

## Seminar: Public Policy in Rich Democracies

Tuesdays 2-4 pm

Prof. Dr. Hanna Lierse  
 SOCIUM, Room: 3.4330, Mary Somerville Str. 3  
 Email: [hlierse@uni-bremen.de](mailto:hlierse@uni-bremen.de)  
 Tel: (0421) 218 58592  
 Office Hour: Tuesdays 12 -1.30 pm

**Description:** The course investigates the role of governments from a comparative public policy perspective. What is the purpose of governments in the first place? And with which instruments and mechanisms can they intervene? The course is split into three main parts. First, we will discuss different forms of state intervention and reasons thereof. Moreover, we will address questions about the changing role of the state. Second, we will address theories to explain state intervention and changes of public policy-making. Why do governments implement different public policies? And why do policies change over time? Finally, we will look at different policy trajectories such as economic, fiscal, social and education policies. Students will be expected to do mandatory course reading based on books such as "Public Policy: A new Introduction" by Knill and Tosun and "The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy" by Goodin et al.

**Course Requirements:** To pass the course students will have to conduct independent research on a policy trajectories of their choice (30%), present it in the form of a poster presentation, and end the course with a final exam or write an individual research paper (70%). The lengths of the exam and the paper depends on the CPS. Please note, that both forms of examination are necessary to pass the course. You cannot only write the exam/paper or do the group project (for details see below).

**Literature:** All compulsory literature is available via the online library catalogue or it is made available via StudIP. Cairney (2012), The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy by Moran et al. (2006), and the Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics and Methods by Fischer et al (2007) all serve as a general source of consultation.

|  | TOPIC   | READING  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>PART I: Background and Concepts</b>                 |   |  |
| 03.04.2018   | Introduction  |  |
| 10.04.2018   | Reasons for State Intervention                      | - Przeworski (1998): the state in a market economy.  |
| 17.04.2018   | Instruments and Changes of State Intervention       | Please <b>read Knill and Tosun and one more text:</b><br>- Knill and Tosun (2012), Chapter 2: The Nature of Public Policy.<br>- Mayntz (2003) From government to governance: Political steering in modern societies.<br>- Zolnhöfner et al. (2017) Review Article: The Retreat of the Interventionist State in Advanced Democracies. |
| 24.04.2018   | Structure of policy fields: actors and institutions | - Knill and Tosun (2012), Chapter 3: The Context for Policy Making.<br>- Cairney (2012) Chapter 7 "Rational Choice Theory".  |
| 01.05.2018   | <i>NATIONAL HOLIDAY</i>                             |  |
| <b>PART B: Theorizing and Explaining Public Policy</b> |   |  |
| 08.05.2018   | The Policy Cycle                                    | 1. Jann and Wegrich (2007) Chapter 4: Theories of the Policy Cycle, in : Handbook of Public Policy Analysis.   |

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 15.05.2018                         | Theories of the Policy Process   | <b>Please read <u>one</u> of the following three papers:</b><br>1. Jenkins-Smith (2014): The Advocacy Coalition Framework in : Sabatier "Theories of the Policy Process".<br>2. Baumgartner et al. (2014), Punctuated Equilibrium Theory, In: Sabatier "Theories of the Policy Process".<br>3. Zahariadis (2014): Ambiguity and Multiple Streams, in Sabatier: Theories of the Policy Process. |
| 22.05.2018                         | Theories of Policy Making        | 1. Knill and Tosun (2012), Chapter 4: Theoretical Approaches to Policy-Making.   |
| 29.05.2018                         | Poster Presentations             |  |
| <b>PART C: Policy Trajectories</b> |                                  |  |
| 05.06.2018                         | <i>NO CLASS</i>                  |  |
| 12.06.2018                         | Social and Labor Market Policies | 1. Starke et al. (2016): Welfare State Transformation across OECD Countries: Supply Side Orientation, Individualized Outcome Risks and Dualization.<br>2. Schwander (2016) Labor Market Risks in Times of Welfare State Changes.   |
| 19.06.2018                         | Economic Policy                  | 1. Obinger and Schmitt (2015): The Rise and Decline of Public Enterprises in Western Democracies.<br>2. Wagschal and Wenzelburger (2012): When do governments consolidate? A quantitative analysis of 23 OECD countries.   |
| 26.06.2018                         | Security and Foreign Policy      | 1. Wenzelburger (2015): A global trend towards law and order harshness? How globalization, partisan ideology and the party system shape law and order policies in 20 Western industrialized countries.<br>2. Norris (2009), Families of Nations, Victimization and attitudes towards criminal justice.   |
| 03.07.2018                         | Summing up                       |  |
| 10.07.2018                         | Exam                             |  |

**The group project (30%):** in the first session, we will form "policy groups" and from then onwards you will often get the opportunity to work in class together, but you will need to find time outside of class to finish and prepare the presentation. Please choose one policy field that you would like to study and compare. It is the goal of the group project that you are able to describe, analyze and explain the particularities of your selected policy field. In your presentation you should answer the following three questions: 1. What are the key features and characteristics of the policy field? 2. How does it differ from other countries and/ or how has it changed over time? 3. And how can you explain these differences and changes? It is important that you build upon concepts and theories that we cover in class but complement this with your own research outside the classroom. In session 9 you will present your group work in the form of a poster. It is OK if you prefer a PowerPoint presentation, but the presentation should be on one slide only and you have to organize the projector yourself.

**Exam or the research paper (70%):** you can choose to write an exam or a research paper as the second form of evaluation. Both are individual assignments. The research paper should analyze a policy trajectory and include the following three aspects for 6 and 8 CPS (12 and 16 pages): 1. Describe the conceptual characteristics of your policy field, 2. illustrate how the policy field has evolved and/or differs between countries and 3. building on theories of public policy explain their differences and /or evolution. For 3 or 4 CPS, you can choose between 1. and 2. but you need to cover aspect 3 (for 3 CPS 6 pages and for 4 CPS 8 pages). Guidelines for formalities can be found in the Compendium for Political Science Research of the Department. The exam will cover all aspects for 6 CPS (90 minutes) and only half of the topics for 3 CPS (60 minutes).