



# POL 822

## Studying Public Policy

S2 External 2018

*Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Francesco Stolfi

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MPPP or GradDipPP or GradCertPP or MSc in Environmental Health or MPPPMDevStud or MPPPMPASR or MPPPMIntRel or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MIntell or MCTerrorism or MPlan

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit addresses the question of how to study policy-making, with reference to several policy areas. Students will think about policies and policy-making through a variety of lenses including those that focus on interests, institutions and ideas. The approach is comparative, and for this reason part of the module will be devoted to methodological and research design issues relevant to doing and reading comparative research. Students will then apply these methodological tools to a research paper.

## 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:

Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making

Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem

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

Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved around the role of institutions, interests and ideas in the policy process

Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the

empirical cases covered in the readings

## General Assessment Information

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.

**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.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#"><u>Quizzes on the readings</u></a>	20%	No	Weekly
<a href="#"><u>Research design</u></a>	30%	No	Week 11
<a href="#"><u>Final research paper</u></a>	40%	No	Week 13
<a href="#"><u>Attendance and Participation</u></a>	10%	No	Weekly

### Quizzes on the readings

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

A weekly quiz will be held on the readings. More information about the quizzes will be provided at the lecture in Week 1.

This is a timed assessment and no late submissions will be accepted.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcome:

Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

## Research design

Due: **Week 11**

Weighting: **30%**

Essay detailing the research design for the final paper (1000 words). The essay must be fully references according to professional standards.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcome:

Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making

## Final research paper

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Original research paper. The paper must be comparative, i.e. it must be based on the comparison of at least two elements (e.g. countries, regions, state, times/periods, policies etc.). Length: 4000

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making

Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem

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

Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved around the role of institutions, interests and ideas in the policy process

Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of policy-relevant evidence, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved around the role of institutions, interests and ideas in the policy process

## Attendance and Participation

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

Attendance and participation in weekly seminars will be assessed based on participation in class and small group discussions and activities.

As part of this assessment task, there will be two in-class presentations. External students: You will find a link to a tool called Voicethread which you must use to upload your presentations. You will also use Voicethread to upload your comments on other students' presentations.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings.

Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem
- Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

## 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.

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.

## 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) (<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) (<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) (<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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](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 outcomes

- Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of policy-relevant evidence, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved around the role of institutions, interests and ideas in the policy process
- Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

### Assessment tasks

- Research design

- Final research paper
- Attendance and Participation

## 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

- Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of policy-relevant evidence, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved around the role of institutions, interests and ideas in the policy process
- Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

### Assessment tasks

- Quizzes on the readings
- Research design
- Final research paper
- Attendance and Participation

## 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

- Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of policy-relevant evidence, from a range of



sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved around the role of institutions, interests and ideas in the policy process
- Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

## **Assessment tasks**

- Research design
- Final research paper
- Attendance and Participation

## **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**

- Apply comparative methodology to an original piece of research on policy making
- Evaluate the quality, validity and reliability of research relating to a specific policy problem
- Locate, assess, and analyse different kinds of policy-relevant evidence, from a range of sources, and synthesise research findings into a simple, logical and coherent argument
- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved around the role of institutions, interests and ideas in the policy process
- Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

## **Assessment tasks**

- Research design
- Final research paper
- Attendance and Participation

## **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**

- Identify, critically analyse and discuss the major debates and controversies involved around the role of institutions, interests and ideas in the policy process
- Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

## **Assessment tasks**

- Final research paper
- Attendance and Participation

## **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**

- Show competent knowledge of methodological and theoretical literature as well as of the empirical cases covered in the readings

## **Assessment task**

- Attendance and Participation