

## Public Policies

UGRA\_007964

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Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability, Global Governance
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	6
Teacher responsible	Daniel Hywell Nicholls - danielhywell.nicholls@esade.edu

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<b>Course Goals</b>	Students will be able to formulate and analyse public policies, as well as thinking critically about the importance of public policy for political and social institutions.
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<b>Previous knowledge</b>	No previous knowledge beyond the courses studied previously within ESADE is required.
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<b>Prerequisites</b>	There are no prerequisites for this subject.
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<b>Teaching methodology</b>	The course has been divided into 10 thematic sections. For each section there will be lectures delivered by the course lecturer as well as case-study activities for students to carry out on particular areas of public policy (policy design, policy evaluation, policy comparison, application of theories to cases) during class. These exercises must be uploaded to the course Moodle. They will not be graded as such, but participation in, and engagement with, these activities will count towards students' participation grade.
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### Description

<b>Course contribution to program</b>	The course helps students to understand how policy is formulated and how the success of a policy can be assessed. As public policy is a crucial feature of governance, and responds to the social contract which exists, it forms a vital part of students' understanding of political structures and processes.
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### Short description

The aim of the course is to enable students to understand, analyse and formulate public policies. Public policy forms part of our everyday lives – from how we work and what we eat to economic stability and air quality – although we are often unaware of the policy decisions and processes that are carried out. Indeed, a decision not to carry out a particular policy or to maintain the status quo is a form of policy in itself, which reflects the
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competing interests of various groups who battle to control the policy agenda and frame the narrative. Public policy involves various policy tools (carrots, sticks, nudges, information, service provision) and is formulated with the participation of numerous stakeholders, both private and public, with government officials at different levels responsible for different parts of policy formulation and delivery. As public policy is fundamentally about controlling agents' behaviour, there is a strong element of behavioural analysis within the course, and students will reflect on how certain regulations are likely to promote compliance or resistance within different groups. From a more political angle, students will learn how different institutional contexts and forms of state-society relations condition the types of policy action which are carried out.

The course aims to help students understand why and how certain policies are adopted, and how we can assess their success. There is a strong theoretical element to gain a schematic understanding of different approaches to public policy, and this is complemented by activities in which students design policies themselves and assess the impact of real-world policy outputs. The focus is primarily on domestic processes, but international and transnational policy regimes are also analysed.

From a big-picture perspective, the course examines the way society is governed and how states function. In this sense public policies respond to, and underwrite, the social contract that exists, and policy change is often a response to, and cause of, social instability or perceived imbalances in rights, distribution and justice.

## Program Learning Objectives

### GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order

- Critical and Analytical Thinking
  - Apply relevant techniques and tools to analyze and evaluate economic and financial information.
- Self-Development
  - Develop the capacity for critical analysis coherent with ethical and deontological conceptions.
- International Relations and Global Governance
  - Evaluate different alternatives of governance models and public policies taking into account their impact in terms of efficiency and equity.

## Bibliography

- Cairney, Paul, Understanding Public Policy: Theories and Issues, Bloomsbury (Book)
- Hassel , Anke & Wegrich, Kai, How to Do Public Policy, OUP (Book)
- Hill, Michael & Varone, Frédéric, The Public Policy Process, Taylor and Francis (Book)
- Knill, Christoph & Tosun, Jale, Public Policy: A New Introduction, Bloomsbury

## Content

#	Topic
1	Setting the Scene What is Public Policy? Why study public policy? Public policy and the social contract Polanyi and redistributive policy Public policy, politics and polity Key actors – superstructure & engine room; private actors; policy networks; NGOs; International Organisations; regional government authorities; street-level bureaucrats Policy tools – regulation, incentives, information, direct service provision, nudges Self-regulation and co-regulation Case study: Charging VAT on private schools
2	Superstructure and Engine Room Aims and limits of the superstructure Dynamics of the engine room The iron triangle Intersectoral rivalry Structural, situational and procedural channels Case study: Increasing fertility
3	Institutional Context Unicameral and bi-cameral systems Federalism Theories of institutions Public policy and social contract theory Public policy in clientelistic and programmatic regimes Public policy and selectorate theory Log rolling Bureaucratic slack Electoral systems and economic policy Case study: Chips Act
4	Policy Theories Comprehensive and bounded rationality Behaviouralism Policy cycle Top-down Vs bottom-up approaches Garbage Can/ Multiple Streams approach Multilevel governance Actor Coalition Framework and the status quo Punctuated equilibrium and change Case study: Improving educational results within PISA
5	Power & Ideas Narrative and framing Viruses, norms, ideologies & world views Neo-Gramscian approaches National values and PP Agenda setting Social construction of target group Reserve ideas & public policy Think-tanks and public policy Institutionalisation of ideas Case study: Sex work
6	Doing Public Policy Evidence based policy design Design thinking Choosing a tool Consultation Programme theory Positive and negative inducements Problem definition – morality, equity, welfare and the commons Perverse incentives Case study: Gilets Jaunes
7	Implementing Public Policy Administrative machinery Target population response Flexibility and compliance Benchmarking and performance targets Forbearance & counterimplementation Vertical follow-through and horizontal coordination Enforcement, activation and conflict management Implementation deficits Case study: Immigration policy
8	Lobbying & Public Policy in the EU Institutional context Types of frame Upstream lobbying Public consultations Transparency Baptist & bootlegger coalitions Case study: Inner City Crime
9	Global Governance and Public Policy Transnational problems and national regulations Policy transfer International organisations Deliberation & diffusion International agreements Global institutional and ideational structures Transnational advocacy networks Polycentric governance Neoliberal governance and ideological policy Globalisation, external policy pressure and social cohesion Case study: Climate change
10	Foreign policy and grand strategy Identity and role Regime type Alliances and dependencies Neighbourhood and geography Defence-offence balance Institutions, regimes and orders Power Trade Militarism Domestic pressure groups Case study: Constraining China

## Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Individual or team exercises	Participation	Retake and ordinary round	10.00%
Other	Policy evaluation activity	Retake and ordinary round	20.00%
Quizzes/tests	Multiple-choice test	Retake and ordinary round	10.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Final exam	Retake and ordinary round	60.00%

#### PROGRAMS

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)  
 GEL23 Year 2 (Basic)