

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 Campus

University College Maastricht

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Social Sciences

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