PPOL5110/SOSC5780
Foundation in Public Policy (L1)
Fall 2020

<u>Instructor</u>:

Professor Xun Wu (wuxun@ust.hk)

<u>Teaching Assistants</u>:

Mr. Gleb Papyshev (gpapyshev@connect.ust.hk)
Mr. Sharma Shubham (ssharmaad@connect.ust.hk)

<u>Class Time and Venue</u>:

<u>Group A: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 AM to 10:20 AM</u>

Join Zoom Meeting
https://hkust.zoom.us/j/96271488533?pwd=K25zMUwyK0lpUkh3TkNHUjNzVnI1dz09

Meeting ID: 962 7148 8533
Passcode: 81121

<u>Group B: Monday & Wednesday 10:30 AM to 11:50 AM</u>

Join Zoom Meeting
https://hkust.zoom.us/j/98571004448?pwd=UUlwaXFxU2VPUjBYSlByMmZyR3RqZz09

Meeting ID: 985 7100 4448
Passcode: 81121

<u>Office Hours</u>:

Monday 1:30-3:00 PM (Office: Room 4616A, Academic Building, via Lift 31/32)
Wednesday: 1:30-3:00 PM (Zoom ID: 9166665888)

Course Description

This course introduces to students the study of public policy. We will explore key theories and analytical frameworks for public policy and how they can be applied to approach contemporary public policy issues. The first part of the course will deal with the roles of key building blocks of the policy systems, such as approaches, value, policy actors, policy instruments, and policy context, in shaping policymaking. The second part of the course will examine key stages in policy-making process, such as agenda setting, policy formation, decision-making, policy implementation and policy evaluation.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

♦ Be familiar with key terms, concepts, approaches, and frameworks concerning public policy;
♦ Describe important structures and interactions among key components of policy systems, such as policy actors, policy environment and policy instruments;
♦ Understand key theories and frameworks of the policy process and identify areas of potential improvement in a given context;
♦ Improve analytical, writing, group work, and presentation skills

Assessment

The assessment of student performance in the course will be based on written assignments, class participation, and the final exam. The following weights will be used to determine course grades:

Component	Weight
Written Assignments	
Case Analysis	20% (10% for MPhi/PhD)
Policy Memos	20% (10% of MPhil/PhD)
Case Writing and Case Analysis (Group project)	20%
Research Paper (for MPhil/PhD only)	40%
Class Participation	10%
Final exam (open book)	30%

Topics and Reading Assignments

Week #1 (September 7 & 9): Introduction to Public Policy

Wu, X, M. Ramesh, M. Howlett, and S. Fritzen (2018). *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*, Routledge. 2nd Edition. Chapter 1: Introduction: Managing the Policy Process, pp. 1-25.

Smith, K. and C. Larimer, (2009). *The Public Policy Theory Primer*, Westview Press. Chapter 1 Public Policy as a Concept and a Field (or Fields) or Study.

Head, B. (2008) Wicked Problems in Public Policy. 3 *Public Policy*, 3(2), 101-118.

Peters, G. (2005) The Problem of Policy Problems. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*. Vol. 7, No. 4, 349-370.

Mintrom, M. (2003) *People Skills for Policy Analysts*. Georgetown University Process. Chapter 1 Policy Analysts and People Skills

Jenkins-Smith, H. C. (1982) Professional Roles for Policy Analysts: A Critical Assessment, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management,* Vol. 2, No. 1. pp. 88-100

Case #1: Managing the Sin in Singapore's Casinos

Case #2: Regulating the P2P economy: Airbnb

Week #2 (September 14 & 16): Approaches to Public Policy

Howlett, M., M. Ramesh and A. Perl (2009). *Studying Public Policy*. Routledge. 4th Edition. Chapter 2: Understanding Public Policy: Theoretical Approaches

Smith, K. and C. Larimer, (2009). *The Public Policy Theory Primer*, Westview Press. Chapter 3 Who Makes Decisions? How They Make Decisions? Actors and Institutions

Pottenger, M., and A. Martin (2014). Insights into Behavioural Science. Issues Paper Series No. 06/14. Melbourne School of Government

Pierson, P. (2000). Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics, *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 94, No. 2.

Wu, X., M Ramesh, M. Howlett, Understanding Policy Capacity: Conceptual Framework and Measurement. *Policy & Society, 34 (3-4), 2015*

Case #3: The Government Weighs in on Housing in Hong Kong

Case #4: Sanlu Milk Powder Incident (A)

Week #3 (September 21 & 23): Value for Public Policy

Stone, D. (2002). *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*. London and New York, NY: WW Norton and Company. Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5

de Graaf, G., L. Huberts, R. Smulders (2016). Coping with Public Value Conflicts. *Administration &*

Society, 48(9)

Case #5: Gamifying trust: Can you win at life? China's Social Credit System and the rating revolution

Case #6: Apple: Privacy and Safety

Week #4 (September 28 & 30): Policy Instruments

Howlett, M., M. Ramesh and A. Perl (2009). *Studying Public Policy*. Routledge. 4th Edition. Chapter 5: Policy Formulation. pp. 114-135

Weimer, D., and A. Vining (2011). *Policy Analysis*. Chapter 10 Correcting Market and Government Failures: Generic Policies. pp. 209-262

Wu, X. and M. Ramesh. (2014) "Market Imperfections, Government Imperfections and Innovative Policy Mixes in Singapore", *Policy Sciences*, 47(3): 305-320.

