



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Social Planning

2021-1-F8701N070

Learning objectives

Mastering the contents of the course and achieving the corresponding skills. The main objective of the course is the analysis of the policy process leading to most policy schemes in the domain of social work and social policy at the national, regional or local level. The comprehension of the policy design is an important focus of the course. The understanding of the tension between decision-making, steering by meso-level actors and implementation by street-level agents, in the domain of social policy, will be at heart of the course. Most contents are comparative (Europe).

The comprehension of the mechanisms leading to the making and the implementing of social policy schemes at local level will enable the participants to understand, master and act as professionals in such a policy environment.

Contents

The course aims at providing an introduction to the policy process in the domain of social policy and social work. It handles the most important mechanisms, institutions, actors, values, and social cleavages of this policy field. The course will consider the embeddedness of local social policy-making in the context of regional, national and supranational policy debates and constraints. It will tackle public, para-public, associative or for-profit actors as they interact with the addressees of social policies such as families, youngsters, unemployed, disabled or frail elderly people in the context of social policy-making.

Detailed program

Detailed program

1. Introduction to policy studies

- Social policy design as policy-making
- Introductory definitions
- Some theoretical views over public policy
- The policy cycle and beyond

2. Public problems definition and policy-making

- Public problems, policies and democracy
- Social problems, public problems: Some theoretical approaches
- Analyzing the construction of public problems

3. Designing public policies: Programming policies and designing policy instruments

- Analyzing policy design
- Explaining policy design

4. Policy implementation

- Programming the implementation
- Resources of the implementation process
- Analytical approaches to policy implementation

5. Social policy evaluation in Europe

- The basic evaluation methods
- Micro-economic evaluation methods
- Qualitative evaluation

- Various forms of participatory evaluation

6. Dynamics and challenges in contemporary social policy making

- Social policy as a specific type of policy-making
- Institutions and actors
- New public problems, ideas, policy solutions?

7. Social services and long-term care policies in Europe

- Historical trajectories and theoretical approaches
- National models and local diversity
- Recent trends in social services
- Long-term care for the aged

8. Social innovations in social planning

- Diversity of influences and convergence?
- The political character of policy innovation
- A comparative research project on social innovation at local level in Germany, Scotland and Switzerland

Prerequisites

Mastery of theoretical knowledge and methodological basis regarding policies and good skills in learning, writing and oral communication.

Teaching methods

The course is given in English. Discussions during the course and the assessment at the end of the course can be either in English or in Italian.

Lectures and research.

Assessment methods

Essay.

Draft in either English or Italian, an essay providing an analysis of a social policy making process. This should be based on one or on several concrete cases either in Italy or abroad. Pick one or two analytical dimensions learned during the course (public problem formulation, analysis of policy instruments, implementation, evaluation, social policy innovation analysis...) and provide an analysis based on documents (reports, brochures, statistics, interviews of policy makers or of social workers you can find online or in news magazines, etc.) You have to look for academic literature grounding your analysis (at least two articles). You have to quote all types of documents (informative or academic) in the appropriate way. Draft a document of about 5 pages.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Knoepfel, Peter; Larrue, Corinne; Varone, Frédéric; Hill, Michael. *Public Policy Analysis*. The Policy Press, Bristol, 2007.

Session Date	Lessons to be discussed	Texts
	1 - Introduction to policy analysis	Read the "Introduction" (p. ix-xvii) and "Chapter 2 – Public policy" (p. 21-37) [textbook <i>Public Policy Analysis</i> , by Peter Knoepfel et al.)
	2 – Public problems and policy-making	
	3 – Designing public policies – Programming policies and choosing policy instruments	Read <u>one</u> of the two following articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rochefort, David A.; Roseberg, Michael; White, Deena (1998). "Community as a Policy Instrument: A Comparative Analysis". <i>Policy Studies Journal</i>, vol.26, N°3, 548-568.• Berndt, Christian; Wirth, Manuel (2018). "Market, metrics, morals: The

		Social Impact Bond as an emerging social policy instrument". <i>Geoforum</i> , n°90, 27-35.
	4 – Policy implementation – The end of the policy cycle?	<p>Read <u>one</u> of the two following articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD (2019). <i>Implementing Social Protection Strategies</i>. OECD, Paris. • May, Peter J., Winter, Søren C. (2007). « Politicians, Managers, and Street-Level Bureaucrats: Influences on Policy Implementation ». <i>Journal of Public Administration and Theory</i>. 19, 453-476.
	5 – Social policy evaluation in Europe	
	6 – Dynamics and challenges in contemporary social policy making	<p>Read the following article:</p> <p>Bonoli, Giuliano (2007). "Time Matters: Postindustrialization, New Social Risks, and Welfare State Adaptation in Advanced Industrial Democracies", <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 2007; 40; 495-520.</p>
	7 – Social services and long-term care policies in Europe	
	8 – Social innovation in social planning	
