

PO2D0-30 Public Policy for 21st Century Challenges

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Mark Fabian

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

If you want to change the world, chances are you are going to need to do some public policy. Do you want to end homelessness, increase economic growth, or tackle childhood obesity? These are all policy problems. Public policy is how the values of a democratic society are put into practice. This module introduces the tools humanity has developed to make better, more 'rational' public policy; critical perspectives on the very notion of rational policymaking (better for whom?); and central ideas from the study of public management and public administration, including on the use of evidence and evaluation in policy design, analysis, and reform, the organisation of the bureaucracy, and the role of power in policymaking. The final third of the module gives students an opportunity to apply all this knowledge to real policy challenges of their choice. As a class, we will select, analyse, and debate 2 policy challenges and reason through potential solutions to them in terms of both whether those solutions will be effective and how to shepherd them through the political and policymaking process.

Module aims

To introduce students to the analytical tools they need to understand continuity, change and cross-national variation in public policy.

To demonstrate the value of the comparative method in the analysis of public policy.

To provide students with a high-level understanding of the politics behind public policy-making.

To lay the foundations for empirically substantiated and critical evaluation of the actions of governments.

To give students the opportunity to apply theories of public policy and the comparative method to the analysis of contemporary public policy challenges.

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.

Week 1: Introduction to Public Policy

Week 2: Principles of policy design

Week 3: Insights from economics

Week 4: Insights from law & political science

Week 5: Insights from sociology & psychology

Week 6: Reading week

Week 7: Critical perspectives on policy design

Week 8: The policymaking process

Week 9: Actors, institutions, and path dependencies

Week 10: The bureaucracy, public management, and commissioning

Week 11: Evaluation

Week 12: The demand and supply of evidence

Week 13: Policy as politics

Week 14: Challenge 1 - policy elements

Week 15: Challenge 1 - causes and solutions

Week 16: Reading Week

Week 17: Challenge 2 - policy elements

Week 18: Challenge 2 - causes and solutions

Week 19: Challenge 3 - policy elements

Week 20: Challenge 3 - causes and solutions

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate an appreciation of different theoretical and conceptual approaches to public policymaking
- Understand how interests, institutions and ideas influence and constrain public policymaking
- Comprehend and critically assess different interpretations of the policymaking process
- Show an awareness of the key actors, institutions and organisations involved in public policymaking
- Show an appreciation of comparative approaches to public policymaking
- Critically assess the key political challenges to public policymaking
- Show an awareness of the major policy debates with regard to the three policy challenges covered in this module

- Critically analyse policy response to these challenges and develop solutions

Subject specific skills

Demonstrate an understanding of the key stages of the policymaking process and the various political factors that shape policy development and implementation

Interpret and assess current policy challenges facing developed and developing countries

Develop robust and feasible policy solutions for government and NGOs

Transferable skills

Communication skills, including both written and oral presentation skills

Lateral thinking skills

Skills in the distillation and application of complex information and ideas

Critical thinking

Analytical skills

Independent research skills

Problem solving

Time management

Information Technology

Skills in academic practice

Awareness of, and sensitivity to, diversity

Decision making

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	22 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Private study	260 hours (87%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Students will also be expected to engage in intensive independent study, employing the reading lists provided to deepen their knowledge of the subject. In addition to attendance at lectures and seminars, you should spend 8 hours per week on your own independent study for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

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

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Final Essay Assessed essay	50%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Policy Brief	50%		Yes (extension)
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Drawing on the content of this module, identify one policy challenge. Outline alternative public policy responses to this challenge, and set out your own policy recommendations - drawing attention to the limitations and distributional consequences of your suggestions.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Feedback form via Tabula; optional verbal consultation

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V5L2 Undergraduate Philosophy and Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 2 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 2 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
 - Year 2 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
 - Year 3 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
- UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 2 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
 - Year 3 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
- UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
 - Year 2 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
 - Year 3 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
 - Year 2 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian
 - Year 3 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics