

Lingnan University
Department of Political Science

POL 208
Public Policy: Values and Processes

September 2009

Instructor: Mr. Lawrence K.K. Ho
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Lecture Time: Every Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Venue: MB G01
Consultation: Every Monday, 4:30 – 7:00 pm & Thursday, 3:30 – 7:00 pm

1 Course Description and Objectives

This course is a basic introductory course on the public policymaking process and the values underpinning it. It aims to equip students with a basic knowledge of the functions and goals of public policy, structures and processes of public policymaking; and at the same time enable students to understand the dynamics and actors involved in the policymaking process.

The 14-week lectures will be organized into **FOUR** major parts. It will first touch on the key concepts of public administration study; the reasons for market failures and then the use of public policy. Then, the policy cycle and who stakeholders who attempted to shape the policy outcomes will be introduced. To stimulate students' learning initiatives and facilitate their understanding on the taught concepts, two policy agenda in Hong Kong are selected for intensive examination in last part of the lectures.

2 Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, students should be able to

- 1) Understand the logic and reasons of government intervention
- 2) Comprehend the dynamics and complexity of public policymaking
- 3) Assess critically the values and ethics underpinning public policy
- 4) Form dispassionate opinions and render their own judgments on social agenda.

3 Assessment

Assessment of student performance will be based on the following **FOUR criteria**:

- 1) The group/ individual presentation performance during tutorial **(10%)***
- 2) The group/ individual essay which is due **a week** after the tutorial presentation **(20%)**
- 3) The participation and critiques on others' presentation **(20%)***
- 4) The performance in final exam **(50%)**

University policy to tackle plagiarism

With regard to your coursework in particular, you are reminded: You must note the sources of quotations, data and general information in essays and submitted works. These sources/references should appear in alphabetical order in your list of references/bibliography.

According to Lingnan University and Social Sciences Program policy, plagiarism is "presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgment of the source". Plagiarism (unattributed copying) will be heavily penalized and may attract a zero mark and disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity

Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations.

Submission of Coursework and Late Penalty

Students may be required to submit both electronic and printed copies of their written reports for coursework assessment purpose.

*Late submissions within 5 working days after the due date: Deduct one subgrade, e.g. "B" to "B-".
Late submissions beyond 5 working days of the due date: "F" grade for the course work component*

4 Reading List

Recommended Readings

- * Anderson, James E. (2003). Public Policy-making. 5th Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. (LN Library Call no. [JK468.P64 A56 2003](#))
- * Lindblom, Charles E and Edward J. Woodhouse (1993). The Policymaking Process. 3rd Edition. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall (LN Library Call no. [JK271 .L52 1993](#))
- * Scott Ian (2005). Public Administration in Hong Kong: Regime Change and Its Impacts on the Public Sector. Singapore: Marshall Cavendish. (LN Library Call no. [JQ1539.5.A58 S36 2005](#))
- * Rosenbloom, David et. (2002). Public Administration: Understanding Management, Politics and Law in the Public Sector. 5th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill. (LN Library Call no. [JF1351 .R56 2002](#))
- *Chan, Ming. K. (ed.) (2008). China's Hong Kong Transformed: Retrospect and Prospects beyond the First Decade. Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press.

Further Readings

- Burns, John (2004). Government Capacity and the Hong Kong Civil Service. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
- Cheung, Anthony B. L. & Lee, Jane C. Y. (2001). Public Sector Reform in Hong Kong into the 21st Century. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.

Cheung, Anthony B. L. (2005). *Public Service Reform in East Asia: Reform Issues and Challenges in Japan, Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.

Henry, Nicholas (2001). *Public Administration and Public Affairs*. 8th ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall.

Howlett, Michael and M. Ramesh (1995) *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Public Subsystems*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

John Peter (1998) *Analyzing Public Policy*. London and New York: Pinter.

