Course title: Public Policy Processes and Institutions	

Course code: MPD 161	**No. of credits:** 3	**L-T-P:** 35-10-0	**Learning hours:** 45

Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None
Department: Department of Policy and Management Studies

Course coordinator(s): Dr Smriti Das	**Course instructor(s):** Dr Smriti Das

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Course type: Core	**Course offered in:** Semester 2

Course description:

The policy challenge of the 21st century is varied and require the decision makers and analysts to see issues from multiple perspectives. Apart from those of the state, these perspectives include other stakeholders whose participation is important for attainment of collective goals of the society. Sustainable development practitioners need a lens that appreciates these influences along with appreciation of cross-sectoral linkages.

In this context, the course would help to build an understanding on how policies are developed and put into action. This would entail examining the emergence of issue, deciding on priority, setting of agenda, managing interests and implementing decisions. In the process the role of various bureaucratic, political, organized and unorganized interest groups, actors and networks would be highlighted. It would aim at understanding as well as exploring various forms of engagement of stakeholders. Although the geographical focus of most of the decisions would be in the Indian context, case studies from several other countries would help in contextualizing the issues.

Through this course the myth of Government as unitary actor with coherent set of objectives would be annulled. It would help the students to understand the complexities of policy process and the way various stakeholders exercise influence on policy decisions.

Course objectives:

1. To familiarize the students with how policies are formulated and implemented
2. To build a nuanced understanding of the role of various institutions and interest groups in this process.
3. To help students understand how various stakeholders exercise influence in the policy process and what are the outcomes of such influences.

Course content

Module	Topic	L	T	P
1	**Basic Concepts and Theories of Public Policy and Policy Processes** Session 1: Understanding Public Policy; Policy Types Session 2 and 3: Approaches to policy making- various models of policy making and its relevance to study the policy process and changes thereof Session 4: Case discussion: Cuban Missile Crisis to highlight the influence of actors and organizations	7	2	0
2	**Institutions and its role in Public Policy** Session 1: Policy making institutions in India: judiciary, executive and legislature; how policy making is accomplished in India Constitutional/Statutory bodies and its role in policy process Session 2: Political institutions (political parties/agendas/governing principles such as adult franchise and accountability) and extent to which they constrain room for manoeuvre of policy Session 3:	8	0	0

	Changing role of institutions: new public management; new governance model; role of networks in shaping public policy			
3	**Policy Process: Formulation of policies** Session 1: Case study: policy in a specific sector will be examined to understand how it developed Session 2 and 3: Principal phases of policy process: issue identification/agenda setting, stakeholder consultation and review; transparency in policy formulation Session 4: Identifying the main actors/stakeholders in the policy process; idea of political power and influence; regional versus national interest	8	2	0
4	**Policy Process: implementation of policies** Session 1: Examining policy from implementation perspective; identifying implementation gaps; feedback on policies Policy implementation as a political process: political economy Session 2: Service Delivery, accountability and people's participation: role of decentralization and local governance Session 3: Group presentation (for 30 minutes) on stages of policy formulation. Debating the importance of various stages, consequences of adhering to these stages and fall out at each stage with ways to improvise.	6	4	0
5	**Policy Change and its agents** Sessions 1, 2 and 3: Identifying role of domestic and international actors (leaders/agencies/pressure groups) in determining policy choices; Endowments and Constraints on their power to determine policy choices Civil Society/pressure groups/networks and its role in influencing policy decisions Market (private sector/business) as an agent in influencing policy decisions Media and its role in influencing public policy	6	2	0
	Total	**35**	**10**	**0**

Evaluation criteria:
Minor 1 Exam - 15% [End of Module 2]
    The preliminary understanding of the students of the policy process and the role of institutions.
Minor 2 Exam - Group Presentation 35% [End of Module 4]
    Thematic presentation would be in groups where the students will be free to work on a policy of their choice. This will be scheduled after the completion of policy formulation stage and policy implementation stage.
Major Exam -50% [End of Module 5]
Will be based on a policy and will assess the student's ability to analyze the process and the role of various stakeholders. It will also examine the ability of students to interpret the rationale of policy and discuss the larger relevance of the idea in the societal context.

Learning outcomes:
By the end of this course, the students will be expected to:
1. Be able to understand the process of policy formulation and implementation (Test 1 and 2)
2. Be able to understand the role of various institutions and their relevance in the policy process (Test 1 and 2)
3. Be able to analyze policy with respect to: rationale, objectives, outcomes and role and influence of various stakeholders (Test 3)
4. Be able to appreciate the intersectoral linkages between various policies (Test 3)

Pedagogical approach:
The course will draw upon a wide variety of examples from existing policies and performance of the communities on various development parameters to enable the students to understand the complexities of policy formulation as well as implementation. The sessions will be a delivered through a mix of lectures, case studies and discussions. The course will include tutorials that will be used for case and group discussions.

