POIR703

Public Policy: Theories and Practice

S1 Evening 2017

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

Contents

Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Lecturer
Glenn Kefford
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Contact via (02) 9850 8805
W6A432
5-6pm Tuesday and by appointment

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit provides an introduction to the Australian and international policy context, with a critical analysis of the role and influence of key institutions and actors. The unit evaluates current debates and controversies, including issues around reform and changes to the policy environment. The unit explores recent developments in the literature of policy studies, in Australia and internationally, and examines a range of theories of the policy process, including the "policy cycle" of formulation, implementation and evaluation.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Explain and critically analyse the way in which power and politics impact on public policy and the policy process

Identify the range of actors and institutions involved in the policy process, using the Australian example as the basis for comparison with other policy environments

Analyse the role of different actors and institutions in influencing policy in networks, subsystems or communities

Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in this subject, including debates around the proper role of government, the shift from government to governance, the impact of globalisation, and the role of public and interest group participation in the policy process

Recognise, understand and apply the most common theoretical approaches used in studying politics and policy, and identify differences and similarities between them

Analyse the policy-making process using several different models, or theories, and critically evaluate these by applying them to real-world case studies, and demonstrating their strengths and weaknesses

Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of evidence about the policy process, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument

Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual)

General Assessment Information

Assignment Submission

All written assignments must be submitted using the "Turnitin Assignments" facility on the iLearn website. This facility includes software which scans the uploaded assignments for plagiarism. Follow the instructions on the screen carefully. Your assignment should be uploaded before midnight on the due date.

In all cases, you should ensure that you keep a copy of the assignment.

Return of marked work

Marked assignments will be returned via the same facility on iLearn. When marks are released, you will need to go back in to the assignment submission box, and open your uploaded assignment. When you click on the "GradeMark" button, you will be able to see the marker's comments on your work. You can save or print the essay with the comments.

Extensions

Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and will require documentary evidence such as a medical certificate to support the request for an extension. You should contact the convenor as early as possible if you think you may need an extension. While we do understand that most students are engaged in paid employment, extensions cannot be granted on this basis alone.

Penalties for late submission

Assignments which are submitted after the due date, without having an extension granted by the convenor, will be penalised, at a rate of 3% of the mark for each week day after the due date. Any paper submitted more than 3 weeks after the due date will not be marked, and the student

will be failed for the assignment.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assessment 1	20%	No	7 April
Assessment 2	30%	No	5 May
Assessment 3	50%	No	9 June

Assessment 1

Due: **7 April**
Weighting: **20%**

Questions based on the material covered in weeks 1-5 of semester will be posted on the website at the end of week 5.

Word limit: 1500 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the range of actors and institutions involved in the policy process, using the Australian example as the basis for comparison with other policy environments
- Analyse the role of different actors and institutions in influencing policy in networks, subsystems or communities
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in this subject, including debates around the proper role of government, the shift from government to governance, the impact of globalisation, and the role of public and interest group participation in the policy process

Assessment 2

Due: **5 May**
Weighting: **30%**

For this assessment task you are expected to reflect on the material covered in the lectures and course readings, and use these to develop a critical analysis of the prescribed texts. Your essay should be presented in essay form and answer the question which is posted on iLearn.

Word limit: 1500 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and critically analyse the way in which power and politics impact on public policy

and the policy process
- Identify the range of actors and institutions involved in the policy process, using the Australian example as the basis for comparison with other policy environments
- Analyse the role of different actors and institutions in influencing policy in networks, subsystems or communities
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in this subject, including debates around the proper role of government, the shift from government to governance, the impact of globalisation, and the role of public and interest group participation in the policy process
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of evidence about the policy process, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument
- Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual)

Assessment 3

Due: **9 June**
Weighting: **50%**

This assessment task requires you to select a case study and use it to evaluate the theories of the policy process which are covered in this unit. You will be given opportunities to discuss your choice of case study with the lecturer and the class while working on the essay. You are expected to undertake considerable independent research into your case study area. Further details about the essay question, marking criteria and selection of the case study are provided on iLearn.

