### **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

**Programme:** Political Science

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: Policy Making in a Globalized World

Course Code: PLT 6205

Course Leader: Dr Eunice Goes

Student Engagement Hours:120Lectures:22.5Seminar / Tutorials:22.5Independent / Guided Learning:75

**Semester:** FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

#### **Course Description:**

This course investigates the process of policy-making in modern states. It explores how in the new globalized world governments "import" and "borrow" policy ideas from each other, while analyzing how the different actors – states, bureaucrats, think-tanks, policy-networks, lobby groups, citizens, etc – participate and influence the policy-making process. Through role-play activities (such as writing a political manifesto, advising a President on a foreign-policy issue, or enacting a policy-network in the policy process) students will understand the complexities of policy-making and the challenges that the modern state faces in the era of globalization.

**Pre-requisites:** INR 4100 or DEV 4100

#### Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the field of public policy studies.
- To help students develop a systematic understanding of the public policy process
- Develop a systematic understanding of how the concept of power and how it is understood by different theorists shaped the area of policy studies
- Develop a systematic understanding of the different actors involved in the process of public policy
- Develop a systematic understanding of the theories about policy networks and policy transfer
- Develop a systematic understanding of the role of ideas in the policy making process.

- Have a critical understanding of the debates about the role of the state in policy making process
- Have a systematic understanding of the complexities surrounding policy formulation and policy implementation.

# **Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

# **Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Able to demonstrate a systematic understanding of the major theories in public policy analysis
- Able to understand the complexity of the policy process, in particular to critically analyse the role of ideas in policy-making.
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the process of policy making at the national, regional and international level.
- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of how globalization processes affect the policy-making capabilities of the state
- Demonstrate the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing theories of the states, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course
- Demonstrates flexible writing and analytical skills that translate directly into the
  workplace, including the ability to adapt work to different contexts, audiences, and levels
  of complexity, through the production of a policy brief

#### **Indicative Content**

- Theories of the state
- Role of ideas in the policy-making process
- Policy transfer and lesson drawing
- Policy Networks
- Actors in the policy-making process: the state, international institutional, bureaucracies, think-tanks, pressure groups, citizens
- Globalization
- Policy formulation & implementation
- Accountability

#### Assessment

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

### Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely, but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

# Bibliography:

- Hill, M. (2009) The Public Policy Process, London: Prentice Hall
- Parsons, Wayne (1996) Public Policy: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis
- Cairney, Paul (2011) Understanding Public Policy: Theories and Issues.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved &	Change
	Approval Body (School	Actioned by
	or LTPC)	Academic
	•	Registry
	Nature of Change	Approval Body (School

Richmond, the American International University in London 05 June 2013