Tutorials in Public Policy

ESPΩL
EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Lectures by **Alexia Venouil**

Tutorials by **Chloé Berut**, **François Briatte**, **Deborah Galimberti** *and* **Helena Yazdanpanah**

Welcome to your tutorials in public policy, which are organised in 8 sessions—an introduction, 5 readings-based sessions, a workshop on the 15-minute presentations that you will design throughout the semester in small groups of 3–4 students, and a final session during which your group will meet with your instructor, who will have watched the record of your presentation prior to the session and will deliver feedback on it in the form of a brief viva.

The **grading scheme** for the tutorials relies mostly on the presentation (70%). You will also have to take a midterm exam (30%), which will be based on the tutorial readings as well as on the content of the lecture. All further coursework instructions will be delivered in class by your instructor and might differ slightly between instructors and/or tutorial groups, so make sure to attend all tutorials and, if need be, catch up with any missed class.

1. Introduction

No reading.

> About this course, the tutorials, and the presentations
>
> *Classroom activity* — Form groups of 3–4 students (due for Session 2)

2. Problems

Reading

> Saguy, A., Gruys K. and Gong, S. 2010. "Social Problem Construction and National Context: News Reporting on 'Overweight' and 'Obesity' in the United States and France." *Social Problems* 57(4): 586–610.

Workshop

> How to choose a policy case study (due for Session 4)
>
> *Classroom activity* — Can the stagist approach be applied to your case study? Make your theme 'go round' the policy cycle, and see how it fits.

3. Agendas

Reading

> Copeland, P. and Scott, J. 2014. "Policy Windows, Ambiguity and Commission Entrepreneurship: Explaining the Relaunch of the European Union's Economic Agenda." *Journal of European Public Policy* 21(1): 1–19.

Workshop

> How to review the scientific literature for secondary sources (also due for Session 4)
>
> *Classroom activity* — What is the 'state of the art' on your case study? Search, select and describe at least three academic references about, or connected to, your policy theme.

4. Implementation

Reading

> Alaerts, G.J. 2020. "Adaptive Policy Implementation: Process and Impact of Indonesia's National Irrigation Reform 1999–2018." *World Development* 129, 104880.

Workshop

> How to identify and select additional primary sources
>
> *Classroom activity* — Find some 'raw data' to support your analysis of your theme. How did you find it, how did you select it, and what are you going to do with it?

5. Evaluation

Reading

> Hood, C. 2008. "Options for Britain: Measuring and Managing Public Services Performance." *The Political Quarterly* 79(s1): 7–18.

Workshop

> How to structure an oral presentation (due for Session 8)
>
> *Classroom activity* — How is performance measured when it comes to your theme, by whom, and with what conclusions? Do you agree with the methods used? Why?

6. Change

Reading

> Palier, B. and Hay, C. 2017. "The Reconfiguration of the Welfare State in Europe: Paying its Way in an Age of Austerity," in King, D. and Le Galès, P. (eds), *Reconfiguring European States in Crisis*, Oxford University Press, pp. 331–50.

Workshop

> How to enhance the scientific argument of your presentation
>
> *Classroom activity* — Imagine that your group has to report to a 'scientific committee' like the ones set up by many governments during the Covid-19 pandemic. What would your report focus on, how would you lay out the argument?

7. Wrap-up

No reading

> This session is entirely focused on your presentations, for which you will have built the evidence base and main argument throughout the semester.

Workshop

> Last tips about presentations (deadline TBA in the first class)
>
> Final questions and answers
>
> *Classroom activities* — This session will serve to discuss (1) how to organise your findings into a set of slides, using software like Microsoft PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, LibreOffice Impress or Google Slides, and (2) how to use video recording software such as OBS Studio or Zoom to record your presentation.

8. Presentations

No reading

> This session is a feedback session to each presentation group. Your group will receive the precise time at which you should all attend. Discussion of the presentations during the feedback session will be part of the presentation final grade.
>
> Each feedback session will end with a discussion of how the tutorials went for each of you, and how the skills you practiced this semester will apply next semester, as well as later in non-academic work.

Instructions for presentations

The presentations for this course should focus on a single specific **policy case study**, and should include the following list of items:

- A **research question** that allows the presentation to provide an in-depth analysis of the case study from a social-scientific perspective

- An **outline** that allows the presentation to cover both the descriptive and analytical aspects of the case study in the required amount of time

- A selection of **primary and secondary sources** used to build the presentation

- A **PDF handout** featuring the names of the presenters, the title of the presentation, as well as its outline, bibliographic references, and appendix

Your instructor will deliver additional instructions on the presentations in class, through the workshops set in the second hour of every session. Your instructor might also ask to see drafts of your work during the semester, possibly in the form of an early presentation proposal.

All presentations should be recorded and uploaded as a medium-size video file before the deadline set by your instructor, who will provide a Google Drive link for the upload.

Note that presentations will be completed in groups of up to four students. As soon as groups are formed, which will happen during the first two tutorial classes, you are bound by student ethics to contribute to the overall work of your group, both during and outside of class. All students within a same group will receive the same grade for their final presentation.

Also note that all other School regulations, regarding, for instance, absences, late work and plagiarism, naturally apply. Presentations delivered past the deadline or containing plagiarised material will receive a grade of 0 out of 20, as will any student who fails to join a presentation group in the first two weeks of class.

Useful resources

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:

Knill, C. and Tosun, J. 2020. *Public Policy A New Introduction*, 2nd ed., Palgrave.

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

theoretical approaches might be suitable for doing so. Last, Chapters 5 to 8 follow the same 'stages' of policy-making as the lecture, and will thus complement it nicely.

The next handbook offers similar content, although its examples focus more on the United States:

Birkland, T.A. 2020. *An Introduction to the Policy Process Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making*, 5th ed., Routledge.

Last, the handbook is a more advanced and detailed resource, which might still be very useful especially for your presentations, if you are looking for detailed explanations on a given policy stage, concept or theory:

Araral Jr. E. et al. (eds). 2013. *Routledge Handbook of Public Policy*, Routledge.

Similar handbooks are available in French. Some are listed in the lectures syllabus, and others will be mentioned during the tutorials.

Journals

Discovering what a scientific approach to the study of public policy entails will lead you to explore the many scientific journals in which such research gets published.

A list of public policy journals will be provided by your instructor during the tutorials, when you will get to the point of reviewing the scientific literature. If you wish to start exploring the literature prior to that, you might want to turn to the following journals:

Critical Policy Studies

European Policy Analysis

Gouvernement et action publique (in French)

Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

Journal of European Public Policy

Journal of Public Policy

Policy Studies Journal

Websites

Many websites are helpful to learn about specific policy issues, but few focus on how to analyse those issues using the models and theories developed by policy analysts. One happy exception is Paul Cairney's website, which supplements his handbook on the topic. Turn to this website for podcasts and short texts on public policy analysis, along with dozens of references on policy theories, and some notes on how to apply them to topics like the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Videos

The Urban Policy Lab at the University of Konstanz has a good video titled 'An Introduction to the Study of Public Policy', and Tom Birkland, who authored one of the handbooks mentioned earlier, has a great video series to support his book, the first of which is titled 'Why Study Public Policy?'.