Full Syllabus

Course Title

Public Policy and Global Challenges

Lecturer

Dr. Michal Linder Zarankin

Semester

A

Course requirements

Attendance, weekly assigned articles, reflection essay & policy critique, presentations, and final exam

Final grade components

Two reflection essays (20%), one policy critique (20%), presentations (10%), final exam (50%)

Course schedule

Class no. / Date	Subject and Requirements (assignments, reading materials, tasks, etc.)
#1 (25.10)	**Introduction and Overview** What does it mean to study public policy? Understanding the scope and domains of the policy process
#2 (1.11)	**Defining Public Policy and its Significance** Challenges and opportunities in policymaking
#3 (8.11)	**Agenda Setting and Focusing Events** Why do some issues receive attention while others are ignored?
#4 (15.11)	**Guest Lecture** Policy, Climate, and International Law
#5 (22.11)	**Policy Design, Implementation & Learning** Did the program work as Expected? What does it meant to learn from policy failures? *1st Reflection Essay due*
#6 (29.11)	**Training Modules** *Converge* Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/training-modules
#7 (6.12)	**Policy and Society** Navigating Global Challenges through Social Policy
#8 (13.12)	**Theory to Practice (1)** Building Resilience through Mitigation and Preparedness *Policy Proposal Workshop* *2nd Reflection Essay due*
#9 (20.12)	**Theory to Practice (2)** Building Resilience through Response and Recovery *Policy Proposal Workshop continues*
#10 (27.12)	**Israel and Foreign Policy in Crisis Situations** *Policy Analysis critique due*

#11 (3.1)	Presentations
#12 (10.1)	Presentations

Required course reading

Class 1 &2
- Drabek TE. (2005). Theories relevant to Emergency Management versus a theory of Emergency Management. Journal of Emergency Management Vol 3(4)
- Paul Cairney. (2015). How can policy theory have an impact on policymaking? The role of theory-led academic-practitioner discussions. *Teaching Public Administration* 33(1), 22-39
- Bryan D. Jones. (1999). Bounded Rationality. *Annual Reviews in Political Science* 2 297-321

Class 3 & 5
- Thomas A. Birkland et al. (2021). During Disaster: Refining the Concept of Focusing Events to Better Explain Long-Duration Crises. *International Review of Public Policy* 3, 5-28
- Bacchi C. (2016). Problematizations in Health Policy: Questioning how 'Problems' are Constituted in Policies", Sage Open, April-June
- Kathleen Tierney, Christine Bevc and Erica Kuligowski (2006). Metaphors Matter: Disaster Myths, Media Frames, and their Consequences in Hurricane Katrina. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (604)

Class 6
- Birkland, Thomas A. (2009). Disasters, Lessons Learned, and Fantasy Documents. *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management* 17 (3) 146-156
- Dunlop, C. and Radaelli, C. (2018). The lessons of policy learning, *Policy and Politics*, 46, 2, 255-72
- Daniel Nohrstedt. (2022). When do disasters spark transformative policy changes and why? *Policy & Politics* 50 (3) 425–441

Class 8
- Elliott, J.R., Pais, J. (2006). Race, class, and Hurricane Katrina: Social differences in human responses to disaster. *Social Science Research* 35(2), 295- 321
- Matthewman, S., & Huppatz, K. (2020). A Sociology of Covid-19. *Journal of Sociology* 56(4), 675-683.

Class 9
- Berkes F. (2007). Understanding uncertainty and reducing vulnerability: lessons from resilience thinking. *Natural Hazards* 4(2), 283-295
- Flint, A. (2022). Mayor's Desk: Cultivating Climate Resilience in Sierra Leone. *Climate Wire*. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Class 10
- Aldrich D. and Meyer M. (2015). Social Capital and Community Resilience. *American Behavioral Scientist* 59(2)
- Tierney K. J. (2020). Pandemic and Disaster: Insights from Seventy Years of Social Science Disaster.
- The Policy Nerd Podcast. Stand on the shoulders of giants, take the next leap on climate. https://en.unesco.org/inclusivepolicylab/learning/stand-shoulders-giants-take-next-leap-climate

Class 11 TBD

Optional course reading

Sabatier, Chapter 10, Edella Schlager, A Comparison of Frameworks, Theories and Models of Policy Processes

March, James G., Michael D. Cohen, and Johan P. Olsen. (1972). A Garbage Can Model of Organizational Decision Making. Administrative Science Quarterly 17(1) 1-25

Charles Lindblom (1959). The science of muddling through. *Public Administration Review* 19, 79-88

Comments

Course Overview

This course is one of the mandatory electives for the International Master's Degree in Disaster Management, at the School of Public Health, Tel Aviv university. The primary aim of this course is to familiarize students with the various traditions, assumptions, and diverse perspectives within the field of public policy process. The policy process refers to the development of public policy over time and the official and unofficial actors, interest groups, and contexts surrounding this development. The course attempts to capture a global overview; it examines the challenges and processes involved in shaping policies at the global level. It explores key policy areas such as Climate Change, Natural Disasters or Humanitarian Crises considering the interplay between national interests, international organizations, and civil society. Through case studies, discussions, and policy simulations, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of global policy and develop critical analytical skills to assess and propose solutions to global challenges.

Course Objectives:
- Comprehend the notion of public policy and its role in tackling global challenges effectively,
- Acquire insights into the key actors, institutions, and procedures driving the policy process,
- Cultivate critical thinking and analytical abilities to evaluate policy effectiveness and outcomes,
- Promote cross-cultural dialogue among students to foster a global perspective on vital policy issues.