

# Politics and Public Policy in Europe (957M9)

## MA in European Politics

### Course structure

Weekly topic

#### **Seminar 1 [SS]**

##### **Introduction**

- The contemporary public policy landscape
- Studying policy-making: why, whom and what for?
- Housekeeping arrangements

#### **Seminar 2 [SS]**

##### **The use of metaphors in policy studies**

- Black boxes; framing policy problems and solutions; agenda-setting; cycles, streams, networks and communities
- Ideas, institutions and interests – and individuals
- Inequality and disadvantage challenges for policy-makers

#### **Seminar 3 [SS]**

##### **Models of policy-making and decision-making**

- Theories of the state and rival interpretations of power
- Studying political power: pluralism and its critics
- Studying decision-making: rationality and its critics

#### **Seminar 4 [SS]**

##### **Policy-making shaped by think-tanks**

- Role of think-tanks and sources of advice for government
- Patterns of activity and influence
- Typologies, case studies and evaluating impacts

#### **Seminar 5 [SS]**

##### **Policy-making shaped by regulators**

- Theories of regulation: why regulate, what and how?
- Wise-men/women and public interest neutrals
- Typologies, case studies and evaluating impacts

#### **Seminar 6 [SS]**

**Public policy case studies in complexity: educational attainment**

**Seminar 7 [SS]**

**Public policy case studies in complexity: higher education funding**

**Seminar 8 [SS]**

**Public policy case studies in complexity: alcohol harm reduction**

**Seminar 9 [SS]**

**Public policy case studies in complexity: international migration**

**Seminar 10 [SS]**

**Reform, innovation and future trends:**

- Practitioner lessons
- Improving the research-practice interface
- Concluding remarks

**Select reading**

- Hill, M., *The Public Policy Process* (Pearson, 2005)
- Bochel, H and Duncan S, *Making Policy in Theory and Practice* (2007 Policy Press)
- Considine, M, *Making Public Policy: Institutions, Actors, Strategies* (Oxford, 2005)
- Dorey, P, *Policy Making in Britain: An Introduction* (Sage, 2005)
- DW Parsons, *Public Policy* (Edward Elgar, 1996)
- Richards, D., and Smith, M., *Governance and Public Policy in the UK* (Oxford, 2002)
- Savage, S and Atkinson, R, *Public Policy under Blair* (Palgrave, 2001)
- Cochran, C. and Malone, E., *Public Policy: Perspectives and Choices* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 4<sup>th</sup> edn, 2009)
- Maddison, S., and Denniss, R. *An Introduction to Australian Public Policy: Theory and Practice* (Cambridge, 2009)

**ENDS**