

# POS 210 Graduate Seminar in Public Policy<sup>1</sup>

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*Ateneo de Manila University – First Semester (Draft Version 5.0)*

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Consultation: By Appointment - Course Location: Berchmans 105

## Course Description

This course is designed to provide an introduction to public policy, with an emphasis on the global, regional, sub-regional, and national influences on the complex policymaking and implementation processes. The course also highlights the integral role of politics in the overall process, and develops an understanding of the policy environment, especially the challenges, opportunities, risks, and constraints to decision-making found in developing countries. This approach is aimed at enhancing the understanding of those who design, implement, advise, or evaluate public policy, particularly in a post-2015 sustainable development environment. The course presents conceptual frameworks that view decision-makers in government as positive change agents who seek to solve social problems in a multistakeholder policy environment. In this course, we will focus on the following four areas:

1. Examining policy theories as a foundation for understanding the nature of public policy;
2. Locating and exploring the policy context by triangulating power, institutions, and political culture, with reality;
3. Critically assessing the policy process as an engagement between decision-makers and other stakeholders; and
4. Exploring various analytical tools and frameworks that may contribute to positive action and political change.

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. **Explain** the relationship between politics and public policymaking;
2. **Critique** the various phases of the policymaking process;
3. **Identify** the key actors and their diverse roles in development and public policy;
4. **Revise** dominant frames based on real world case studies;

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<sup>1</sup> Special thanks to Dr. Anne Lan K. Candelaria for the original syllabus on which this one is based.

5. **Design** policy alternatives that are evidence-informed; and
6. **Advocate** public policymaking as both art and science.

## Course Outline and Readings

The required readings for this course are important in providing you with the background material to be able to participate effectively in the seminar discussions, and to complete your assignments. As such, the required reading and any other material provided for asynchronous review, should be completed in advance of that particular class session. Some of these readings are short pieces others are longer. As a start, please review the short piece, "How to Read a Book," which was written by one of my former colleagues to help graduate students understand how to read large amounts of material in a short period of time. For an overview of each session, please see the detailed schedule below. Most of the required readings will be available in the Moodle site I've prepared for the course.

### I. Introduction & Overview of Public Policy

Public policymaking

Introduction to the Policy Process

Policy Paradox

Public Policy v. Public Administration

Sustainable and Inclusive Development

- Anderson (2003). Public Policymaking. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 1, pp. 1-34.
- Birkland, T. (2011). An Introduction to the Policy Process (3rd Edition), Chapter 1. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
- Colebatch, H. (2002). Policy. Buckingham: Open University Press. Chapter 2. pp. 7-21.
- Lowi, T. (July 1964). "American Business, Public Policy, Case Studies and Political Theory", World Politics, pp. 677-715. Stone, D. (1997). Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making, Chapter 1. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Yongbeom Hur, Merl Hackbart, "MPA vs. MPP: A Distinction Without a Difference?" Journal of Public Affairs Education.

### II. The Policy Environment

A. Institutions

- Colebatch, H. (2002). Policy. Buckingham: Open University Press. Chapter 4, pp. 38-48.
- Miles' Law – The Impact of Bureaucracy in Public Policy

- Berman, D.R., Martin, L.L., and Kajfez, L.A., "Country Home Rule: Does Where You Stand Depend on Where You Sit?". *State & Local Government Review*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Spring, 1985), pp. 232-234  
[http://www.jstor.org/stable/4354846?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4354846?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)
- Global, Regional and National Institutions (UN, ESCAP, ASEAN)

#### B. Actors and Networks

- Anderson (2001). *Public Policymaking*, Chapter 2, pp. 39-84.
- Exploring the definition and value of EIPM according to Philippine Mayors".  
([http://www.inasp.info/uploads/filer\\_public/2014/06/19/evidence\\_for\\_what.pdf](http://www.inasp.info/uploads/filer_public/2014/06/19/evidence_for_what.pdf))
- Colebatch, H. (2002). *Policy*. Buckingham: Open University Press. Chapter 3 pp. 22-37.
- Echt, L. (2014) "A Role for Think Tanks in Polarized Societies"  
(<http://www.politicsandideas.org/?p=329>)