Lam, Wai Man (eds.) (2007) *Contemporary Hong Kong Politics: Governance in the post-1997 era*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Lane, Jan-Erik (2000). *The Public Sector: Concepts, Models and Approaches*. 3rd ed. London: SAGE

Lau, S. K. (2002). *The First Tung Chee-Hwa Administration, Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press*.

Miners, Norman (1998). *The Government and Politics of Hong Kong*, 6th edition. Hong Kong: Oxford University of Press.

Moran, Michael, Martin Rein, and Robert E. Goodin, (eds.) (2006) *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Parson, Wayne (1995). *Public Policy: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

Peters, B. Guy (2001). *The Politics of Bureaucracy*. 5th edition. London & New York: Routledge.

Paul, Samuel (1991). *Strengthening Public Service Accountability: A Conceptual Framework*. Washington D.C.: The World Bank.

曾榮光 (1998) *香港教育政策分析：社會學的視域*。香港：三聯書店(香港)有限公司

曾榮光 (1998) *英中學額分配政策的匱乏與不均等：香港中學教學語言政策的再思*。香港：香港中文大學香港教育研究所, 1998

5 Course Schedule (*Tentative on 4 Sep 2009*)

Meeting	Date	Topics
1	4 Sep	Housekeeping Course Introduction and course administration

2	11 Sep	<i>Foundation of public administration 1</i> What is Public Administration and Public Policy Process <i>What are Public and Private sectors? Why need government's intervention to society?; The free-riding problems etc</i>
3	18 Sep	<i>Foundation of public administration 2</i> Key Values in Public Policymaking <i>Ideologies shaping public policymaking</i> <i>What are the meanings of Legitimacy, Accountability and Neutrality?</i>
4	25 Sep	<i>Foundation of public administration 3</i> New Values in Public policymaking <i>Managerial Accountability, public participation and Information Access</i>
5	2 Oct	<i>The public policy cycle 1 & 2</i> The Process
6	9 Oct	<i>Agenda Setting, Formulation of Policy Proposals</i> <i>Policy Implementation, Policy Evaluation and Policy Change</i>
7	16 Oct	<i>The public policy cycle 3</i> Interpretation of a Policy Process <i>The policymaking models</i>
8	23 Oct	<i>Actors in public policymaking 1 & 2</i> The Bureaucracy
9	30 Oct	<i>Theories, Organization & Resources Allocation</i>
10	6 Nov	<i>Actors in public policymaking 3</i> The Interest Groups
11	13 Nov	<i>Businessmen, Politicians & Think Tanks</i>
12	20 Nov	<i>Selected Topic in studying a policy process 1</i> Public- Private Partnership in Infrastructure Projects <i>Favoritism to business elites or speeding up the economic growth?</i>
13	27 Nov	<i>Selected Topic in studying a policy process 2</i> The Medium of Instruction Guidelines in Secondary Schools <i>A rational decision objected by the irrational stakeholders?</i>
14	4 Dec	Final Review

The Lectures

Normally the class meeting will be divided into two sessions. The first 1.5 hour is lecturing while the last 30 minutes shall be devoted to class discussion, with the class being divided into small groups. The instructor will go to every group to give hints and comments for your group discussion and also to check for your participation. You will also be asked to give a brief report to the whole class on what your group has discussed and what conclusion your group has drawn.

Students are encouraged to make active participation in the discussion and voice out their opinion towards the questions. This may facilitate your preparation for the tutorial presentation and written report.

6 Lecture Notes & Supplementary References

To facilitate student's learning, instructor's power-point files and supplementary reading materials which cover the major concepts and facts delivered in lectures will be uploaded to the *WebCT* platform for references.

As this course emphasizes the application of theory to reality, students should read quality report of current issues in Hong Kong to keep close touch with the latest social developments. Students are also advised to read the newspapers and periodicals regularly to make themselves aware of the current issues in Hong Kong, as well as the policies introduced by the SAR government. For the preparation of written assignments, students may check the webpage of the Langan Library. You are strongly recommended to make use of "Wiseneews", a database that collects a rich bundle of newspaper articles of Hong Kong and the greater China Region.