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**SECOND SEMESTER 2023-2024**

Course Handout Part II

Dated: 09-01-2024

In addition to part I (General Handout for all courses appended to the timetable) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

**Course No. : ECON F343**

**Course Title : Economic Analysis of Public Policy**

**Instructor-in-Charge : DURGESH CHANDRA PATHAK**

1. **Course Objective:**

This course explores the role of economic analysis in the design, evaluation and implementation of public policy. The course discusses epistemological tenets of public policy analysis and prepares the students to be able to apply a framework of social welfare analysis to various questions pertaining to public policy.

1. **Text Book:** Bellinger, William K: *Economic Analysis of Public Policy*, 2nd edition, Routledge, London and New York, 2007.

# Reference Books:

**R1:** Friedman, Lee S: *The Microeconomics of Public Policy Analysis*, Princeton University Press, 2002.

**R2:** Fisher, Frank, Gerald J Miller, Mara S. Sidney: *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis*: *Theory, Politics and Methods*, CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, London, New York, 2007.

**R3:** Just, E Richard, Darrell L Hueth, Andrew Schmitz: *The Welfare Economics of Public Policy: A Practical Approach to Project and Policy Evaluation*, Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, 2004.

**R4:** Fuguitt, Diana and Shanton J Wilcox: *Cost-Benefit Analysis for Public Sector Decision Makers*, Quorum Books, Westport, Connecticut, London, 1999.

**R5:** Hausman, M Daniel and Michael S McPherson: *Economic Analysis, Moral Philosophy and Public Policy*, 2/e, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2007.

**R6:** Rosen, Harvey S and Ted Gayer, *Public Finance*, 8/e, Tata McGraw Hill, New Delhi, 2012.

**R7:** Cullis, John and Philip Jones, *Public Finance and Public Choice*, Oxford University Press, India, 2009.

1. **Course Plan:**

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| **Lecture Number** | **Learning Objectives** | **Topics to be Covered** | **Chapter in the Text Book** |
| I | Initiation to Public Policy analysis | | |
| 1-3 | 1. What is Public Policy? | 1. *The goals of public policy* 2. *The steps in policy analysis* 3. *Views of government and the roles of the policy analyst* 4. *Critical thinking as a policy tool* 5. *Critical thinking about policy analysis* | TB, R1 & R4 |
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| II | Microeconomic foundations of Public Policy analysis | | |
| 4-10 | 1. Perfect Competition, Efficiency, and Welfare | | |
|  |  | 1. *Consumer and Producer Surplus* 2. *Concept of Efficiency: Pareto Optimality and other concepts* 3. *Does Perfect competition entail efficiency?* | TB + R1+ Class notes |
| 11-12 | 1. Equity: concept and trade-off with efficiency | |  |
| 13-17 | 1. The moral compass: Using theories of ethics in analyzing equity-efficiency trade-off | | |
|  |  | 1. *The idea of the social contract* 2. *Some theories of ethics: Utilitarianism, Rawls, Nozick; bibliographic note on the lead philosophers: Jeremy Benthom, John Rowls, Robert Nozick.* | TB + R1+ Class notes |
| 18-22 | 1. What happen when the world is imperfect | | |
|  | Sources of market imperfection | 1. *A limited number of buyers and sellers* 2. *Information asymmetry* 3. *Entry and exit costs* 4. *Public goods: discuss the idea of non-rivalry, non-excludability, and congestion* 5. *Externalities* 6. *Complementarities: when multiple equilibria coexist.* | TB, R4 & R5 |
| 23-28 | 1. Can government intervention help? | | TB, R4 & R5 |
|  | Forms of government intervention | 1. *Taxes* 2. *Subsidies* 3. *Price floor* 4. *Price ceiling* 5. *Mixing more than one policy to get a better outcome* 6. *Case study: PDS and TPDS* | TB, R4 & R5 |
| 29-33 | 1. Games governments play: the Public Choice theory | | TB, R4 & R5 |
|  |  | 1. *Voting rules* 2. *Voting paradox* 3. *Logrolling* 4. *Median voter and its implications* 5. *Rent-seeking* 6. *Regulatory capture* 7. *X-inefficiency* | TB, R4 & R5 |
| III | Other Tools for Policy Analysis | | |
| 34-37 | Tools for analyzing public policy | 1. An introduction to benefit–cost analysis | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *The process of benefit–cost analysis* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Decision criteria for benefit–cost analysis* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Types of policy decisions* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Benefits and costs using efficiency concepts* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Cost-effectiveness analysis* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Weighted net benefits* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. Net benefits over time and present value | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *The idea of present value* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Present value with infinitely long net benefits* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Alternatives to present value* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Inflation and the discount rate* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Choosing among alternative projects* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. Choosing a discount rate | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *The ideal market for loans* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Distortions in the loans market* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *The shadow price of capital method* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *An extended case study* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *The weighted discount rate* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Other issues in choosing a discount rate* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Long-term policies and intergenerational equity* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. Policy analysis involving risk and uncertainty | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Measuring risk and uncertainty* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Expected value* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Decision trees* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *The expected utility model* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Risk aversion and the willingness to pay for insurance* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Option value and expected net benefits* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Risk and the discount rate* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Uncertainty and policy analysis* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. The value of life and other non-marketed goods | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Methods of valuing non-marketed goods* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Explaining the value of life* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *How to estimate the value of life* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Alternatives to the dollar value of life* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Other non-marketed goods* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. Economic impact analysis: macroeconomics in a micro world | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *An overview of economic impact analysis* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Estimating direct spending* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *The Keynesian multiplier and secondary economic impacts* | TB, R3 |
|  |  | 1. *Economic base models* | TB, R3 |
| IV | Policy Analysis Examples | | |
| 38-40 | Public Policy Cases | *Urban Transportation Policy* | TB |
|  |  | *Pollution Control Policy* | TB |
|  |  | *Poverty & Income Support Policy* | TB |
| Total Classes | **40** |  |  |