#### C. Information and the Use of Evidence

- Candelaria, A. (2014). "Evidence for What?:"
- <http://onthinktanks.org/2011/07/04/never-mind-the-gap-on-how-there-is-no-gap-between-research-and-policy-and-on-a-new-theory-part-1-of-3/>
- <http://onthinktanks.org/2011/07/14/never-mind-the-gap-on-how-there-is-no-gap-between-research-and-policy-and-on-a-new-theory-part-2-of-3/>
- <http://onthinktanks.org/2011/07/20/never-mind-the-gap-on-how-there-is-no-gap-between-research-and-policy-and-on-a-new-theory-part-3-of-3/>
- Candelaria, A. (2014). "The 3Ps", (<http://www.politicsandideas.org/?p=2099>)
- Wikileaks and Snowden revelations

### III. The Theory and Practice of Making Decisions

Rationality in Public Policy

Policy Choices and Policy Change

The Science of "Muddling Through"

Institutional Perspectives

Third World Policy Processes

#### A. Rationalism & Instrumentalism

- Simon, H. (1995). "Rationality in Political Behavior". *Political Psychology*. 16(1), pp. 45-61.

- March, J. and Olsen, J. (1996). "Institutional Perspectives on Political Institutions", *Governance*, 9(3), pp.248-264.

#### B. Institutions and Networks

- Lester, J. and Stewart, J. (2000). *Public Policy: An Evolutionary Approach (2nd Edition)*. Australia: Wadsworth. Chapter 5 (Agenda-Setting).
- Lindblom, C. (1959). The Science of "Muddling Through", *Public Administration Review*. 19(2), pp. 79-88.
- Reinicke, W. (1999-2000). "The Other World Wide Web: Global Public Policy Networks", *Foreign Policy*, 117, pp. 44-57.
- Hay, C. (1998). "The Tangled Webs We Weave: The Discourse, Strategy and Practice of Networking". In D. Marsh (ed.) *Comparing Policy Networks*, Buckingham: Open University Press, pp. 33-51.

#### C. Agenda-Setting & Policymaking in the Global South

- Horowitz, D. (1989). "Is there a Third-World Policy Process?", *Policy Sciences*, 22, pp.197- 212.
- Grindle, M. and Thomas, J. (1991). *Public Choices and Policy Change: The Political Economy of Reform in Developing Countries*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press. Chapter 2. pp. 18-42.

### IV. Policy Implementation, Evaluation and Analysis

#### A. Policy Implementation

- Hill, M. & Hupe, P. (2003). *Implementing Public Policy: Governance in Theory & Practice*, Chapter 3 and 4. London: Sage.
- Lipsky, M. (1980). Introduction, in *Street-level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the individual in public services*. (New York: Russell Sage), pp. 389-392.
- Mosse, D. (2004). "Is Good Policy Unimplementable? Reflections on the Ethnography of Aid Policy and Practice", *Development and Change*, 35(4), pp. 639-671.

#### B. Politics of Policy Evaluation

- Bovens, M., Hart, P. & Kuipers, S. (2008). The Politics of Policy Evaluation, In Goodin, Moran and Rein (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*.

#### C. Policy Analysis

- Lester, J. and Stewart, J. (2000). *Public Policy: An Evolutionary Approach (2nd Edition)*. Australia: Wadsworth. Chapter 3 (Policy Analysis).

