



KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

GITAM (Deemed to be University)
Rudraram, Patancheru Mandal
Hyderabad, Telangana 502329

Course Code: PPOL6021	Course Title: Public Policy: Thought and Practice	
Trimester: 2	Course Type: Core	Credits: 3
Home Program(s): MPP	Batch/Academic Year: 2023-2025	
Course Lead: Dr. Anant Maringanti, Dr. Vishnu S Pillai.	Assigned T/RA- Academic Associate: Rashad Khan	

Course Description

The process of policymaking is complex, cyclical and contentious. It involves many actors – state and non-state – motivated by various interests, values, perceptions and preferences. This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the practical and theoretical issues of the public policy process. It will equip students with an understanding of the extant theories of policymaking processes. It would also demonstrate the limitations of these models and frameworks in predicting patterns and having universal applicability. The course would provide an in-depth understanding of India's policymaking process by emphasising the political nature of the process, i.e., how various actors' interests influence the policy process. It would also open a dialogue about the applicability of extant theories to India and possible ways to build theories that may be relevant to the country.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the key concepts in Public Policy and the various policy frameworks and approaches.
2. Describe public policy theories and recognise the contexts underlying their evolution.
3. Outline policy theories and assess their applicability in the Indian context.
4. Analyse historical events and identify policy opportunities, and then create them or devise means to leverage them in their favour to influence policymaking.
5. Gain the ability to review any given theory (about a stage in the policy process) and test its hypothesis using empirical cases (also using the methods they have studied in the Statistics of Public Policy Course in the first semester).

Course Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Be familiar with current policy process theories and the context in which they were formed.
2. Be able to analyse the applicability of the extant theories to India.
3. Be familiar with the processes and players in the policy domain.
4. Understand the stages of the policy cycle and their interactions.
5. Appreciate the political nature of the policy process.
6. Gain awareness of real-world public policy challenges and how they impact policymaking.

Assessment Criteria

Component	Weight	Remarks	
Attendance	15%	15 Marks if 22 -24 classes are attended	
		10 Marks if 19-21 classes are attended	
		5 Marks if 16-18 classes are attended	
		0 Marks if fewer than 16 classes are attended	
		A minimum of 65% Attendance is required to qualify for the paper.	
		Marks	Criteria for the Sessions involving discussions
Class participation	15%	0	Absent/ non-participation
		1 to 5	Responds to questions asked in class by the lecturer - offers straightforward information.

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		6 to 10	Contributes to the discussions in the class. Responds thoughtfully to other students' views.
		11 to 15	Read and refer to materials other than the course content and provide valuable insights into the discussions in the class.
Class Summary (individual)	10%	The students will take turns in a group of two or three writing down class notes and submit them by the next day at 1 pm. The TA/instructor will evaluate this,	

		give marks accordingly and circulate the class summaries to the students for reference.
Term paper (group paper)	30%	The students will consider a particular problem area and propose solutions to address the problem. The student has to formulate the policy options (policy solution) and, for the same, has to link them to the theory that they have studied in the agenda-setting and policy formulation stage in the policy cycle.
Final examination (individual) - essay of 5 pages	30%	The student will be given a scenario and have to write an essay as required (possibly on policy challenges or suggested interventions). The exam duration is 120 minutes.

Textbooks and Course Materials

1. Wu, X, M. Ramesh, M. Howlett, and S. Fritzen (2018). The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process, Routledge.
2. Howlett, M., M. Ramesh and A. Perl (2009). Studying Public Policy. Oxford University Press, 4th Edition.
3. Dalwai, A., Mehta, A., Shrivastava, A., Tyagi, A., Ray, R., Singh, R., Joshi, S. S., Pandey, S., Tewary, S., & Shridhar, T. (2023). Reflections on India's Public Policies: by India's Experienced Policymakers. Blue Rose Publishers.
4. Sivaramakrishnan, K.C., Governance of Megacities: Fractured Thinking, Fragmented Setup (Delhi, 2014; online edn, Oxford Academic, 22 Jan. 2015)
5. The Public Policy Theory Primer, Kevin B. Smith and Christopher W. Larimar, Westview Press, 2009.
6. Understanding Public Policy: Theories and Issues, Paul Cairney, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
7. Complexity Theory in Political Science and Public Policy, Paul Cairney, Political Studies Review, Aug 7, 2012.
8. Theories of the Policy Process, Christopher M. Weible, Paul A. Sabatier, Christopher M. Weible, Paul A. Sabatier, Routledge, 2017
9. Shaping Policy in India: Alliance, Advocacy, Activism, Rajesh Chakrabarti and Kaushiki Sanyal, Oxford University Press, 2017.

