Course title: Public Policy Processes and Institutions
Course code: MPD 161  No. of credits: 3  L-T-P: 32-10-0  Learning hours: 42
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None
Department: Department Policy Studies
Course coordinator(s): Dr. Smriti Das  Course instructor(s): Dr. Smriti Das
Contact details: smriti.das@terisas.ac.in
Course type: Core  Course offered in: Semester 3

Course description:
The policy challenges of the 21st century is varied and require the decision makers and analysts to see issues from multiple perspectives. Apart from those of the state, these perspectives include other stakeholders whose participation is important for attainment of collective goals of the society. Sustainable development practitioners need a lens that appreciates these influences along with appreciation of cross-sectoral linkages.
In this context, the course would help to build an understanding on how policies are developed and put into action. This would entail examining the emergence of issue, deciding on priority, setting of agenda, managing interests and implementing decisions. In the process the role of various bureaucratic, political, organized and unorganized interest groups, actors and networks would be highlighted. It would aim at understanding as well as exploring various forms of engagement of stakeholders. Although the geographical focus of most of the decisions would be in the Indian context, case studies from several other countries would help in contextualizing the issues.

Through this course the myth of Government as unitary actor with coherent set of objectives would be annulled. It would help the students to understand the complexities of policy process and the way various stakeholders exercise influence on policy decisions.

Course objectives:
1. To familiarize the students with how policies are formulated and implemented
2. To build a nuanced understanding of the role of various institutions and interest groups in this process.
3. To help students understand how various stakeholders exercise influence in the policy process and what are the outcomes of such influences.

Course content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Basic Concepts and Theories of Public Policy and Policy Processes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 1: Understanding Public Policy; Policy Types</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 2 and 3: Approaches to policy making- various models of policy making and its relevance to study the policy process and changes thereof</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 4: Case discussion: Cuban Missile Crisis to highlight the influence of actors and organizations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Institutions and its role in Public Policy</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 1: Policy making institutions in India: judiciary, executive and legislature; how policy making is accomplished in India</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Constitutional/Statutory bodies and its role in policy process</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 2: Political institutions (political parties/agendas/governing principles such as adult franchise and accountability) and extent to which they constrain room for manoeuvre of policy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 3:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Changing role of institutions: new public management; new governance model; role of networks in shaping public policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Policy Process: Formulation of policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Case study: policy in a specific sector will be examined to understand how it developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 and 3</td>
<td>Principal phases of policy process: issue identification/agenda setting, stakeholder consultation and review; transparency in policy formulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Identifying the main actors/stakeholders in the policy process; idea of political power and influence; regional versus national interest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Policy Process: implementation of policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Examining policy from implementation perspective; identifying implementation gaps; feedback on policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Policy implementation as a political process: political economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Service Delivery, accountability and people’s participation: role of decentralization and local governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Group presentation (for 30 minutes) on stages of policy formulation. Debating the importance of various stages, consequences of adhering to these stages and fall out at each stage with ways to improvise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Policy Change and its agents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 2 and 3</td>
<td>Identifying role of domestic and international actors (leaders/agencies/pressure groups) in determining policy choices; Endowments and Constraints on their power to determine policy choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil Society/pressure groups/networks and its role in influencing policy decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Market (private sector/business) as an agent in influencing policy decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Media and its role in influencing public policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Evaluation criteria:

Test 1: Written Exam 15 % [End of Module 2]
Test 1 will test the preliminary understanding of the students of the policy process and the role of institutions.

Test 2: Group Presentation 35% [End of Module 4]
Thematic presentation would be in groups where the students will be free to work on a policy of their choice. This will be scheduled after the completion of policy formulation stage and policy implementation stage.

Test 3: Written Exam 50% [End of Module 5]
Test 3 will be based on a policy and will assess the student’s ability to analyze the process and the role of various stakeholders. It will also examine the ability of students to interpret the rationale of policy and discuss the larger relevance of the idea in the societal context.

### Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, the students will be expected to:

1. Be able to understand the process of policy formulation and implementation (Test 1 and 2)
2. Be able to understand the role of various institutions and their relevance in the policy process (Test 1 and 2)
3. Be able to analyze policy with respect to: rationale, objectives, outcomes and role and influence of various stakeholders (Test 3)
4. Be able to appreciate the intersectoral linkages between various policies (Test 3)
Pedagogical approach

The course will draw upon a wide variety of examples from existing policies and performance of the communities on various development parameters to enable the students to understand the complexities of policy formulation as well as implementation. The sessions will be delivered through a mix of lectures, case studies and discussions. The course will include tutorials that will be used for case and group discussions.

Course Reading Materials

Module 1:

Allison, G., 1999, The Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis, Boston: Little Brown

Module 2:

Austin, G., 2007, The Indian Constitution, Cornerstone of a Nation, Oxford University Press.
Harris, J., 2006, Power Matters-Essays on institutions, Politics and Society in India, Oxford University Press
Chatterjee, P. (eds), 1999, State and Politics in India, Oxford university Press

Module 3:

Parsons, W., 1995, Public Policy-An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis, Edward Elgar, UK

Module 4:

Pressman, J. L. and Wildavsky, A., 1971, Implementation, California University Press, Berkeley

Module 5:

Sathe, S.P., 2002, Judicial Activism in India, Oxford University Press, New Delhi

Suggested readings will be given in class. For the rest, books can be referred from library (most of the books and materials mentioned in the list area available in the library), depending on interest and motivation of the student. However, students are encouraged to bring cases of policy making from their respective countries to the class to make the discussion richer and productive.

Recommended journals for reference

Policy Studies Journal
World Development
Development and Change
Economic and Political Weekly

Additional information (if any)

Student responsibilities

Students are required regular in attendance. At-least 75% attendance will be necessary to be able to appear for the final exam.
While regular readings and class discussions are expected, additional readings and discussions will help to enhance the learning outcome

Course reviewers:
1. Dr S K Sarkar, DoPT
2. Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra, IRMA