Course Reading Materials

Module 1:
Hill, M., 2005, The Public Policy Process, Pearson Education, England Sabatier, P. (eds), 1999, Theories of the Policy Process, Westview Press, USA.

Allison, G., 1999, The Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis, Boston: Little Brown

Kingdon, J.W., 2003, Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies, Longman, New York Turner, M., and Hulme, D.,1997, Governance, Administration and Development-Making the State Work, Palgrave, New York

Stone, D., 2001, The Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making, Norton & Company

Module 2:
Austin, G., 2007, The Indian Constitution, Cornerstone of a Nation, Oxford University Press.

Godbole, M., 2003, Public Accountability and Transparency-The imperatives of Good Governance, Orient Longman, New Delhi

Harris, J., 2006, Power Matters-Essays on institutions, Politics and Society in India, Oxford University Press

Chatterjee, P. (eds), 1999, State and Politics in India, Oxford university Press Evans, P., 2002, Beyond Institutional Monocropping: Institutions, Capabilities and Deliberative Development, November 2001. Revised Jan 2002.

Zucker, L.G., 1987, Institutional Theories of Organizations, Annual Review of Sociology, Vol.13, pp: 443-464 Moe, T.M., 1990, Political Institutions: The Neglected Side of the Story, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Vol. 6, pp-213-253.

Minogue, M., Charles P., and Hulme, D., 1998, Beyond the New Public Management- Changing Ideas and Practices in Governance, Edward Elgar, UK.

Corbridge, S. and Harris, J., 2000, Reinventing India: Liberalization, Hindu Nationalism and Popular Democracy,Cambridge University Press

Barzelay, M., 2001, The New Public Management-Improving Research and Policy Dialogue, University of California Press and Russell Sage Foundation, New York.

Module 3:
Weimer, D. L. and Vining, A.R., 2004, Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice, Prentice Hall, USA

Hogwood, B.W., and Gunn, L.A., 1984, Policy Analysis for the Real World, Oxford University Press.

Grindle, M.S. and Thomas, J.W., 1991, Public Choices and Policy Change: The Political Economy of Reform in Developing Countries, John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore

Parsons, W., 1995, Public Policy-An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis, Edward Elgar, UK Morse, K., and Struyk, R.J., 2006, Policy Analysis for Effective Development-Strengthening Transition Economies,Lynne Reiner, US

Module 4:
Grindle. M.S. (ed), 1980, Politics and Policy implementation in the Third World, Princeton University Press, NJ

Pressman, J. L. and Wildavsky, A., 1971, Implementation, California University Press, Berkeley

Hill, M. and Hupe, P., 2009, Implementing Public Policy-An Introduction to the Study of Operational Governance,Sage Publications, London

VCheema, G. S., and Rondinelli, D.A. (eds), 1983, Decentralization and Development: Policy Implementation in
  Developing Countries, Sage Publications, Beverly Hills; London; New Delhi

Mooij. J., 1999, Food Policy and the Indian State: The Public Distribution System in South India, Oxford University Press, Delhi

Module 5:

Lipsky M. 1980. Street-level bureaucracy: dilemmas of the individual in public services, Russell Sage Foundation, New York

Edwards, M. and Hulme, D., 1992, Making a Difference-NGOs and Development in Changing World, Earthscan, London

Bashevkin, S., 1996, Interest Groups and Social Movements, in Lawrence LeDuc, Richard Neimi and Pippa Norris (eds), 1996, Comparing Democracies: Elections and Voting in Global Perspective, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

Sathe, S.P., 2002, Judicial Activism in India, Oxford University Press, New Delhi Marsh, D., 1998, The development of the policy network approach. In: Marsh D (ed.) Comparing policy networks, Oxford University Press, Oxford

Tantivess, S., and Walt, G., 2008, The Role of State and Non-State Actors in the Policy Process: the contribution of policy networks to the scale-up of anti-retroviral therapy in Thailand, Health Policy and Planning, Vol. 23. pp: 328- 338

Suggested readings will be given in class. For the rest, books can be referred from library (most of the books and materials mentioned in the list area available in the library), depending on interest and motivation of the student. However, students are encouraged to bring cases of policy making from their respective countries to the class to make the discussion richer and productive.

Recommended journals for reference
Policy Studies Journal World Development
Development an Change
Economic and Political Weekly

Additional information (if any)

Student responsibilities:
Students are required regular in attendance. At-least 75% attendance will be necessary to be able to appear for the final exam. While regular readings and class discussions are expected, additional readings and discussions will help to enhance the learning outcome

Course reviewers:
1. Dr S K Sarkar, DoPT
2. Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra, IRMA