

# Tutorials in Public Policy



*Lectures by Alexia Venouil*

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**Welcome to your tutorials in public policy**, which are organised in 8 sessions—an introduction, 5 readings-based sessions and workshops, and two final sessions during which we will listen to around 7 student presentations of approximately 20 minutes. Each presentation will be given by a group of 4–5 students who will have worked on a specific policy theme during the semester.

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 readings as well as on the content of the lecture. All further coursework instructions will be delivered in class by your tutor and might slightly differ between tutors or tutorial groups, so make sure to attend and, if need be, catch up!

## 1. Introduction

*No reading.*

About this course and the tutorials

About the presentations

*Classroom activity* — Form 7 groups of 4-5 students (final composition 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*

Picking a policy theme (due for Session 4)

Example themes

*Classroom activity* — Can the stagist approach be applied to your policy theme? 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

Reviewing the scientific literature (also due for Session 4)

Example secondary sources

*Classroom activity* — What’s the ‘state of the art’ on your theme? 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

Finding additional data for presentations (due for Sessions 7–8)

Example 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

Structuring an oral presentation (due for Sessions 7–8)

Example presentation outlines

*Classroom activity* — How is performance measured when it comes to your theme, by whom, and with what conclusions? Do you agree with the methodology 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*

Last tips about presentations (due for Sessions 7–8)

Final questions and answers

*Classroom activity* — Organise your findings into a set of slides, using software like Microsoft PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, LibreOffice Impress, or Google Slides.

## 7. Presentations (groups 1–4)

### *No reading.*

Discussion of the presentations will be graded. Listen to each other, ask questions if something in the presentation was unclear, and draw parallels between your own project and the one that has been presented.

## 8. Presentations (groups 5–7)

### *No reading.*

Discussion of the presentations will be graded (see above).

We will end on a general discussion of how the tutorials went, and how the skills you practiced this semester will apply next semester, as well as later in non-academic work.

## Useful resources

Please refer to the syllabus for the lecture for a list of useful public policy handbooks, in English or in French. (Note that the lectures and tutorials themselves are 100% in English.)

A list of public policy journals will be provided during the tutorials when we get to the point about reviewing the scientific literature.

Many websites are helpful to learn about specific policy issues, but few focus on how to analyze those issues using the ideas 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](#).