS MA courses.

### Module aims

The main objective of this module is to develop an advanced understanding of approaches to the study of public policy. The concern is to identify and analyse: 1. the scholarly currents and traditions of policy studies; 2. core concepts in policy analysis, and 3. the main theories of policy change. The module will be structured over two terms. The first theme aims at developing an appreciation of the origins of public policy as both a field of scholarly endeavour and as a profession. The second theme concentrates on key concepts encountered in the study of public policy. Theme 3 addresses the main theories and explanations of policy change and policy sub-systems prevalent in the literature alongside some new departures in the field such as global public policy. Perennial questions pertaining to democracy and representation in policy formulation and 'speaking truth to power' conclude the module.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

## A. Policy Studies

1. Introduction
2. The History of Comparative Public Policy: from Weber to the Regulatory State.
3. Inter-Disciplinary Policy Studies and the Development of the Profession

## B. Core Concepts:

4. The 'Public': public goods theory
5. The 'Public': concepts of the 'public'
6. Reading Week
7. Rational Choice
8. Organised Interests
9. Institutions
10. Ideas and Ideology

## C. Theories and Processes of Policy Change

11. The 'Policy Process' Heuristic
12. Garbage Cans, Policy Streams and Punctuated Equilibrium
13. Policy Networks
14. The Post-Modern Turn and Social Constructivism in Policy:
15. Policy Diffusion and Policy Learning:
16. Reading Week
17. Implementation Studies
18. Global Public Policy (or the Globalization of Public Policy)
19. 'Speaking Truth to Power'? Evidence-based policy making
20. Democracy and Public Policy

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate in depth knowledge concerning different theoretical debates and their importance for thinking about public policy and governance
- Identify and comprehend and analyse different structures of governance and modes of policy making
- Analyse, compare and critically evaluate fundamental assumptions and arguments in the literature on governance and public policy

## Indicative reading list

Hugh Bochel and Sue Duncan, *Making Policy In Theory and Practice*, The Policy Press, 2007.

H. K. Colebatch, *Policy*, Open University Press, 2005.

Maarten Hajer and Hendrik Wagenaar (eds) *Deliberative Policy Analysis: Understanding Governance in the Network Society*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2003.

Michael Hill, *The Public Policy Process*, 4th ed. Longman 2004.

Michael Howlett & M Ramesh, *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*, OUP Canada, 2003.

Michael Moran, Martin Rein and Robert E Goodin. (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*, Oxford University Press, 2006.

Wayne Parson, *Public Policy*, Edward Elgar, 1996

Jon Pierre, *Debating Governance: Authority, Steering, and Democracy* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

C. Pollitt, & G. Bokhaert. *Public Management Reform* Oxford: Oxford University Press, second edition 2004.

Beryl Radin, *Beyond Machiavelli: Policy Analysis Comes of Age*, Georgetown University Press, 2000

Paul A. Sabatier, *Theories of the Policy Process*, Westview Press, 1999

Deborah Stone, *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*, W. W. Norton & Co., 1997

## Subject specific skills

(c) Cognitive Skills

- Construct and substantiate an argument
- The ability to devise a viable research essay topic in areas relevant to the module

(d) Subject-Specific/Professional Skills · Proficiency in using web-based documentation and databases · Students will improve their capacity to undertake further postgraduate study in political science and international relations

## Transferable skills

(b) Key Skills · Written communication skills · Oral communication skills · Working with others · Problem solving · Information technology

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (9%)
Total	400 hours

Type	Required
Private study	364 hours (91%)
Total	400 hours

## Private study description

tbc

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessed Essay 5,000-word essay	50%		Yes (extension)
Assessed Essay 5,000-word essay	50%		Yes (extension)

## Feedback on assessment

tbc

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- TPOS-M9PX Double MA in Global Governance (with University of Waterloo, Canada)
  - Year 1 of M9PX Global Governance Double MA (with University of Waterloo)
  - Year 1 of M96H Public Policy (Double Degree - Waterloo)
  - Year 2 of M9PX Global Governance Double MA (with University of Waterloo)
- TPOS-M9PV Double MA in Journalism, Politics and International Studies (with Monash University)

- Year 1 of M9PV Journalism, Politics and International Studies Double Degree (with Monash University)
- Year 1 of M94H Journalism, Politics and International Studies: Public Policy (Double Degree - Monash)
- Year 2 of M9PV Journalism, Politics and International Studies Double Degree (with Monash University)
- TPOS-M9PW Double MA in Politics and International Service (with American University, Washington DC)
  - Year 1 of M9PW Politics and International Service Double MA (with American University)
  - Year 1 of M95H Politics and International Service: Public Policy (Double Degree - AU)
  - Year 2 of M9PW Politics and International Service Double MA (with American University)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
- TPOS-M9PR Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)
  - Year 1 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
  - Year 2 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
  - Year 1 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PF Postgraduate Taught Public Policy

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PX Double MA in Global Governance (with University of Waterloo, Canada)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1PA MA in International Politics and Europe
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9Q1 Postgraduate Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1P3 Postgraduate Taught International Political Economy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9P9 Postgraduate Taught International Relations
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PC Postgraduate Taught International Security
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PV Double MA in Journalism, Politics and International Studies (with Monash University)
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PW Double MA in Politics and International Service (with American University, Washington DC)
- TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)

- Year 1 of M91F Globalisation and Development (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 1 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 1 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 1 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 1 of M91D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 1 of M91G International Security (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 2 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 2 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
- Year 2 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
- TPOS-M9PR Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)
  - Year 1 of M93B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
  - Year 1 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
  - Year 2 of M93B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
  - Year 2 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
  - Year 1 of M92L International Development (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92J United States Foreign Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9Q1 Postgraduate Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- Year 2 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Option list B for:

- TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
  - Year 1 of M91K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91J United States Foreign Policy (Double Degree - NTU)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
  - Year 1 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9P9 Postgraduate Taught International Relations
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PC Postgraduate Taught International Security
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy