

## Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2019-2020

## International Policy Analysis

### MINT086 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Wednesday 16h15 - 18h00

## Course Description

Survey of major issues in the choice, execution, and assessment of public policy in international relations. Topics covered include the range, nature, actors, and stakeholders of particular types of policy organizations (state agencies, multi-state entities, nongovernmental organizations); issues connected with planning, the recommendation process, and, to a lesser degree, decision heuristics, and voting schemes); the implementation of policies and the command and control thereof (e.g., via personnel rules and/or budget allocations); and criteria (range of participation, costs, metrics of effectiveness) by which policies are assessed and either continued or recast. Emphasis on writing.

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### > PROFESSOR

[David Sylvan](#)

[Office hours](#)

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### > ASSISTANT

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## Syllabus

### Course Requirements

This course provides a survey of some major issues in the making and evaluation of international policy. We will be putting together concepts and theories from the fields of public policy analysis and public administration, and applying them to various topics in international relations. Each week, the idea is to present general issues as well as specifics about some aspect of the actions of states, or international organizations, or, to a lesser degree, supranational organizations. If all goes well, students will end up having a much better idea about how international policy is, and also should be, made.

The course meets twice on week. On Wednesdays, there is a general quasi-lecture which covers some of the ideas in the week's readings; then, on Fridays, students will be divided into smaller tutorial sections, where they will discuss the readings, particularly the "example" one, as well as, from time to time, participate in exercises and, for the last 6 weeks, either take one side in a formal debate

(as part of a two-person team) about a particular issue (either a short-term crisis, or a longer-term policy) or, in the weeks they are not debating, quiz one team of the other about their views. These tutorials will be led by the teaching assistants, though I will make a point of dropping in from time to time on a rotating basis; attendance is mandatory and so is participation. Grades will be assigned as follows: class participation 10% of the final grade; four “reaction essays” (to the “example” reading for the week), counting, respectively, 5%, 5%, 20%, and 10%; the debate (with supporting materials, both written and slides) 30%; and a time-limited (50 hours) policy memo 20%. Students will be assigned randomly to 4 readings for the reaction essay; the assignments for each such essay will be posted on Wednesdays at 18.00 and the assignments will be due the following Wednesday at 16.00.

Readings for each week will be available on the class moodle. Students should come to the Wednesday class session having already done the readings and thought about them.

Please note that the course syllabus is subject to revision; students should check the moodle regularly to see if, in upcoming weeks, readings have been added or dropped.

Two prefatory notes. First, although the fields of public policy analysis and of public administration have been around for decades, if not scores of years, the field of international policy analysis is relatively new. As a result, the abstract and/or general readings for each week will for the most part not directly be about international relations; in addition, many of them will be from and to some degree about places where public policy analysis and public administration were invented, i.e., the United States. I will endeavor to make the connections, and the relevance to non-U.S. situations, explicit in class, but you will have to do some transposing and application on your own. A good start is to ask how the readings bear on the examples; and this is why I am requiring you, four times during the semester, to do a brief (one paragraph, or two paragraphs, or two pages) “reaction essay” about the readings.

Second, and apropos of the reaction essays: although some policy analysis takes the form of oral argument, most of it is presented in written form. Writing of this sort is a particular skill which, alas, is impossible to learn except by doing, working through comments on the writing, and doing again. In contrast with last year’s version of the course, therefore, I’ve significantly increased the amount of writing. By the same token, because the course is an applied one, I’ve changed the final exam to be something less theoretical and more nuts-and-bolts written. You should expect to work hard, but if all goes well, small time bombs will begin to set off in your head and lead, six months down the road, to considerably greater facility both at policy analysis specifically and to writing generally.

## **Course Schedule**

### 1. September 18

#### ***Course introduction***

Michael E. Kraft and Scott R. Furlong, *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives*, 6th edn., Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press for SAGE, 2018, ch. 1.

