

Subject	Theories of Public Policy and Administration			
	Type	Semester	ECTS	Code
	Obligatory	1	5	
Course Lecturer				
Aims and Objectives	<p>The course gives students a thorough overview of various approaches to examining public policy and administration. Students can better understand the complex dynamics that shape policy-making and public administration by exploring multiple analysis methods. It will cover the fundamental theories of the policy-making and administration process, such as rational choice theory, sociological institutionalism, historical institutionalism, and incrementalism. The course will include lectures and individual and group discussions to help students understand and explain public policy and administration issues using these theories. The discussions will also explore different public policy and administration domains in Kosovo and other countries, making the course more engaging.</p> <p>The course will be structured in the following way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to the policy-making and administration process, - Introduction to theories of public policy and administration, - Theory 1: Rational choice theory, - Theory 2: The three institutionalism -Theory 3: Incrementalism, - From theory to the practice of public policy and administration. 			
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the course, students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate a critical awareness of the policy-making process and administration from the perspectives of the major theoretical perspectives above, - compare, analyse, evaluate and explain issues of public policy and administration using different theories, - Apply the practical side of public policy and administration knowledge (e.g. multi-level governance) - Write and present reports and essays concerning questions of public policy and administration from the perspective of the selected significant theories 			
Course Content	Course Plan			Week
	Introduction to public policy, the policy-making process, and administration			1
	What do we understand with public policy, public policy analysis, and administration? What shapes the policy-making process? What are the actors and the instruments in policy and administration?			
	How to write policy-memos and administration evaluations			2
	Theories of policy-making and administration			3
	What are the different approaches to the study of public policy and administration and what are they helpful for?			
	In-class presentations			4
Rational choice theory			5	
What is rational choice theory about? What are some of its criticisms? How can rational choice theory be applied to the study of public policy and administration?				
In-class presentations			6	

	The three institutionalisms What are the three new institutionalisms? What are some of their criticisms? How can we use the three institutionalisms to better understand public policy and administration?	7		
	In-class presentations	8		
	Incrementalism What is incrementalism about? What are some of its criticisms? How can we use incrementalism to better understand public policy and administration?	9		
	In-class presentations	10		
	From theory to the practical side of public policy and administration Understanding the practical side of public policy and administration. Looking at EU multi-level governance as an example.	11		
	In-class presentations	12-13		
	Case Study Final exam	14-15		
Teaching/Learning Methods	Teaching/Learning Activity	Weight (%)		
	1. Lectures	15%		
	2. Discussions/Critique	15%		
	3. Policy memos (homework)	30%		
	4. Final essay	40%		
Assessment Methods	Assessment Activity	Number	Week	Weight (%)
	1. Attendance and participation	Regular	1-12	10%
	2. In-class presentation	1	3-13	20%
	3. Policy-memo	1	8	30%
	4. Final exam (essay)	1	14-15	40%
Course resources	Resources	Number		
	1. Literature	Multiple		
	2. Projector	1		
ECTS Workload	Activity	Weekly hrs	Total workload	
	1. Lectures and discussions	2	30	
	2. Method work	1	10	
	3. Homework, homework review and final essay	3	45	
	4. Homework and presentations	3	40	
Literature/References	Selected chapters from the following books:			
	1. Mahajan, A. P. (2022). <i>Comparative Public Administration</i> . India: SAGE Publications India Pvt, Limited.			
	2. Sardaryan, H. T. (2021). <i>International Perspectives on Public Administration</i> . United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis.			
	3. Jreisat, J. E. (2020). <i>Comparative Public Administration and Policy</i> . United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis Group.			
	4. Jreisat, J. E. (2019). <i>Comparative Public Administration And Policy</i> . United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis.			
	5. Cairney, P. (2012) <i>Understanding Public Policy: Theories and Issues</i> . Palgrave Macmillan, London.			
	6. Shafritz, J.M., Russell, E.W., Borick, Ch.P., and Hyde, A. (2017) <i>Introducing Public Administration</i> . Routledge: New York.			
	7. Sabatier, P. A. and Weible, C. M. (2014) <i>Theories of the Policy Process</i> . Westview Press: Colorado.			

8. Shafritz, J.M., and Borick, Ch.p (2011) *Cases in Public Policy and Administration*. Routledge: New York.
9. Stone, D. (2001) *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*, W. W. Norton & Company: New York.
10. Birkland, T. A. (2015) *An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts and models of public policy making*. Routledge: New York.
11. Goodin, R. (1996) *The Theory of Institutional Design*. Cambridge University Press: New York.
12. Moran, M., Rein, M. and Goodin, R. E. (2008) *Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*. Oxford University Press Inc.: New York.

Selected journal articles:

1. Wouter Van Dooren, Morten Hjortskov, Steven F. De Vadder, Koen Verhoest, The consistency of question-order bias in a changing political context, *Public Administration*, 10.1111/padm.12919, (2023).
2. Howlett, M. And Cashore, B. (2014) Conceptualizing Public Policy, *Comparative Policy Studies*, 17-33.
3. Sabatier, P. A. (1991) Toward Better Theories of the Policy Process, *Political Science and Politics*, 24 (2), 147-156.
4. John, P. (2017) Theories of policy change and variation reconsidered: a prospectus for the political economy of public policy, *Policy Sciences*, 51 (1), 1-16.
5. Hall, P. (1996) Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms, *Political Studies*, 44, 936-957.
6. Neimun, M. And Stambough, S. J. (2005) Rational Choice Theory and the Evaluation of Public Policy, *Policy Studies Journal*, 26 (3).

Contact