PPOL 5110/SOSC5780 Foundation in Public Policy
Fall 2023

SYLLABUS

Time and Venue
Group 1: Monday 9AM-11:50AM @ Room 1104 (Academic Concourse, next to LT-A)
Group 2: Monday 1:30PM-4:20PM @ Room 6602 (6/F, Lift 31-32)

Instructor
Associate Professor HE Jingwei Alex, Division of Public Policy
E-mail: ajwhe@ust.hk; Telephone: 3469-2282
Office hour: Wednesday 2:30PM-4:30PM @Room4616A

Instructional Assistant
Dr Holvert HUNG (E-mail: hholvert@ust.hk)

Course Description
This course introduces students to the study of public policy. We will explore key theories and analytical frameworks for public policy and how they can be applied to approach contemporary public policy issues. The first part of the course will deal with the roles of key building blocks of the policy systems, such as approaches, values, policy actors, policy instruments, and policy context, in shaping policymaking. The second part of the course will examine key stages in the policy process, such as agenda setting, policy formation, decision-making, policy implementation and policy evaluation.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course, students should be able to:
   ✓ Be familiar with key terms, concepts, approaches, and frameworks concerning public policy.
   ✓ Describe important structures and interactions among key components of policy systems, such as policy actors, policy environment and policy instruments.
   ✓ Understand key theories and frameworks of the policy process and identify areas of potential improvement in a given context.
   ✓ Improve analytical, writing, group work, and presentation skills.

Textbooks
   ➢ Wu, X., Ramesh, M., and Fritzen, S. (2018). *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*. London: Routledge.
   ➢ Hassel, A., and Wegrich, K. (2022). *How to Do Public Policy?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Assessment

Class participation	10%	Continuous
Policy memo (individual)	20%	Due on October 20
Group presentation	30%	November 13 and 20
Peer evaluation	10%	Due on presentation days
Final exam	30%	November 30

Code of Academic Integrity

All work must be entirely your own. Please cite the relevant work whenever you borrow ideas from others, using the proper reference format (e.g., APA, MLA). Examples of violations of the academic integrity code include but are not limited to: 1) failure to use quotation marks when quoting, 2) failure to give full credit when paraphrasing, 3) use of others' ideas or work products, 4) submission of work prepared through impermissible collaboration, and 5) submission of work prepared by you for another class. (Your work in this class may be related to your work in another class, but the work you submit for this class should not duplicate that submitted for another class.) Violation of the Academic Integrity Code may result in failure in the course, as well as more serious academic sanctions. For details about the academic integrity code, please refer to https://acadreg.ust.hk/generalreg.html.

Please check for plagiarism before you turn in each homework, for example using the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin available on Canvas. A rule of thumb is that the similarity score should not exceed 15%, excluding references. Any use of generative artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT must be declared in written works.

Late Submission Policy

Late assignments will incur a penalty for each day they are late, except in cases where extensions have been granted by the instructor. Except for emergencies, extensions are much more likely to be granted when they are requested well in advance, with strong justification. If you are struggling to complete your coursework, please discuss with the instructor sooner rather than later.

Class #1 What is Public Policy?

September 4

Readings:
- Howlett, M., Ramesh, M., Perl, A. (2009). *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems* (3rd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 1: Why study public policy?).
- Wu, X., Ramesh, M., and Fritzen, S. (2018). *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*. London: Routledge (Chapter 1: Public managers and the policy process).
- Hassel, A., and Wegrich, K. (2022). *How to Do Public Policy?* Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 1: Public policy).

Class #2 Power and Institutions

September 11

Readings:
- Heywood, A. (2007). *Politics*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan (Chapter 1: What is politics? Chapter 2: Governments, systems, and regimes).
- Cairney, P. (2020). *Understanding Public Policy: Theories and Issues* (2nd edition). London: Bloomsbury (Chapter 3: Power and public policy).

Class #3 Policy Actors

September 18

Readings:

➢ Howlett, M., Ramesh, M., Perl, A. (2009). *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems* (3rd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 3: The policy context).

Class #4 Values and Ethics in Public Policy
September 25

Readings:
➢ Stone, D. (2022). *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*. New York: WW Norton (Chapter 2: Equity; Chapter 3: Efficiency; Chapter 4: Security; Chapter 5: Liberty).
➢ Rosenthal, D., and Perlman, B. (1986). Ethical dimensions of public policy and administration. *Polity*, 19(1), 56-73.
Case#1: Responding to the COVID-19 crisis in Singapore's migrant worker dormitories

Class #5 Agenda Setting
October 7 (Saturday; make-up class) @ Room 2406 (2/F, lift 17-18)
*October 2 is a public holiday; no class.

Readings:
➢ Wu, X., Ramesh, M., and Fritzen, S. (2018). *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*. London: Routledge (Chapter 2: Agenda setting).
➢ Hassel, A., and Wegrich, K. (2022). *How to Do Public Policy?* Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 3: How to set the agenda?).
Case#2: Launching rural health insurance policy in China

Class #6 Policy Formulation
October 9

Readings:
➢ Wu, X., Ramesh, M., and Fritzen, S. (2018). *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*. London: Routledge (Chapter 3: Policy formulation).
➢ Hassel, A., and Wegrich, K. (2022). *How to Do Public Policy?* Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 4: How to choose and design policy instruments?)
➢ John, P. (2016). Behavioural approaches: how nudges lead to more intelligent policy design? In: Peters, B.G., and Zittoun, P. (eds), *Contemporary Approaches to Public Policy*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 113-132.

Class #7 Decision Making
October 16

Readings:
➢ Wu, X., Ramesh, M., and Fritzen, S. (2018). *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*. London: Routledge (Chapter 4: Decision making).
➢ Howlett, M., Ramesh, M., Perl, A. (2009). *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems* (3rd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 6: Public policy decision-making).
Case #3: Controversies of social welfare program in Taiwan

Policy memo due on October 20 (6PM)

Class #8 Policy Implementation
October 28 (Saturday; make-up class) @ Room 2406 (2/F, lift 17-18)
*October 23 is a public holiday; no class.

Readings:
- Wu, X., Ramesh, M., and Fritzen, S. (2018). *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*. London: Routledge (Chapter 5: Policy implementation).
- Hassel, A., and Wegrich, K. (2022). *How to Do Public Policy?* Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 5: How to implement public policy?)

Case #4: "Think of a Pig": Shanghai's waste sorting policy

October 30: Reading Week. NO CLASS.

Class #9 Policy Evaluation
November 6

Readings:
- Wu, X., Ramesh, M., and Fritzen, S. (2018). *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*. London: Routledge (Chapter 6: Policy evaluation).
- Hassel, A., and Wegrich, K. (2022). *How to Do Public Policy?* Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 4: How to evaluate policies?)

Class #10 Workshop: Student Presentations (I)
November 13

Class #11 Workshop: Student Presentations (II)
November 20

Class #12 Policy Innovation, Learning, and Transfer
November 27

Readings:
- Berry, F.S., and Berry, W.D. (2018). Innovation and diffusion models in policy research. In: Weible, C.M., and Sabatier, P.A. (eds), *The Theories of the Policy Process* (4th edition), New York: Westview, pp. 253-300.
- Cairney, P. (2020). *Understanding Public Policy: Theories and Issues*. London: Bloomsbury (Chapter 12: Policy learning and transfer).
- Dolowitz, D.P., and Marsh, D. (2000). Learning from abroad: the role of policy transfer in contemporary policy-making. *Governance*, 13(1), 5-23.

Final exam on November 30.