

IISER Pune - Course Content

Semester	JAN 2025
Open to Semester	6,8,22
Course Code	HS3453
Course title	Public Policy I
Nature of Course	LE - Lecture
Credit	3
Coordinator and participating faculty (if any)	Dr. Bejoy Thomas
Pre-requisites	None
Objectives	<p>This course is offered by Prof. Subodh Wagle (subodh.wagle@iitb.ac.in), and coordinated by Dr. Bejoy Thomas.</p> <p>This pair of courses will introduce a field of ‘Public Policy’ that would be very relevant for practicing scientists. The courses are designed especially for the students of physical sciences. The courses introduce concepts, theories, and models from the field of public policy. These theoretical inputs will be illustrated with case studies and case examples from public policy practice. These illustrative cases are specially curated for Indian students of disciplines other than social sciences. There will be separate components for presentation and discussion on such illustrative cases. These two courses are designed to be stand-alone, and students can opt for one or two courses in any sequence.</p> <p>The first course in this pair will focus on the early phases of the policy process—i.e., designing and making public policy instruments. The course will begin with introduction of foundational concepts from the fields of political science as well as public policy. It will then dwell on various fundamental aspects and dimensions of public policy process such as: policy problems, policy instruments, policy institutions, and policy environment. In the later part of the course the discussion will focus on models of the process of making public policies.</p> <p>The course involves explanations and discussions on abstract level concepts and models, though this discussion will be supplemented with examples and studies specially curated for Indian students. These case studies are not management-type case studies but illustrative case studies. The course is designed specifically for students who do not have exposure to social sciences.</p>

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Course content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Concepts in Public Policy (Relevant to the Course) • Fundamentals of Public Policy • Policy Problems: Definition and Types • Public Policy Instruments: Rationale, Purposes, Structures, and Typologies • Public Policy Environment: Institutions and Political Economy • Structures and Roles of Key Actors and Institutions: Legislature, Government, Bureaucracy, and Judiciary • Different Interpretations of Rationality in Policy Decisions Comprehensive Rationality, Bounded Rationality, Garbage-Can Model • Models and Approaches to Making Public Policy: Political Systems Theory, Institutionalism, Group Model, Elite Model, Public Choice Theory
Evaluation / Assessment	20% Continuous, 30% Mid-Sem, 50% End-Sem
Suggested readings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class readings and case material given by the faculty 2. Anderson, James. 2003. Public Policy Making. New York, NY: Houghton Milfin. 3. Howlett, Michael, Ramesh, M., Perl, Anthony. 2009. Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Sub-Systems. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press 4. Peters, Guy B. 2015. Advance Introduction to Public Policy. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar. 5. Smith, Kevin and Larimer, Christopher. 2009. The Public Policy Primer. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. 6. Wu, Xien, Ramesh, M., Howlett, Michael, and Fritzen, Scott A. 2010. The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process. New York, NY: Routledge.
When Next	NA
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