Tutorials in Public Policy

Tutorial 5

Cancer Treatment

62 Days to Start

Missed

NHS Targets

Source: NHS England
Before we start: midterm feedback

I submitted my grades for the midterm exam — here are the main issues to fix before the final exam:

- **Answer the actual question** (how public problems reach the agenda ≠ what agenda-setting is and how it works)
- **Proofread your text!** 60% of my batch lost a grade on spelling (‘the medias’), grammar or tenses
- **Always cite authors and examples** (answers were generally good on examples, less so on authors)

**N.B.** I graded a random batch of students, not your/my group(s) specifically
Before we start: midterm feedback

Grade breakdown — the MCQ (my average: 5.8/10) went fine, the open question (my average: 5.3/10) less so:

- Public problems are issues *framed* by *social groups* in order to *compel governments* to act upon their *causes*

- Problem features such as *low technicality, ambiguity* or *lack of precedent* can increase their *social significance* or *long-term relevance*, which will maximise their chance of reaching the (governmental) agenda

- Examples: Alzheimer’s disease, Islamic extremism
Care Quality Commission

NHS Improvement
Hitting the Target but Missing the Point
## Four models of governance

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<th>Knights / Knaves</th>
<th>Econs / Humans</th>
<th>Prospect theory: Failure?</th>
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<td><strong>Trust &amp; Altruism (T&amp;A)</strong></td>
<td>Knights</td>
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<td><strong>Choice &amp; Competition (C&amp;C)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Targets &amp; Terror (T&amp;T)</strong></td>
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<td>Econs</td>
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NHS under pressure after targets are missed

use by the media and others as a blaming device

control of public services by central government

control of professionals by managers

creation of new statistics
This week’s case study (performance targets)

- How a government implemented performance central units, targets, ‘five-star’ ratings, ‘P45’ sanctions
- How a policy community works politicians, bureaucrats (civil servants), professionals, academics and think tanks, private sector consultants
- Whether the policy/politics link exists → whether voters blame/reward service performance → (dis)continuity from Thatcher/Major to Blair/Brown?
This week’s reading (Hood 2008)

- Identify the **unintended effects** of target-setting
target ‘gaming’, Goodhart’s Law, observer paradox, ratchet effect, threshold effect, output distortion

- List the **determinants** of public service reform
  past governmental records, centralisation/devolution, majoritarian political system

- List what the author offers as **contextual factors**
negativity bias, (lack of) trust in official statistics
YES
MINISTER

10’ break
Workshop roadmap for today

link.infini.fr/ppol-2022

● Feedback on your topic and literature review

See the short comments at the end of your proposals

● Finalise the building blocks of your presentation

→ A policy topic on which you are going to ask a research question related to the policy process, and which you are going to answer by using theories/models of policy-making, citing secondary sources as well as additional primary ones to support the argument
Applying the **full policy cycle** might work... or not

**THE ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANISATIONS IN ADDRESSING OBESITY IN EUROPE**

By: Cristina Hernández-Quevedo and Bernd Rechel

**Summary:** This article reviews the role of public health organisations in addressing obesity in nine European countries (England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia and Sweden). It finds that public health organisations contribute to...
Introducing your **policy topic**

- **Concise description** of the topic
  
  What are we talking about

- **Short contextualisation** of the topic
  
  What case study are we focusing on, and what class of policies is the case an instance of

- **What kind of issues** it raised
  
  *Who* paid attention to it, *when*, and did *what*
Asking your research question

- What do you want to explain

  [Find example research questions in your references]

- What theories/models of policy-making predict

  What existing explanations of policy-making suggest

- What structure you are going to follow

  The outline of your talk, through which you will submit theories/models of policy-making to an empirical test
Finding useful policy-making theories

- Use your **lectures** as starting points (esp. through the extra readings, e.g. Marier 2005 on pension reform or Weaver 1986 on credit-claiming and blame avoidance)
- Use the **tutorial readings** and their references
- Use **handbooks** (cf. your lecture syllabus and esp. the *Dictionnaire des politiques publiques*, in French)
- Use the **additional readings** from your literature review (e.g. McConnell and t’Hart 2019 on policy inaction) or even from other courses (see e.g. the syllabuses in the ‘Extra content for Tutorial 1’ folder)
Use at least one public policy handbook

Handbooks

As a general rule, please refer to the lectures syllabus for a list of useful public policy handbooks, in English or in French — although note that the lectures and tutorials themselves will be delivered 100% in English.

The following readings might be particularly useful, not only with regard to the midterm and final exams of this course, but also as a source of inspiration on how to analyse a policy case study:


This handbook provides an excellent introduction to the study of public policy in its introduction and at Chapters 1 and 2. Chapters 3 and 4 will also come out useful for your presentations, as they offer a good overview of what you should be investigating when exploring a case study, and what

(extract from the tutorials syllabus)
Controverse
Pierre Lascoumes

Convergence
Patrick Hassenteufel

Création et changement institutionnels
Thierry Delpeuch, Cécile Vigour

Cycle (Policy cycle)
Jean-Baptiste Harguindeguy
What you need at the end of this workshop

- Everything listed in previous workshops
  Topic (title), Data/Sources (references)

- Summaries of what you have read
  Descriptive information (‘facts and figures’ on what happened, when, and who was involved)
  Analysis/Interpretation (theories of policy-making that explain why it happened, and how it happened)

- A research question related to policy-making
See you next week