Course Schedule

Unit I	Sessions: 4	Introduction to Public Policy Process
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is Public Policy? Various definitions of Public Policy 2. The policymaking process (five-stage version): Applied problem-solving and stages in the policy cycle. 3. The policy cycle – actor hourglass model. 4. Policy Regimes: The role of actors, ideas, and institutions. 5. Components of policy capacity 6. The inherent policy challenge: Addressing the issues of risk and uncertainty. 7. How government works in India: Tiers of Governance, Federalism, Local self-governance 8. Legislature, Executive and Judiciary: Roles, Limits and Tensions: Basics of separation of powers, how it plays out in the reality of India. 9. Practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 8 <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures covering topics 1 to 9 by Dr. Vishnu S Pillai – 2 sessions. • Practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 9 by Dr. Anand Maringanti.- 2 sessions 		
Unit II	Sessions: 4	Agenda Setting
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda-setting process, sub-stages of agenda setting. 		

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Factors driving public policy agenda setting. 3. Anthony King, Richard Hofferbert, and Richard Simeon- "Funnel of Causality" 4. Anthony Downs - "Issue Attention Cycle" 5. Patterns of agenda-setting (Cobb, Ross, and Ross) 6. Kingdon's analytical framework for agenda setting – policy windows and policy monopolies. 7. Baumgartner and Jones's modes of agenda setting. 8. Practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 7. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures covering topics 1 to 7 by Dr. Vishnu S Pillai – 2 sessions. • The practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 7 by Dr. Anand Maringanti.- 2 sessions 		
Unit III	Sessions: 4	Policy Formulation

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stages of policy formulation 2. Paul Sabatier - "Advocacy Coalition Framework of Policy Change" 3. Policy instruments on a policy mix– Christopher Hood's NATO Model. 4. Information-based policy tools - exhortation, benchmarking, performance indicators, etc. 5. Authority-based policy tools – command-and-control regulation, self-regulation, advisory committees 6. Treasure-based policy instruments – subsidies, financial disincentives, think-tank funding, etc. 7. Organisation-based policy instruments – direct provision, public enterprises, market creation, etc. 8. Shaping laws in India (Formulation): Who influences and makes laws? Identifying a policy problem and framing solution, Navigating the Legislature. 9. Practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 8. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures covering topics 1 to 8 by Dr. Vishnu S Pillai – 2 sessions. • The practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 8 by Dr. Anand Maringanti.- 2 sessions 		
Unit IV	Sessions: 4	Decision Making
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actors in the decision-making process 2. Rational and incremental decision-making models will cover topics such as rational choice theory, bounded rationality theory, and prospect theory. 3. Etzioni - Mixed–scanning model of decision making. 4. Cohen, March, and Olsen - Garbage-can model of decision making. 5. Baumgartner and Jones – Punctuated equilibrium models 6. Carol Weiss - Decision–accretion model of decision making. 7. Blame avoidance. 8. Decision-making styles and the policy subsystem features. 9. Practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 8. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures covering topics 1 to 8 by Dr. Vishnu S Pillai – 2 sessions. • The practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 8 by Dr. Anand Maringanti.- 2 sessions 		
Unit V	Sessions: 4	Implementation

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key actors in policy implementation 2. Top-down and bottom-up approaches to understanding policy implementation problems. 3. Challenges in policy implementation 4. Insights from game-theoretic models on regulatory implementation. 5. Policy design approach towards understanding policy implementation – revisiting Christopher Hood's NATO Model 6. Aligning the goals and means optimally during policy implementation. 7. Practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 6. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures covering topics 1 to 6 by Dr. Vishnu S Pillai – 2 sessions. • The practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 6 by Dr. Anand Maringanti.- 2 sessions

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Unit VI	Sessions: 4	Evaluation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key actors in the policy evaluation process 2. Utilisation of policy evaluation – policy learning, policy termination 3. Learning from policy evaluation 4. Evidence-based policymaking 5. Policy evaluation models 6. Policy termination 7. Practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 6. <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures covering topics 1 to 6 by Dr. Vishnu S Pillai – 2 sessions. • The practical skill development learning activities in alignment with topics 1 to 6 by Dr. Anand Maringanti. - 2 sessions 		