### Course Sessions at a Glance

	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Key Readings</b>
1.	Introduction - Concepts - Typologies	Monday, 17 August	Anderson (2003). Birkland, T. (2011). Lowi, T. (July 1964)
2	Institutions	Tuesday, 18 August	Colebatch, H. (2002) Hay, C. (1998) Reinicke (1999-2000)
3.	Actors	Wednesday Morning, 19 August	Anderson (2001) Colebatch, H. (2002)
4.	Using Information and Evidence	Wednesday Afternoon, 19 August	Candelaria, A. (2014)
5.	Rationalism & Instrumentalism	Thursday, 20 August	Simon, H. (1995) March, J. and Olsen, J.
6.	Institutions and Networks	Saturday Morning, 22 August	Lester & Stewart (2000) Lindblom, C. (1959)
7.	Agenda-Setting & Policymaking	Saturday Afternoon, 22 August	Horowitz, D. (1989) Grindle & Thomas(1991)
8.	Assignments 1 &2 Mid-Term Policy Memo and Briefing	Online 1, Friday, 4 September (7:30-9:30)	
9.	Policy Implementation	Online 2, Friday, 11 September (7:30-9:30)	Hill & Hupe (2003) Lipsky, M. (1980) Mosse, D. (2004)
10.	Policy Evaluation	Online 3, Friday, 18 September (7:30-9:30)	Bovens, et al (2008)
11.	Assignment 3: Policy Roundtable: SDG Summit	Online 4, Thursday, 24-27 September (Due: 4 October)	Sustainable Development Goals
12.	Policy Analysis	October/December	Lester & Stewart (2000)
13.	Assignment 4 and 5: Final Policy Paper Presentations	October/December	

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

20% Policy Memo

10% Policy Briefing #1

20% Policy Roundtable Report

30% Policy Paper and Memo

20% Policy Briefing #2

100%

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL GRADING SCALE

**A** 92-11

**A-** 87-91

**B+** 83-86

**B** 79-82

Note: Round-off at: 0.70

**B-** 78 and below

**W** Failure due to absences

**Inc** Incomplete

## *DESCRIPTION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS & DUE DATES*

1. **Policy Memo (20%).** A policy memo serves as a guiding document for policy makers during an oral briefing. Policy memos are succinct, yet powerful, because it submits policy recommendations that can immediately be adopted to solve serious real-world problems. A more detailed guideline will be provided within the semester to assist you with this task.

Due Date: 5 September 2015

2. **Policy Briefing #1 (10%).** A policy briefing is a concise, 10-minute, oral presentation of the content of your policy memo. This assignment is designed to simulate your presentation to a senior decision-maker on whose staff you serve. Policy briefings are succinct, yet powerful. A more detailed guideline will be provided to you in class.

Due Date: 5 September 2015

3. **Policy Roundtable Report (20%).** Policy roundtable is an in-class activity that exposes the student to the chosen policy issue by providing them the opportunity to interact with policymakers and experts. The ultimate aim of this activity is to enable students to analyze how the formal and informal processes of policymaking interact and affect policy outcomes in the real world. During policy RTDs, students will be assessed based on the quality of questions asked/ critiques raised, and professionalism (i.e. respect of proper decorum/ protocol).

Due Date: 3 October 2015

4. **Policy Paper and Memo.** A policy paper seeks to address a legitimate contemporary policy issue. It uses sufficient data to make cost-benefit analysis and eventually propose viable policy alternatives. The audience for such paper is not necessarily the policy makers themselves. Often, these papers are produced, read and used by policy technocrats and other policy stakeholders such as think tanks. Policy papers are used as basis for policy memos, which is then used during oral briefings to intended policy makers. This policy paper should include a policy memo at the beginning of the paper. A more detailed guideline will be provided.

Due Date: October 2015

5. **Policy Briefing #2 (20%).** A policy briefing is a concise oral presentation of the content of your policy memo. This assignment is designed to simulate your presentation to a senior decision-maker on whose staff you serve. Policy briefings are succinct, yet powerful, because they present your policy recommendations to a senior decision-maker. You will have 10 minutes for your Policy Briefing. A more detailed guideline will be provided within the semester to assist you with this task.

Due Date: October 2015

**Extra Credit:** Students may choose between two extra credit opportunities for a total of 10 points, which are: 1). Internal blogging on ten substantive course topics; or 2). Additional Policy Roundtable Report on the UN CRPD Committee meetings at UNOHCHR in Geneva.

## TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT THE CLASS

### ***Use of Moodle as an online Learning Management Platform***

Moodle is an online learning management system designed to provide teacher and learners with a single robust, secure and integrated system to create personalized learning environments. For many years now, the Loyola Schools has been using Moodle for many of its courses for varied reasons.

