POL 820

Politics and Policy: An Advanced Introduction

S1 Evening 2018

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MPPP or MPASR or MIntRel or MIntPubDip or MIntLawGovPP or GradDipPP or GradDipPASR or GradDipIntRel or GradDipSIA or GradCertSIA or GradCertPP or MSc in Environmental Health or MTransInterMIntRel or MIntBusMIntRel or MPPPMDevStud or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MIntell or MCTerrorism or MPPPMPASR or MPPPMIntRel

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit provides an advanced introduction to politics and public policy. It begins by focussing on key institutions and actors and critically analyses their role and influence. In the second half of the unit, current debates and controversies are considered. This includes issues around reform, governance, globalisation and changes to the policy environment.

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

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalty

"Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests."

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Quizzes	40%	No	TBA
Seminar Participation	10%	No	Weekly
Take-home exam	50%	No	TBA

Quizzes

Due: **TBA**
Weighting: **40%**

These quizzes will be held in various seminars (8 quizzes worth 5% each) throughout the semester. They will be based on material covered in the key readings and lectures, and the details in relation to which lectures they will be held in will not be announced prior to each lecture, meaning that you will not know in advance whether a quiz will be held in a given lecture. This is designed to ensure maximum participation in the course and maximum achievement in the quizzes. More information about the quizzes will be provided in the first lecture and seminar.

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

Seminar Participation

Due: **Weekly**
Weighting: **10%**

Students enrolling in an on-campus course are expected to have the capacity and commitment to attend seminars. They should be prepared to devote approximately 10 hours per week to each course. These 10 hours include lecture and tutorial attendance, undertaking weekly readings, miscellaneous study activities and assignment preparation and completion.

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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
- 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

Take-home exam

Due: **TBA**
Weighting: **50%**

This exam consists of short answer and essay questions and students will have one week to respond to the questions. Answer are to be submitted via turnitin. More details to come in the first lecture and throughout the semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Delivery and Resources

Tuesday 6-8 Seminar

Lecture - Recorded

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public

- Special Consideration Policy (***Note:*** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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 - 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

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Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation
- Take-home exam

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:

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Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation
- Take-home exam

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

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

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Assessment tasks

- Seminar Participation
- Take-home exam

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

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Assessment tasks

- Quizzes
- Seminar Participation
- Take-home exam