

PIA8620: POLICY STUDIES AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Policy Studies and Public Management

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

8620

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

R8 - Research Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

POL8620 Policy Studies and Public Management

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide doctoral students with a broad and deep understanding of the intellectual history and recent developments of public policy and management as a field of study. It helps students to become productive researchers and teachers of public policy and management by developing their knowledge of the field's scope, underlying principles, theoretical approaches, and scholarly development. To this end, the course content requires students to assess and integrate the substance, impact, and context of many of the classic and well-received contemporary works in the field. A key focus is on theories and concepts that have explanatory power across political systems and cultures or that explicitly theorize relevant differences. As part of their learning throughout this course, students are expected to identify strategies for discovering new insights into public policy and management research, including by conceptualizing the context of their studies. By developing their intellectual capacity, students are expected to contribute to the development of knowledge about public policy and management by active discovery in their further research.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate a command of the content and historical progression of the core ideas in the field of public policy and management.	10	x		
2	Discover and analyse critically emerging knowledge relating to principles, theories and practices in public policy and management.	40		x	
3	Apply their knowledge of the course material to enrich their research and theory building, particularly with respect to their PhD dissertations and publications.	40		x	x
4	Develop critical thinking and communication skills needed for dissertations and publications.	10			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	Lecturing	Introduction of key materials by instructors	1, 2	
2	Extensive reading, guided by reaction memo prompts	Reading between classes including analysing and synthesising the readings, guided by instructor-provided reaction memo prompts	1, 2	
3	Student presentations	Presentations by students on relevant topics	1, 2, 3, 4	

4	Participation in class discussion, informed by students' reading	Student-led discussion	2, 3, 4	
5	Term paper	Individual paper on relevant topics	2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class presentations and participation	1, 2, 3, 4	50	formative; note: any use of generative AI needs to be declared with sufficient detail	Yes
2	Term paper	1, 2, 3, 4	50	summative	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Class presentations and participation (40%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration a command of key knowledge in the field and the capacity to review critically the literature and empirical findings as well as to disseminate the ideas clearly and systematically.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration an excellent command

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstration a good command

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstration a fair command

Marginal

(D) Demonstration a marginal command

Failure

(F) Demonstration very little command

Assessment Task

2. Term paper (5,000–6,000 words) (60%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to apply creative and critical thinking on the key knowledge in the field to enrich theory building of relevant topics in the course; the capacity in disseminating ideas clearly and systematically in written form.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent application and capacity

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good application and capacity

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair application and capacity

Marginal

(D) Marginal application and capacity

Failure

(F) Very Little application and capacity

Assessment Task

1. Class presentations and participation (50%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrating a command of key knowledge in the field and the capacity to review critically the literature and empirical findings as well as to disseminate the ideas clearly and systematically.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrates an excellent command

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrates a good command

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrates a fair command

Failure

(F) Demonstrates very little command

Assessment Task

2. Term paper (50%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to apply creative and critical thinking on the key knowledge in the field to enrich theory building of relevant topics in the course; the capacity in disseminating ideas clearly and systematically in written form.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent application and capacity

Good

(B+, B) Good application and capacity

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Fair application and capacity

Failure

(F) Very Little application and capacity

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

policy process, administrative state, public administrative orthodoxy, reform, administrative science, case studies, bureaucracy, politics-administration dichotomy, new public administration, reinventing government, new public management, policy implementation, post-modernism, neoliberalism, globalisation policy innovation, governance, civil society, policy cycle, comparative public administration and policy, behavioural public administration and policy.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	See the course outline.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	See the course outline.