

PIA6205: PRACTICE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Practice in Public Policy

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

6205

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enhance introduces students to theories and actual practices in the process of agenda-setting, policy formulation, and policy evaluation. Based on the case teaching method, the course enables students to gain knowledge on

polycymaking and practical experience in governmental report writing. At the end of this course, students will be able to 1) develop an analytical framework for thinking about the policy process; 2) identify and resolve practical problems within the field of public affairs; 3) develop practical skills for decision making and program management and evaluation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Identify and critically analyse, synthesize and evaluate appropriate public policy theories and practical implication		x	x	
2 Become empowered to make substantive recommendations to a policy organisation or stakeholders			x	x
3 Develop effective skills in policy communication and writing professional report that is useful to public and non-profit organizations		x	x	
4 Build practical skills in decision making and program management and evaluation			x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1 Structured Seminar	Structured Seminar	1, 2	
2 Case analysis and report writing	Take home case analysis and written reports for discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	
3 Completion of test	complete case analysis and report for given cases on site	2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1 Structured Seminar (attendance & participation)	1, 2	10	-	No
2 Individual digital literacy assessment	2, 3	25	-	Yes

3	Presentation (group-based)	3, 4	20	-	No
4	Individual project	1, 3	45	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Class attendance & participation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Attend class and participate in the discussion of given cases

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Actively speaking in class with insightful ideas

Good

(B+, B, B-) Actively participate in class discussion

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Rarely participate in class discussion with no absences

Marginal

(D) Rarely participate in class discussion are absent

Failure

(F) Never participate in class discussion are absent

Assessment Task

Individual digital literacy assessment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Take home case analysis and complete reports for class discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Carefully complete every case analysis and reports in an organized form, and put forward innovative ideas based on theories in the reports

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Carefully complete every case analysis and reports based on theories in an organized form.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Basic ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Complete most case analysis and reports while fails to apply theories.

Marginal

(D) Poor ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Complete most case analysis and reports while fails to apply theories.

Failure

(F) Inadequate ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Fails to complete more than half case analysis and reports.

Assessment Task

Presentation (group-based) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Giving a team-based oral presentation of the policy case analysis

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Basic ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

Marginal

(D) Poor ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

Failure

(F) Inadequate ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

Assessment Task

Individual project (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Writing reports based on hypothetical/real life cases

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) An excellent level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Good

(B+, B, B-) A good level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Fair

(C+, C, C-) A basic level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Marginal

(D) A poor level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Failure

(F) An inadequate level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Assessment Task

Class attendance & participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Attend class and participate in the discussion of given cases

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Actively speaking in class with insightful ideas

Good

(B+, B) Actively participate in class discussion

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Rarely participate in class discussion with no absences

Failure

(F) Never participate in class discussion are absent

Assessment Task

Individual digital literacy assessment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Take home case analysis and complete reports for class discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Carefully complete every case analysis and reports in an organized form, and put forward innovative ideas based on theories in the reports

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Carefully complete every case analysis and reports based on theories in an organized form.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Complete most case analysis and reports while fails to apply theories.

Failure

(F) Inadequate ability to apply what has been learned over the semester to analyse or address issues in real-world scenarios. Fails to complete more than half case analysis and reports.

Assessment Task

Presentation (group-based) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Giving a team-based oral presentation of the policy case analysis

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

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(B+, B) Good ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

Failure

(F) Inadequate ability to participate in the team and play the proper role as a team member in the group project of case study

Assessment Task

Individual project (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Writing reports based on hypothetical/real life cases

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) An excellent level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Good

(B+, B) A good level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) A basic level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Failure

(F) An inadequate level of understanding of materials covered during all thirteen weeks of the course

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Policy Process; Case Analysis; Report Writing; Communication skills

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Birkland, Thomas A. (2016). <i>An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts and Models of Public Policy Making</i> . 4th Edition. New York: Routledge.
2	Sabatier, Paul A., ed. 2007. <i>Theories of the Policy Process</i> . Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
3	Morse, Kristin and Struyk, Raymond J. (2006) <i>Policy Analysis for Effective Development: Strengthening Transition Economies</i> , London: Lynne Rienner Publishers
4	Patton, Carl V. and Sawicki, David S. (1993) <i>Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning</i> , NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Burns, John (2003) "The Policy Process in the HKSAR", in Nakamura, A., ed, <i>Comparative Studies of Public Administration VIII, Eropa Local Government</i> , Tokyo, pp.53-78.
2	Arnold, G. and Long, L.A.N. (2019), <i>Policy Expansion in Local Government Environmental Policy Making</i> . <i>Public Admin Rev</i> , 79: 465-476. https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.12905

3	Choi, D., Berry, F.S. and Ghadimi, A. (2020), Policy Design and Achieving Social Outcomes: A Comparative Analysis of Social Enterprise Policy. <i>Public Admin Rev</i> , 80: 494-505. https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13111
4	The Characteristics of Good Government Writing, https://web.uvic.ca/~sdoyle/E302/Notes/Characteristics.html
5	Pindyck, R. S. (1976). The Costs of Conflicting Objectives in Policy Formulation. <i>Annals of Economic and Social Measurement</i> 5(2): 239-248.