Specifically for this course, the use of Moodle intends to:

1. make readings more accessible to students
2. facilitate regular rapid assessment of students' knowledge of key concepts
3. allow in-depth discussion of topics after class hours
4. remind students of submission deadlines of course requirements

Moodle does not intend to:

1. replace face-to-face learning
2. swap physical absence with online presence – a student's presence during online discussions (i.e., postings, comments, blogs, etc.) cannot be considered as a substitute for any cut incurred
3. show final grades of students – grades posted online serve as a guide; only grades posted in AISIS will be considered official/ final

How to access Moodle:

1. You will be requested to provide your full name, ID # and email on the first day of class for Moodle enrollment. This will then be forwarded to the ITRMO office for verification and pre-enrollment.
2. ITRMO shall inform you by email once pre-enrollment has been made.
3. Once confirmed, please login to <http://moodle.ateneo.edu/ls>
4. Your default username and password is your student ID #. Upon logging in, please change your password immediately.
5. It is important that you activate your Moodle account within the first week of class. Inform the ITRMO immediately if you are having problems logging in or finding our class in Moodle.
6. Several Students' Guide to Moodle are available online.

## Blackboard Collaborate Webconferencing Platform

Collaborate Virtual Classroom Link: <http://tinyurl.com/CogburnPublicPolicy2015/> or

<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2009293&password=M.7E8CD77B4F4343DF668BF4184D4C6B>

### CLASS POLICIES

#### ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR AND USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. Class attendance shall be expected of all students. You are entitled to three (3) absences for the entire semester. As per the Student Handbook, there is no “excused” absence.
2. The class shall enjoy a 10 to 15 minute break at mid-point of the class period.
3. Mobile phones must be switched off or put to silent mode during class time. You are allowed to use laptops and/or tablets to take down notes. Texting, taking photos of my PowerPoint slides and recording my lectures are strictly prohibited in class.
4. You are expected to observe proper decorum during class. As this is a graduate class, a critical and engaged learning environment is encouraged. However, please be mindful of your language and behavior when reciting or engaging your classmates. Disrespect towards others will not be tolerated.

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All papers should uphold intellectual honesty and scholarship. Proper annotations (either APA (American Psychological Association) or Chicago format) should be used for all written assignments. Students are encouraged to use academically acceptable sources such as academic journals and textbooks. Online sources must be cited properly as well. Wikipedia, blogs and other similar information platforms are NOT allowed as references. Also, make sure your papers are free from grammatical, typographical and factual errors.

Sanctions:

- First Offense: verbal reprimand and an “F” for the course requirement in question
- Second Offense: automatic failure in this course, and filing of disciplinary case

Please refer to the following documents for further information:

- a. *“Student Guide to the Code of Academic Integrity of the Loyola Schools” (2012 Edition)*
- b. Exploring Ten Types of Plagiarism:

[http://turnitin.com/assets/en\\_us/media/plagiarism\\_spectrum.php](http://turnitin.com/assets/en_us/media/plagiarism_spectrum.php)

#### SUBMISSION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES



Hard copies of all policy memos and policy paper must be submitted during class time, unless otherwise specified. Papers submitted after class time will be considered late. Late papers will merit the corresponding deductions:

1-2 days late = 1 point deduction

3-5 days late = 3 points deduction

Submission beyond 5 days late will not be accepted; a grade of "0" will be given.

#### Policy for Make-Up

As a general rule, there will be no make-up for a missed or failed course requirement, unless if such is a result of any of the following circumstances:

a. University-sponsored events – If you are attending a university-sponsored activity that requires you to be out of the campus on the day of an exam or submission of course requirement, you must submit written proof of your attendance/ participation in the said activity (such as a letter from the conference organizer). You are given 48 hours upon your return to hand-in your paper or take your make-up exam.

b. Medical reasons – For reasons of medical emergency or confinement, please attach a photocopy of your medical certificate when you submit your paper or when you request for a make-up test.

Missed submissions without valid reason shall be marked "0".

#### STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with disabilities and special needs should approach the teacher during the first week of class so that reasonable academic accommodations can be reviewed immediately. The syllabus and other class materials are available in accessible formats upon request.