Course title: Public Policy Assessment: Methods & Measurements

Course code: PPS 150	**No. of credits:** 2	**L-T-P:** 22-06-04	**Learning hours:** 30

Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None

Department: Department of Policy & Management Studies

Course coordinator(s): Dr. Chandan Kumar	**Course instructor(s):** Dr. Chandan Kumar

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Course type: Core	**Course offered in:** 2nd Semester

Course description

Public Policy Assessment is a fundamental skill for public policy students as it capacitates to critically evaluate and improve policies that directly affect communities and society at large. Understanding assessment methods and measurements enables students to utilize data and evidence to make informed policy decisions. It fosters critical thinking about how policies can be evaluated based on their outcomes, feasibility, and impact. It helps students appreciate the need for transparency in assessing government actions and resource allocation. This course provides an in-depth exploration of policy appraisal and evaluation, equipping students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to assess public policies effectively. Emphasizing a range of evaluation methods, this course will enable students to critically analyze the impact of policies and programs on various social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

This course is divided into four modules. The first module focuses on foundations and framework of policy appraisal, types of evaluation, and stages in planning and execution of policy evaluation. The second module discusses experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluation methods. The third module includes discussion on other evaluation methods including theory-based impact evaluation methods, value-for-money evaluation methods, evidence synthesis methods, and others. The final module exposes students with various real-world case studies assessing different public policies across sectors.

Learning objectives:

- To help students understand the concepts and significance of policy appraisal and evaluation in the policymaking process.
- To explore and discuss various evaluation methods and expose students to analyze and interpret evaluation findings to assess policy effectiveness and impact.
- To engage students with real-world case studies to assess and apply evaluation principles and methodologies.

Course content

Module	Topic	L	T	P
1.	**Introduction to Policy Appraisal and Evaluation** • Appraisal and Evaluation: Meaning, Principles, and Purpose • Appraisal Framework: Rationale for Intervention, Longlist Appraisal, Shortlist Appraisal, Identification of the Preferred Option, Monitoring and Evaluation • The Five Case Model Framework: Strategic, Economic, Commercial, Financial, and Management dimension for Interventional Appraisal • Evaluation Considerations: Before, During, and After the Policy Implementation • Types of Evaluation: Process evaluation, Impact evaluation, Value-for-Money evaluation • Stages in Planning and Execution of an Evaluation • Conditions for selection of appropriate evaluation method: Nature of Intervention, Availability of Baseline Data, Presence of Instrument, Selection on Unobservables, Impact Measure of Interest	6	0	0
2.	**Experimental & Quasi-Experimental Impact Evaluation Methods** • Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) • Interrupted time series analysis • Difference-in-Difference (DID) • Regression Discontinuity Design • Propensity Score Matching (PSM) • Synthetic control methods • Instrumental Variables (IV)	8	0	4

3.	**Other Evaluation Methods** • Theory-based Evaluation Methods: Contribution analysis; Realist evaluation; Process tracing; Qualitative comparative analysis • Value-for-Money Evaluation Methods: Social Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA); Social Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) • Evidence Synthesis Methods: Rapid Evidence Assessment; Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis; Meta-Ethnography; Realist Synthesis • Other Evaluation Methods: The Delphi Technique; Critical Incident Method; Root Cause Analysis (RCA)	8	0	0
4.	**Case Studies in Policy Evaluation** • Comparative Analysis of Policy Evaluations: Examination of real-world case studies assessing different public policies across sectors (e.g., environment, infrastructure, employment, healthcare, education, social welfare, etc.). • Discussions on assessment methodologies used and lessons learned.	0	6	0
	Total	**22**	**6**	**4**

Evaluation criteria:

Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

- **Minor Test-1:** Short-Answer Type Questions/Quizzes/MCQs (30%)
- **Minor Test-2:** Case Study Presentation (20%)
- **Major Test:** Submission and Presentation of Project Evaluation Planning Protocol (50%)

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, candidates would be able to:

1. get comprehensive understanding of policy appraisal and evaluation, including the essential tools and methodologies used in assessing public policies (All evaluations)
2. develop the skills necessary to critically analyze policy or programme effectiveness (All evaluations)

Pedagogical approach

Classroom lectures; Practical Exercises; Brainstorming Tutorials; Case studies

Suggested Readings

- Damonte, A., & Negri, F. (Eds.) (2023). *Causality in Policy Studies: A Pluralist Toolbox*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature Publishing AG.
- Cerulli, G. (2022). *Econometric Evaluation of Socio-Economic Programs: Theory and Applications, 2nd edition*. Berlin, Germany: Springer-Verlag GmbH.
- Dale, R. (2004). *Evaluating Development Programmes and Projects, 2nd edition*. New Delhi: Sage Publications India Pvt Ltd.
- Varone, F., Jacob, S., & Bundi, P. (Eds.) (2023). *Handbook of Public Policy Evaluation*. Glos, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.
- White, H., & Raitzer, D. A. (2017). *Impact Evaluation of Development Interventions: A Practical Guide*. Manila, Philippines: Asian Development Bank.
- Linfield, K. J., & Posavac, E. J. (2019). *Program Evaluation Methods and Case Studies, 9th edition*. New York: Routledge.
- Barrett, N. F. (2016*). Program Evaluation: A Step-by-Step Guide (Revised Edition)*. Springfield, IL: Sunnycrest Press.
- Guo, S., & Fraser, M. W. (2015). *Propensity Score Analysis: Statistical Methods and Applications, 2nd edition*. California, US: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Reichardt, C. S. (2019). Quasi-Experimentation: A Guide to Design and Analysis. New York: The Guilford Press.
- Cattaneo, M. D., Idrobo, N., & Titiunik, R. (2024). *A Practical Introduction to Regression Discontinuity Designs: Extensions*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

- Woudenberg, F. (1991). An evaluation of Delphi. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, *40*(2), 131-150. https://doi.org/10.1016/0040-1625(91)90002-W
- Nasa, P., Jain, R., & Juneja, D. (2021). Delphi methodology in healthcare research: How to decide its appropriateness. *World Journal of Methodology*, *11*(4), 116. https://doi.org/10.5662/wjm.v11.i4.116
- Dinges, M., Wang, A., & Schuch, K. (2020). Using the Delphi Method in evaluations - incorporating a future oriented perspective in evaluations. *fteval Journal for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation*, *50*, 44-50. https://repository.fteval.at/id/eprint/524/
- Serrat, O. (2017). The Critical Incident Technique, in *Knowledge Solution,* pp. 1077–1083. Singapore: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-0983-9_123.
- Williams, P. M. (2001). Techniques for root cause analysis. *Proceedings (Baylor University. Medical Center)*, *14*(2), 154. https://doi.org/10.1080/08998280.2001.11927753.

Student responsibilities

- At least 75% attendance will be necessary to be able to appear for the final exam.
- Active classroom participation; Critical reflections and timely submission according to the evaluation criterion.

Course Outline prepared by: Dr. Chandan Kumar

Course Reviewers

1. Prof. S. P. Singh, Professor of Economics, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India.
2. Dr. Seema Sangita, Associate Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

Additional Information

This Course outline was approved in the 60th Academic Council Meeting held on 24th December 2024 at TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi.