COURSE DETAIL

PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Maastricht University – University College Maastricht
Program(s) University College Maastricht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science
UCEAP Course Number 119
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION
UCEAP Transcript Title PUBLIC POLICY EVAL
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
This course provides students with an academic and practical approach to the study of public policy and to the professional practice of policy analysis and evaluation. The course is designed to foster critical thinking and understanding about public policy and possible alternative courses of action by deliberating and analyzing the key concepts, models, approaches and methods of policy analysis and evaluation, and practicing some of its basic skills. In the first week of the course students explore what policy analysis and evaluation actually is. It sheds light on the role of power, politics, institutions, and actors in the policy making process. Subsequently, the art of problem structuring is explored. In the third week students are introduced to working with evaluative criteria and choosing policy options for formulating policy advices. With the knowledge gained in these first three weeks students work in small groups to prepare and present policy advice on a real life country case. Finally, just before the midterm exam, students are introduced to two frequently used methods of policy analysis and evaluation: cost benefit and cost effectiveness analysis. After the midterm, the focus shifts from having gained the basic knowledge for policy analysis and evaluation (problem structuring, stakeholder analysis, choosing evaluative criteria and using them to benchmark and weigh the different policy alternatives) to exploring policy evaluation approaches in more depth. Students are introduced to plan, process, and outcome evaluations on the basis of the realist or theory-based evaluation approach. They work in small groups on another real life case to actually carry out and present a plan (and or) process evaluation themselves. Finally, ethical and accountability aspects of policy analysis and evaluation, as well as the role of the public in this process are explored. Prerequisites for the course are at least two intermediate-level Social Sciences courses.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
SSC3011

Host Institution Course Title
PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION

Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus University College Maastricht
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Social ScienceS
Course Last Reviewed

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