Case #7: Rock, Paper or Scissors: The Trilemma of Fertiliser Policy in India

Case #8: Cotton Policy in China

Week #5 (October 5 and 7): Policy Actors

Guest Lecturer (October 5): Professor Pauline Ng

Howlett, M., M. Ramesh and A. Perl (2009). *Studying Public Policy*. Routledge. 4th Edition. Chapter 3: The Policy Context, pp. 50-89.

Stone, D. (2002). *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making.* London and New York, NY: WW Norton and Company. Chapter 9: Interests

Brinkerhoff, D. & B. Crosby (2002), *Managing Policy Reform: Concepts and Tools for Decision-Makers in Developing and Transitioning Countries*, Kumarian Press. Chapter 6 Stakeholder Analysis; Chapter 8 Political and Institutional Mapping

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Case #9: Co-location Arrangement of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

Case #10: Dams and the Displaced: Lessons from the Myitsone Dam in Myanmar

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Week #6 (October 12 & 14): Policy Context

Howlett, M., M. Ramesh and A. Perl (2009). *Studying Public Policy*. 4th Edition. Chapter 3: The Policy Context, pp. 50-89.

Ostrom, E. (2010). Beyond markets and states: polycentric governance of complex economic systems. *The American Economic Review*, 641-672.

Eggers, W., L. Baker, R. Gonzalez, A. Vaughn (2012) *Public sector, disrupted. How disruptive innovation can help government achieve more for le*ss. Deloitte.

Case #11: Uber in Hong Kong

Case #12: The case of Face Masks

Week #7 (October 19 & 23): Agenda Setting

Guest Lecturer (October 23): Professor Christine Loh

Wu, X., M. Ramesh, M. Howlett, and S. Fritzen (2018), *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*, Routledge. 2nd Edition Chapter 2: Agenda Setting, pp. 26-49.

Birkland, T. A. (1998) Focusing Events, Mobilization, and Agenda Setting. *Journal of Public Policy*, 18(1): 53-74

Stone, D. 1989. Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas. *Political Science Quarterly* 104 (2): 281–300

Feezeill, J. (2017) Agenda Setting through Social Media: The Importance of Incidental News Exposure and Social Filtering in the Digital Era. Political Research Quarterly

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Case #13: Brexit

Case #14: Controlling Shipping emission in Hong Kong

Week #8 (October 28 & November 2): Policy Formulation

Guest Lecturer (November 2): Professor Anthony Cheung

Wu, X., M. Ramesh, M. Howlett, and S. Fritzen (2018), *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*, Routledge. 2nd Edition. Chapter 3: Policy Formulation, pp. 50-75.

Kingdon, J. (1995). "How Does and Idea's Time Come? Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies." In Classics of Public Administration, 7th edition 454-459.

Sabatier, P. A. (1988). An advocacy coalition framework of policy change and the role of policy-oriented learning therein. Policy Sciences, 21(2-3), 129-168.

Case #15: Dilemma over Conservation and Development of Hong Kong's Country Parks Peripheries.

Case #16: The Third Runway of Hong Kong International Airport

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Week #9 (November 4 & 9): Decision making

Wu, X, M. Ramesh, M. Howlett, and S. Fritzen (2018), *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*, Routledge. Chapter 4: Decision-Making, pp. 76-99.

Jones, B. D., & Baumgartner, F. R. (2012). From there to here: Punctuated equilibrium to the general punctuation thesis to a theory of government information processing. *Policy Studies Journal*, 40(1), 1-20.

Pal, L. (2011). "Assessing Incrementalism: Formative Assumptions, Contemporary Realities," *Policy and Society* 30(1)

Alliso, G. Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis, *The American Political Science Review,* Volume 63, Issue 3 (Sep., 1969), 689-718.

Case #17 Cuban Missile Crisis

Case #18 US-China Trade War

<u>Week 10 (November 11 & 16): Policy Implementation</u>

Wu, X., M. Ramesh, M. Howlett, and S. Fritzen (2018), *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*, Routledge. 2nd Edition Chapter 5: Policy Implementation, pp. 100-123.

Weaver, K. (2010) But Will It Work?: Implementation Analysis to Improve Government Performance. Issues in Governance Studies. No. 32.

Weimer, D. and R. Vining (2011) *Policy Analysis*. Chapter 12 Implementation. pp. 286-307

Brinkerhoff, D. & B. Crosby (2002), *Managing Policy Reform: Concepts and Tools for Decision-Makers in Developing and Transitioning Countries*, Kumarian Press. Chapter 7 Policy Characteristics Analysis

Case #19: Cuna Mas: Peru's Early Childhood Program Struggles to Maintain Quality as it Scales Up

Case #20: UK Government Digital Service: Moving Beyond a Website

<u>Week 11 (November 18 & 23): Policy Evaluation</u>

Wu, X., M. Ramesh, M. Howlett, and S. Fritzen (2018), *The Public Policy Primer: Managing the Policy Process*, Routledge, 2nd Edition. Ch. 6 "Policy Evaluation," pp. 124-139.

McConnell, A (2010). Policy Success, Policy Failure and Grey Areas In-Between. *Journal of Public Policy*.

Bovens, M., P. 'T Hart, S. Kuipers (2008). Oxford Handbook of Policy Analysis: Chapter 15 The Politics of Policy Evaluation.

Case 21: Measured Approach: TEGV Assesses It Performance & Impact on Educational Enrichment Programs

Case 22: The New York City's Teen ACTION Program: An Evaluation Gone Awry

<u>Week 12 (November 25 & December 1): Student presentations</u>

<u>Week 13 (December 3): Overview of the course</u>