

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: UPPNGP-30-3 **Title:** Policy-making In Britain **Version:** 2

Level: 3 **UWE credit rating:** 30 **ECTS credit rating:** 15

Module type: Standard

Owning Faculty: Humanities, Languages & Social Sciences **Field:** Politics

Faculty Committee approval: CAC, Chair's Action **Date:** 22/06/11

Valid from: September 2011 **Discontinued from:**

Contributes towards: Awards up to BA/BSC (Hons)

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the module the students will be able to:

1. Evaluate the various processes, institutions and policy actors at work in the initiation, formulation and application of public policy in the UK (assessment components A; and B element 2).
2. Identify a variety of approaches to the study of public policy-making (component B element 2).
3. Analyse and evaluate various theoretical explanations of policy-making through their application to discrete policy areas, in the central, local, EC or international context (components A; and B element 2).
4. Gather information from a wide variety of sources, both printed and electronic, including academic works, government publications, and the press and media (component B, elements 1 and 2).
5. Present a policy-analysis case study that incorporates the formulation of a research question, a critical appraisal of a discrete policy area, and the application of theories of policy-making. The case-study essay will demonstrate an ability to synthesise material, communicate this in a coherent form, write clearly and concisely, and use appropriate presentational formats (such as tables, charts, footnotes, etc.)(component B, elements 1 and 2).

Syllabus outline:

The Course will incorporate at least some of the following:

- What is public policy and policy-making?
- Approaches to the study of policy-making and models of the policy process.
- Theoretical models and explanations
- The British political and policy-making system, including parliament, government, bureaucracies, pressure groups and local government.
- Government and governance.
- The territorial dimension: Europe, regions and local governance

- Case studies

Teaching and learning methods:

The module combines lectures, seminars and independent study. Lectures establish the structure of the course, provide information about key topics, and highlight important issues for debate and further discussion. Seminars draw on a variety of teaching/learning approaches (for example student presentations, small group work and general class discussion) to examine the topics highlighted in lectures in greater depth. Students will be encouraged to pursue further those topics on which they choose to concentrate, using guided reading of academic materials. In accumulating learning material they will also be encouraged to make use of data bases, abstracts, and official publications etc – both printed and on-line. Assessment also requires students to seek out their own sources of information and to investigate independently a policy area or issue of their own choosing.

Indicative sources:

- Dorey, P. *Policy Making in Britain: An Introduction* (Sage, 2005)
- Dorey, P. *Developments in British Public Policy* (Sage, 2005)
- Hill, M. *The Public Policy Process* (5th ed) (Pearson Longman, 2009)
- Hill, M. & Hupe, P. *Implementing Public Policy* (Sage 2002)
- John, P. *Analysing Public Policy* (London: Pinter, 1998)
- Kingdon J *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies* (2nd ed) (Longman 2003)
- McConnell, A. *Understanding Policy Success: Rethinking Public Policy* (Palgrave 2010)
- Moran, M. *Politics and Governance in the UK* (Palgrave Macmillan 2005)
- Parsons, W. *Public Policy* (Aldershot: Edward Elgar, 1995)
- Peters, B. Guy (ed) *Handbook of public administration* (Sage 2003)
- Pierre, J. & Peters, B Guy *Governance, Politics and the State* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 2000)
- Rhodes, R *Understanding Governance* (Buckingham: Open University Press 1997)
- Richards, D & Smith, M. *Governance and Public Policy in the UK* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002)
- Sabatier, P. *Theories of the Policy Process* (2nd ed) (Westview, 2007).
- Savage, S.P. & Atkinson, R. (eds) *Public Policy Under Blair* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001)
- Wallace, H., Pollack M & Young A. (eds), *Policy-Making in the European Union* (6th ed)(Oxford: Oxford University Press 2010)

<http://www.ukonline.gov.uk> (UK government information service)

Useful journals include *Public Administration*, *Public Policy and Administration*, *Local Government Studies*, *Policy and Politics*.

Assessment

Please state which element of assessment should be recorded as the final assessment for the purposes of submitting data on non-submissions to HEFCE. (For further information please contact Academic Registry.)

Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: 40% B: 60%

ATTEMPT 1

First Assessment Opportunity (Sit) Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1. Examination (two hours) <u>FINAL</u>	40%

Component B

Description of each element (Resit) weighting	Element
1. Case-study literature search and review (1500 words)	25%
2. Case-study essay (3000 words)	35%

Second Assessment Opportunity (Resit) (further attendance at taught classes is not required) Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1. Examination (two hours)	40%

Component B

Description of each element	Element weighting
1. Essay (4500 words)	60%

EXCEPTIONAL SECOND ATTEMPT (Retake): Attendance at taught classes is not required.

**Specification confirmed byDate
(Associate Dean/Programme Director)**