### 1a. September 20

Tutorial introduction; discussion; announcement of teams

### 2. September 25

## ***Policy-making as a phenomenon***

Roger W. Cobb and Charles D. Elder, The politics of agenda-building: an alternative perspective for modern democratic theory, *Journal of Politics* 33,4 (1971): 892-915.

Anthony Downs, Up and down with ecology: the issue attention cycle, *Public Interest* 28 (Summer 1972): 38-50.

Example. Ken Rutherford, The Hague and Ottawa conventions: A model for future weapon ban regimes? *Nonproliferation Review* 6,3 (1999): 36-50.

OPTIONAL: Christopher M. Weible, Paul A. Sabatier, and Kelly McQueen, Themes and variations: taking stock of the advocacy coalition framework, *Policy Studies Journal* 37,1 (2009): 121-40.

### 2a. September 27

Tutorial; discussion

### 3. October 2

#### ***Framing the question***

John S. Hammond, Ralph L. Keeney, and Howard Raiffa, *Smart Choices: A Practical Guide to Making Better Decisions*, Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 1999, ch. 2.

Eugene Bardach and Eric M. Patashnik, *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*, 5th edn., Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press for SAGE, 2016, pt. 1, step 1.

Christopher Robert and Richard Zeckhauser, The methodology of normative policy analysis, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 30,3 (2011): 613-43. We will return to this piece several times; for today's class, focus in particular on positive disagreements over scope.

Example: Robin Room and Peter Reuter, How well do international drug conventions protect public health? *Lancet* 379 (2012): 84-91.

### 3b. October 4

Tutorial; discussion; team debate assignment handed out

### 4. October 9

#### ***Alternatives 1: anticipated consequences***

Bardach and Patashnik, pt. 1, steps 3, 4, 5; and pt. 3.

David L. Weimer, Claiming races, broiler contracts, heresthetics, and habits: Ten concepts for policy design, *Policy Sciences* 25,2 (1992): 135-59.

Example: Robert C. Hilderbrand, *Dumbarton Oaks: The Origins of the United Nations and the Search for Postwar Security*, Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1990, ch. 6.

OPTIONAL: Hammond, Keeney, and Raiffa, chs. 3-5.

#### 4a. October 11

Tutorial; discussion

#### 5. October 16

##### **Alternatives 2: tradeoffs and costs**

Hammond, Keeney, and Raiffa, ch. 6.

Bardach and Patashnik, pt. 1, step 6.

Example: Brian L. Villa, The U.S. army, unconditional surrender, and the Potsdam proclamation, *Journal of American History* 63,1 (1976): 66-92.

#### 5a. October 18

Tutorial: discussion; in-class exercise on tradeoffs

6. October 24 (note: I will be out of town this week, so class is rescheduled for Thursday, October 25, in room S2, from 18.15-20.00. The tutorials will take place as usual on Friday)

##### **Alternatives 3: uncertainty, risk**

Hammond, Keeney, and Raiffa, chs. 7, 8.

Daniel Kahneman, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011, chs. 13, 31.

Example: John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart, The terrorism delusion: America's overwrought response to September 11, *International Security* 37,1 (2012): 81-110.

#### 6a. October 25

Tutorial: discussion; in-class exercise on risk

#### 7. October 30

##### **Obtaining and packaging evidence**

Bardach and Patashnik, pt. 1, step 2, and pt. 2.

Deborah A. Stone, Causal stories and the formation of policy agendas, *Political Science Quarterly* 104,2 (1989): 281-300.

Example: Cass R. Sunstein, Of Montreal and Kyoto: A tale of two protocols, *Harvard Environmental Law Review* 31,1 (2007): 1-65.

OPTIONAL: Samuel Workman, Bryan D. Jones, and Ashley E. Jochim, Information processing and policy dynamics, *Policy Studies Journal* 37,1 (2009): 75-92.

#### 7a. November 1

Tutorial: discussion, in-class exercise on packaging

#### 8. November 6

##### ***Bureaucracy; capabilities and resources***

Charles E. Lindblom, The science of "muddling through," *Public Administration Review* 19,2 (1959): 79-88.