1. Learning Outcomes:

**Module I: Initiation to Public Policy analysis**

It is expected that after completing this module, the student should be able to discuss the meaning, relevance and goals of public policy analysis.

**Module II: Microeconomic foundations of Public Policy analysis**

It is expected that after completing this module, the student should be able to understand various concepts of economics used in policy analysis process, understand and analyze the ethics behind policy analysis processes, analyze the welfare implications of policies, compare various policies on the basis of welfare changes involved, analyze the effect of taxes/subsidies on welfare of consumers and producers, understand the nuances of public choice theory and policy making process, and analyze the effects of government intervention in imperfect markets.

**Module III: Other Tools for Policy Analysis**

It is expected that after completing this module, the student should be able to discuss various steps of cost-benefit analysis, analyze various public projects using different appraisal criterion, understand the nuances involved in choosing a discount rate in presence of market imperfections, risk and uncertainty, discuss valuation of non-marketed goods and its effect on cost-benefit analysis, and use macroeconomic concepts in policy analysis.

**Module IV: Policy Analysis Examples**

This module utilizes the learning in previous modules for analyzing some policy cases. It is expected that after completing this module, the student should be able to critically analyze policy cases using tools leant in the course.

1. Evaluation Scheme

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| **EC No.** | **Components** | **Duration** | **Weight age (%)** | **Date, Time & Venue** | **Nature of Component** |
| 1. | Mid-Semester Exam | 90 mnts | 30 | 16/03 - 2.00 - 3.30PM | CB |
| 2. | Quizzes (surprise/announced) |  | 35 |  | OB |
| 3. | Assignments |  |  | OB |
| 4. | Comprehensive Exam. | 180 | 35 | 18/05 FN | CB |

# *7.* Chamber Consultation Hour: To be announced in class

***8*. Notices** shall be displayed on CMS/LTC/Department notice board.

# *9*. Make-up policy: Make-up will be granted only on genuine grounds and if prior permission is taken through official email only. Request for make up after the test/exam would not be entertained at all. No make-up shall be granted for quizzes.

**10.** **Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy:** Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

**Instructor-in-Charge**

**ECON F343**