Word limit: 3500-4000 words

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Explain and critically analyse the way in which power and politics impact on public policy and the policy process
- Identify the range of actors and institutions involved in the policy process, using the Australian example as the basis for comparison with other policy environments
- Analyse the role of different actors and institutions in influencing policy in networks, subsystems or communities
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in this subject, including debates around the proper role of government, the shift from government to governance, the impact of globalisation, and the role of public and interest group participation in the policy process

- Recognise, understand and apply the most common theoretical approaches used in studying politics and policy, and identify differences and similarities between them
- Analyse the policy-making process using several different models, or theories, and critically evaluate these by applying them to real-world case studies, and demonstrating their strengths and weaknesses
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of evidence about the policy process, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument
- Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual)

Delivery and Resources

Delivery:

For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au. This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations.

Internal students are expected to attend the following classes each week:

Lecture: Tuesday 6-7pm

Seminar: Tuesday 7-9pm

External students: The lecture is digitally recorded and can be downloaded from the ILearn website shortly after it is delivered. You will also find lecture slides on the website.

External students are also required to attend two **compulsory on-campus sessions** of four hours each over the semester. The dates for these sessions are:

Sunday 29 April: 2pm - 6pm

Saturday 3 June: 2pm - 6pm

External students are encouraged to attend weekly lectures and seminar classes whenever they can.

Resources:

This unit has a unit webpage which is accessible only to currently enrolled students. Online units can be accessed at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

There is no text book for this unit. All required readings will be accessible electronically via the Macquarie University Library iShare system. Links will be posted on the iLearn site.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Introduction: Policy and politics
Week 2	The proper role of government
Week 3	Fundamentals of the Australian political system
Week 4	Actors in public policy – state actors
Week 5	Actors in public policy – non-state actors
Week 6	**No Classes - Reading Week and Assessment 1 Due**
Week 7	Challenges: governance and globalisation
Week 8	Approaches to policy analysis
Week 9	The policy cycle and its critics
Week 10	Theories of policy change
Week 11	Problem definition and agenda setting
Week 12	Decision-making and policy instruments
Week 13	Implementation and evaluation

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of

Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their

professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Recognise, understand and apply the most common theoretical approaches used in studying politics and policy, and identify differences and similarities between them

Assessment task

- Assessment 3

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explain and critically analyse the way in which power and politics impact on public policy and the policy process
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- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in this subject, including debates around the proper role of government, the shift from government to governance, the impact of globalisation, and the role of public and interest group participation in the policy process
- Recognise, understand and apply the most common theoretical approaches used in studying politics and policy, and identify differences and similarities between them

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 1
- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and

knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explain and critically analyse the way in which power and politics impact on public policy and the policy process
- Identify the range of actors and institutions involved in the policy process, using the Australian example as the basis for comparison with other policy environments
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- Recognise, understand and apply the most common theoretical approaches used in studying politics and policy, and identify differences and similarities between them
- Analyse the policy-making process using several different models, or theories, and critically evaluate these by applying them to real-world case studies, and demonstrating their strengths and weaknesses

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 1
- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in this subject, including debates around the proper role of government, the shift from government to governance, the impact of globalisation, and the role of public and

interest group participation in the policy process

- Recognise, understand and apply the most common theoretical approaches used in studying politics and policy, and identify differences and similarities between them
- Analyse the policy-making process using several different models, or theories, and critically evaluate these by applying them to real-world case studies, and demonstrating their strengths and weaknesses
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of evidence about the policy process, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 1
- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explain and critically analyse the way in which power and politics impact on public policy and the policy process
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of evidence about the policy process, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument
- Communicate research findings and views accurately and effectively using a variety of techniques (written, spoken, visual)

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able

to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved in this subject, including debates around the proper role of government, the shift from government to governance, the impact of globalisation, and the role of public and interest group participation in the policy process

Assessment tasks

- Assessment 1
- Assessment 2
- Assessment 3

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
13/02/2017	Dates for external student weekend classes were incorrect