Malcolm K. Sparrow, Measuring performance in a modern police organization, *New Perspectives in Policing*, March 2015.

Example: Frank Biermann and Bernd Siebenhüner, eds., *Managers of Global Change: The Influence of International Environmental Bureaucracies*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009: chs. 6 (Sabine Campe, The secretariat of the International Maritime Organization: A tanker for tankers: 143-68) and 13 (Biermann and Siebenhüner, The influence of international bureaucracies in world politics: Findings from the MANUS research program; 319-499).

OPTIONAL: Anthony M. Bertelli, Who are the policy workers, and what are they doing? Citizen's heuristics and democratic accountability in complex governance, *Public Performance and Management Review* 40,2 (2016): 208-34.

#### 8a. November 8

Tutorial: discussion

#### 9. November 13

##### ***Cooperation and coordination; networks***

Donald F. Kettl, Contingent coordination: Practical and theoretical puzzles for homeland security, *American Review of Public Administration* 33,3 (2003): 253-77.

Chris Ansell and Alison Gash, Collaborative governance in theory and practice, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 18,4 (2007): 543-71.

Example: Tim Harford, Bita Hadjimichael, and Michael Klein, Aid agency competition: A century of entry, but no exit, *Viewpoint: Public Policy for the Private Sector*, Note No. 277, 2004.

OPTIONAL: Lawrence J. O'Toole, Jr., Interorganizational relations and policy implementation, in B. Guy Peters and Jon Pierre, eds., *The SAGE Handbook of Public Administration*, 2d edn., Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2012: 292-304.

#### 9a. November 15

Tutorial: discussion

#### 10. November 20

##### **Stakeholders: Principal/agent issues**

Richard W. Waterman and Kenneth J. Meier, Principal-agent models: An expansion? *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 8,2 (1998): 173-202.

Sean Gailmard, Politics, principal-agent problems, and public service motivation, *International Public Management Journal* 13,1 (2010): 35-45.

Example: Robert W. Cox, Labor and hegemony, *International Organization* 31,3 (1977): 385-424.

#### 10a. November 22

Tutorial: discussion

#### 11. November 27

##### **Oversight: reopening consideration**

Peter J. May, Policy learning and failure, *Journal of Public Policy* 12,4 (1992): 331-54.

Daniel Okrent, *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition*, New York: Scribner, 2010, selections.

Example: Amy K. Donahue and Rosemary O'Leary, Do shocks change organizations? The case of NASA, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 22,3 (2012): 395-425.

#### 11a. November 29

Tutorial: discussion; debate 1: Ebola OR refugees

#### 12. December 4

##### **Specificity of international policy 1: types of actors**

Thomas G. Weiss, International bureaucracy: The myth and reality of the international civil service, *International Affairs* 58,2 (1982): 287-306.

Lars Thomann, The ILO, tripartism, and NGOs: Do too many cooks really spoil the broth? In Jens Steffek, Claudia Kissling, and Patricia Nanz, eds., *Civil Society Participation in European and Global Governance*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008: 71-94.

Example: Anchrit Wille, *The Normalization of the European Commission: Politics and Bureaucracy in the EU Executive*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013, ch. 5.

OPTIONAL: Michael D.V. Davies, *The Administration of International Organizations: Top Down and Bottom Up*, London: Ashgate, 2002, selections.

OPTIONAL: Wille, ch. 8.

#### 12a. December 6

Tutorial: discussion; debate 2: human trafficking OR peacekeepers

#### 13. December 11

##### ***Specificity of international policy 2: types of policy***

Herbert A. Simon, The architecture of complexity, *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 106,6 (1962): 467-82.

Francis W. Hoole, David H. Handley, and Charles W. Ostrom, Jr., Policy-making models, budgets and international organizations, *Journal of Politics* 41,3 (1979): 923-32.

Example: Karen J. Alter and Kal Raustiala, The rise of international regime complexity, *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 14 (2018): 329-49.

#### 13a. December 13

Tutorial: discussion; debate 3: sanctions OR malaria

#### 14. December 18

##### ***Time-limited policy memo***