

You are here - Welcome to LSE > Calendar > Graduate > Course guides > GV4F4 The Politics of Policy Advice

GV4F4 Half Unit The Politics of Policy Advice

This information is for the 2014/15 session.

Teacher responsible

Mr Christian Schuster CON 4.04

Availability

This course is available on the MSc in International Migration and Public Policy, MSc in Public Administration and Government (LSE and Peking University) and MSc in Public Policy and Administration. This course is available with permission as an outside option to students on other programmes where regulations permit.

Available as an outside option where regulations permit and space allows. This course is capped at two groups. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, 10 October 2014.

Course content

Many masters graduates in public policy and administration go on to work in organizations that produce or consume policy advice. The course will look at how policy advice is commissioned, produced, managed and used. This course has three objectives: it introduces students to a range of theoretical and empirical scholarship on the issues involved in producing policy advice, it develops the communication skills required of policy analysts, and exposes them to practitioners who produce and commission advice. Students will develop their policy analysis and communication skills by working through real-world cases during the seminars and in the formative and assessed coursework.

Teaching

5 hours of lectures and 15 hours of seminars in the LT. 3 hours of seminars in the ST.

In addition there will be five guest speaker sessions.

Formative coursework

One formative essay (policy memo and analysis) (1500) designed to help students in developing their project work (middle of LT) and one mock examination or a second policy memo and analysis (end of LT)

Indicative reading

Bardach, Eugene (2009) *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*, Third Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Gross, M., 2010, *Ignorance and surprise; science, society and ecological design*, The MIT Press.

Hilgartner, S., (2000), *Science on stage: expert advice as public drama* Orig. print., Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press

Jasanoff, S.S., (1987), 'Contested boundaries in policy-relevant science.' *Social Studies of Science*, 17(2), p.195.

Lindblom, C E and Cohen, DK (1979) *Usable knowledge: social science and social problem solving* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press).

Majone, Giandomenico (1989) *Evidence, argument and persuasion in the policy process*, New Haven: Yale University Press.

Weiss, C (1997) *Evaluation*. New York: Prentice Hall.

Stone, D.A., (2002). *Policy paradox: The art of political decision making*, New York: Norton.

Weimer, David L. and Vining, Aidan R. (2005) *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, Fourth Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Assessment

Key facts

Department: Government

Total students 2013/14: 35

Average class size 2013/14: 12

Controlled access 2013/14: No

Lecture capture used 2013/14: No

Value: Half Unit

[Guidelines for interpreting course guide information](#)

Personal development skills

- self-management
- team working
- problem solving
- communication
- specialist skills

Exam (50%, duration: 2 hours) in the main exam period.
Project (50%, 3000 words) in the ST.

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