



POIR8000

Policy Design: Concepts and Case Studies

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Tobia Fattore

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(Admission to MPPP or MPH and 40cp at 8000 level or above) or (admission to MPPPMDevStud or MPPPMPASR or MPPPIntRel or MPSP or MPLAN)

Corequisites

POIR8090 or SOCI8080

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit requires students to draw on theoretical and discipline knowledge and use these to engage actively in a current and topical policy problem. The students will have opportunities to consult experts and stakeholders in a given policy area and identify relevant evidence, expert opinion and stakeholder views. Students will explore a range of problem definitions and scenarios, and consider alternative policy solutions. Students will develop and present a comprehensive and constructive policy proposal which demonstrates an awareness of ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in the specific policy context.

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:

ULO1: Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources

ULO2: Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem.

ULO3: Critically consider a range of factors affecting problem definition and the development of appropriate policy solutions.

ULO4: Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context.

ULO5: Communicate policy recommendations effectively and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all non-timed written assessments (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc) is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams/quizzes, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Group report</u>	50%	No	Sunday Week 13 (June 8)
<u>Scoping paper</u>	30%	No	Friday Week 9 (May 9)
<u>Annotated bibliography</u>	20%	No	Monday Week 5 (March 24)

Group report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Sunday Week 13 (June 8)**

Weighting: **50%**

Major report co-written with group members on policy case study (4,000 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources
- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem.
- Critically consider a range of factors affecting problem definition and the development of appropriate policy solutions.
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context.

- Communicate policy recommendations effectively and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Scoping paper

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Friday Week 9 (May 9)**

Weighting: **30%**

This short paper should be presented as a scoping document, outlining your understanding of the policy problem which we are working on throughout this unit. You will be expected to conduct independent research for this task.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources
- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem.
- Critically consider a range of factors affecting problem definition and the development of appropriate policy solutions.
- Identify and respond to ethical, political, social, economic and cultural factors which are significant in a specific policy context.

Annotated bibliography

Assessment Type ¹: Annotated bibliography

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Monday Week 5 (March 24)**

Weighting: **20%**

Review of key literature related to report (1,200 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify, critically analyse and synthesise evidence which is relevant to policy making from a wide range of cross-disciplinary sources
- Apply theoretical material related to public policy to a specific real-world policy problem.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

POIR8000 is designed to be largely self-directed, with most of the teaching activity undertaken online. The unit consists of four modules, running for 3 weeks each, with resources and activities provided through iLearn.

Each module involves the following rotation:

Module Week 1 (Weeks 1, 4, 7 and 10 of the semester):

- Requires students to complete the set readings and post questions via the online forum.
Students are required to do this for all four modules.

Module Week 2 (Weeks 2, 5, 8 and 11 of the semester):

- Requires students to either attend the on-campus seminar (for internal/on-campus students) or listen to the recorded version of the seminar (for online-flexible, OUA and External students).
- Students will also be required to make substantive contributions about the module content, that consists of a commentary about the readings and/or seminar content.
Students are required to contribute a substantive post to two of the four modules.

Module Week 3 (Weeks 3, 6, 9 and 12 of the semester):

- Requires students to respond to the contributions of other students.
- For modules 2, 3 and 4, students will be working in groups on a policy case study which (as well as the written assessments), also requires students to make a group activity posting. **Students are required to contribute one group post on behalf of their group for either module 2, 3 or 4.**

These activities are done as part of your participation mark for the unit.

Seminars will be held in Weeks 2, 5, 8 and 11. Modules are organised to allow time in the first week of each module to read the set material and identify questions. The second week will include the seminar. Comments and responses in the discussion forums will be made in the second and third week.

In addition, an online Zoom tutorial (1-2 hours) will be held in Weeks 3, 6, 9 and 12.

Resources

All readings for the unit are available via the Leganto Reading resource, available on the iLearn site for the unit. The unit assessments will also require independent and group research of academic and grey literature (policy documents, parliamentary reports etc.) relevant to your

policy case study. Students are strongly recommended to make use of the significant resources available through Waranara, the Macquarie University library (<https://www.mq.edu.au/about/facilities/library>).

Unit Schedule

The unit will be organised around four modules.

1. What is a policy problem: defining problems and end users (Weeks 1-3)
2. Policy Design (Weeks 4-6)
3. Implementation and communication (Weeks 7-9)
4. Communication, evaluation and redesign (Weeks 10-12)

Week 13 will be devoted to completion of the Group assessment task – the Group Policy Report

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global

MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
07/02/2025	No further changes

Unit information based on version 2025.04 of the [Handbook](#)