



**Code: SPS/04**

**Credits: 9**

**Matter: Political Science/Public Policy Analysis**

**Main language of instruction: Italian**

**Other language of instruction: English**

## **Teaching Staff**

### **Head instructor**

**Prof. Roberto De Rosa - roberto.derosa@unicusano.it**

### **Introduction**

#### *1. Objective of the course :*

Aims of the course is to provide the essential elements to understand and analyze the fundamental processes that characterize the production and implementation of public policies in order to achieve the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to determine the decision-making programs that characterize the production of policies. Starting from the origins of the policy analysis approach and its relative diversity and autonomy from political science, the methodology and theories of analysis of public policies will be considered as crucial for the study of the entire political process.

In order to allow students a good assimilation of the concepts all the theoretical parts of the course will always be accompanied by an examination of various empirical researches.

### **Objectives**

#### *2. Course Structure:*

The course of Political Science/Public Policy analysis has the following educational goals:

1. Illustrate and define the basic approaches of the Policy Analysis.
2. Define and illustrate the main actors of the policy process and the tools available to them
3. Illustrate the dynamic aspects related to the Policy process and the policy cycle approach.
4. Illustrate the individual phases of the Policy Cycle: from the creation of the Agenda to the Evaluation
5. Illustrate the different decision-making styles and the mechanisms that govern policy design and policy change.

### **Competencies:**

Attending classes does not require the overcoming of preparatory courses. However, it is considered useful to know the fundamental concepts of Political Science or even of Political Sociology. On this regard, it would be advisable to review these notions, whereas their knowledge had been distant in time.

## Syllabus

### *3. Programme of the course:*

#### **Subject 1. Why study Public Policy?**

Overview of the course; Public Policy Defined; Methodological Implication for studying Public Policy; the Policy Cycle Framework;

#### **Subject 2. Understanding Public Policy: Theoretical Approaches.**

Evolution of the policy sciences; Approaches to Public Policy Analysis: Positivism and Post-Positivism; Approaches to Public Policy Studies: Multi-level, Multi-Disciplinary

#### **Subject 3. The Policy Context.**

Institutions, Ideas and Actors; The Political-Economic Context; Policy making in Liberal-Democratic Capitalistic State; The international System and Public Policy; Policy sub-system and Policy Regimes: integrating Institutions, Ideas and Actors

#### **Subject 4. Agenda Setting**

The objective Construction of Policy Problems; The Role of social Conditions and Structures; The Subjective Construction of Policy Problems: the Role of Policy Actors and Paradigms; Combining Ideas, Actors and Structures in Multivariable Models of Agenda-Setting; Modes of Agenda-Setting

#### **Subject 5. Policy Formulation**

The Phases of Policy Formulation; General content and Substance; Policy Instruments; Common Policy Tools by Category; The Nature of Policy Alternatives

#### **Subject 6. Public Policy Decision-Making**

Actors in the Decision-Making Process; Choices: Negative, Positive and Non-Decisions; Early Models: Rationalism and Incrementalism; Efforts to move beyond: The Garbage Can Model

#### **Subject 7. Policy Implementation**

Actors and Activities in Policy Implementation; Implementation Theory; Implementation as Policy Design: Instrument Choices and Policy Mixes; Implementation Styles and Long-Term Instrument Preferences

#### **Subject 8. Policy Evaluation: Policy making as Learning**

Positivism and Post-Positivism Policy evaluation; Policy evaluation as Policy Learning; Actors in the Policy evaluation Process; Types of Policy evaluation; The Outcomes of Policy evaluation: Policy Feedback and Policy Termination; Linking Evaluation and Learning

#### **Subject 9. Patterns Of Policy Changes**

Outcomes of Policy Succession; Types of Policy Changes: Normal and Atypical.

## Evaluation system and criteria

The expected learning outcomes will be assessed by ascertaining the knowledge of the subject, the ability to apply them, communication skills, the ability to draw conclusions and the capacity for self-learning.

The exam consists in the performance of an oral and / or written test aiming to ascertain the abilities of analysis and re-elaboration of the concepts acquired.

The written part consists in the drafting of a paper on a course topic chosen by the student.

The oral part the oral part of the exam focuses on the discussion of the paper.

## Bibliography and resources



4. *Materials to consult:*

Howlett M., Ramesh M., Perl A., *Studying Public Policy. Policy Cycle and Policy Sub-System*, Oxford University Press 2009

5. *Recommended bibliography:*

Additional texts may be suggested during classes