Analysis of Public Policies

Prof. Martino Mazzoleni; Prof. Alessandro Colombo

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is to provide students with an overview of the categories, theoretical approaches and analytical tools developed by political science with reference to policy-making processes, their actors, objectives, resources, and methods of interaction. In addition, the course explores topics related to the choice of tools and the carrying out of policy programmes in contemporary society.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* have the fundamental notions for the political analysis of *policies*;
* identify *policy* issues included in the public agenda;
* recognise the actors and their positions on public policy issues;
* identify the problems and limits of implementing public policies;
* recreate strategies for representing interests in the public arena;
* conduct a general analysis of policy-making processes;

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is organised in two parts. The first (40 hours of lessons) is the "Analysis of Public Policies" module of the "Public Policies: political analysis and European Union law" course; it will be held until December. The second part (20 hours) will take place in the second semester.

First part: Analysis of public policies *(Prof. Martino Mazzoleni and Prof. Alessandro Colombo)*

* Definitions and study of public policies;
* types of public policies;
* policy tools*;*
* policy-making actors and their resources;
* the policy cycle: problems and policy, the construction of the agenda, the formulation of public policies; rational models of policy decision making;
* the policy cycle: implementation of policies and public administrations.

Second part: Actors, models and cases in public policies *(Prof. Martino Mazzoleni)*

* political parties, electoral competition and public policies;
* interests, lobbying and public policies*;*
* theoretical-analytical models of policy making*;*
* the change of public policies: paradigms, objectives, strategies;
* policies at work: case presentations.

***READING LIST***

1. L. Bobbio-G. Pomatto-S. Ravazzi, *Le politiche pubbliche. Problemi, soluzioni, incertezze, conflitti,* Mondadori Università, Florence, 2017.

2. A. Pritoni, *Politica e interessi. Il lobbying nelle democrazie contemporanee,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2021.

Further readings might be indicated in class and on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is taught through frontal lectures and includes in-depth input from experts and actors in policy making. Students will be provided with teaching material via Blackboard.

During the second semester, students will be given the opportunity to recreate an empirical case of policy making in order to verify their degree of understanding of the fundamental notions presented in the course.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written test. 20% of the mark will be determined by closed-ended questions (1 point per correct answer), the rest of the mark by open questions. Questions will be evaluated on: coherence of answers with questions; accuracy and completeness of contents shown; ability to use relevant concepts and models among those illustrated in class and in exam texts, to answer the questions.

For the students enrolled in the Public Policies Master’s degree who have already taken a SPS/04 Public Policies Analysis exam during their Bachelor’s degree programme, the exam will consist in a paper on one of the topics indicated during the academic year, followed by an oral exam on the paper content and the reading list (please note that these students are expected to share the content of their SPS/04 Public Policies Analysis course with the lecturer). Part of the assessment (up to 2 points) will focus on the re-enactment of the policy-making empirical case.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for the course. However having passed the exam of Political science is worthwhile. Any updates to syllabus and reading list as well as all notices will be published on Blackboard. All students are invited to register on the course Blackboard page in order to keep up to date.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.