

**Department of Political Science, BBAU**

**Course name: Public Policy and Governance**

**Course code: PS 402**

**Name of the teacher: Sudhir Kumar**

**Semester: Winter 2012**

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**Credits: 4**

**Course description:**

The course is being introduced in order to prepare students for understanding and analyzing public policy in India. Public Policy is an emerging discipline worldwide. In order to make students familiar with emerging areas and issues in political science this course is being introduced in the first semester. The course is divided into four units. On the one hand the course introduces the concept and debates around public policy and governance. On the other hand it also includes practical issues of public policy making in India while incorporating the two popular schemes. The links for essential readings will be available on my blog as well as departmental website. You can access it on university website through clicking on the department link.

**Course Objectives**

**After completion of this course the student will be able to understand:**

- 1) The meaning of public policy and governance
- 2) Various theories and methods of understanding public policy and governance
- 3) Process of public policy making
- 4) Analyse various public policies in India
- 5) Challenges of governance which has hampered effective implementation of public policies.

**Assessment:**

The performance of the student will be assessed on the basis of three examinations:

1. First will be an assignment on any public policy in India. For this a list of policies will be provided and each student has to select any one topic. The assignment should be submitted before 31 March. The maximum word limit of the assignment is of 2500 words.
2. The Mid-semester examination will carry twenty percent weightage.
3. End semester examination will cover the remaining 70 percent of the evaluation.
4. According to the university examination rules it is mandatory to appear in all assignments. If you fail to appear in any one you will be considered as failed in the course

## **Course Content**

### **Unit I Understanding the meaning of Public Policy and Governance (January 10- February 15)**

In this unit we will discuss the basics of public policy and governance. Apart from looking into the definitions of these two concepts we will also understand the existing theories and debates around these concepts. We will be discussing the issues like what is Public Policy and governance? What are its characteristics and norms? We will also discuss the relationship between Public Administration, Politics and Public Policy on the one hand and Public Policy and governance on the other. We will also discuss the merging issues in global public policy.

#### **Essential Readings**

Michael Howlett and M.Ramesh (2003), *Studying Public Policy*, (Ontario: Oxford University Press),

#### **Introduction and Chapter One**

Hyden, Goran, Jullius Court, and Kenneth Mease (2005), *Making Sense of Governance* (New Delhi: Viva Books Private Ltd.), **Introduction and Chapter One**

Thomas A. Birkland, *An Introduction to the Policy Process, Theories, concepts and models of Public Policy Making*, (New York: M.E. Sharpe: 2005), **Chapter One**

Wolfgang H. Reinicke, *Global Public Policy*, (Washington, Brookings Institution Press, 1998), **Chapter two and three**

### **Unit II Understanding Policy Process (February 15- March 5)**

Here we will discuss the way public policies are made, implemented and then examined or evaluated. We will also look into public policy and governance and various process and institutions. In this unit we will also look into governance as the public policy context which includes its political, constitutional, legal, administrative, and socio-economic dimensions. This unit will also touch upon

the role of the government, bureaucracy, parliament, courts, political parties, corporate sector, interest groups, citizens, and NGOs in the policy processes.

### **Essential Readings**

Michael Howlett and M.Ramesh (2003), *Studying Public Policy*, (Ontario: Oxford University Press), **Chapter three**

Thomas A. Birkland, *An Introduction to the Policy Process, Theories, concepts and models of Public Policy Making*, (New York: M.E. Sharpe: 2005), **Chapters five and seven**

### **Mid semester exam**

After the Mid-Semester examination focus of the course will be more on public policy in India since by this time the student will be familiar with the concept of public policy

### **Unit III Public Policy in India (March 6- April 4)**

- I. Public Policy in India: Models and Trends
- II. Understanding Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Rural Health Mission

### **Essential readings:**

For more detail see the following websites:

1. The MNREGA Homepage by government of India available on <http://nrega.nic.in/netnrega/home.aspx>
2. The right to food campaign website. Many articles and other additional resources are available on this website. [http://www.righttofoodindia.org/rtowork/ega\\_articles.html](http://www.righttofoodindia.org/rtowork/ega_articles.html)
3. <http://mohfw.nic.in/NRHM.htm>

**These websites will give student an idea about the basics of these policies.**

4. [http://searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Regional Health Forum Volume 10 No 1 03-Human Resources for Health in Indias National.pdf](http://searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Regional_Health_Forum_Volume_10_No_1_03-Human_Resources_for_Health_in_Indias_National.pdf)

This article gives a critical analysis of the national rural health mission in India.

5. Also see a working paper submitted to the planning commission of India by Kaveri Gill. See the link:

[http://environmentportal.in/files/wrqp\\_1\\_09.pdf](http://environmentportal.in/files/wrqp_1_09.pdf)

6. Also see an article available in the Indian Journal of Community Medicine

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2800893/>

#### **Unit IV Conclusion: Challenges of Public Policy and governance in India (April 5- April 30)**

- I. Declining state ability and the 'crisis of governability'
- II. Democracy and public policy: Are they against each other?
- III. Privatization, state and emerging governance in India

#### **Essential Readings**

Francine R. Frankel (2005), *India's Political Economy 1947-2004*, (New Delhi: Oxford University Press), **Introduction**

Frankel, Francine, Zoya Hasan, Rajeev Bhargava, and Balveer Arora (1999), *Transforming India*, (New Delhi: Oxford University Press), Introduction, Chapter one and **Chapter five**

#### **Suggested Readings**

Goran Hyden, Jullius Court, and Kenneth Mease (2005), *Making Sense of Governance* (New Delhi: Viva Books Private Ltd.),

Subrata K., Mitra, (2006), *The Puzzle of India's Governance*, (London: Routledge Press)

Atul K. Kohli, (2001), *The Success of India's Democracy*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press),

-----(1990), *Democracy and Discontent: India's Growing Crisis of Governability*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Jayal , Niraja Gopal (1999), *Democracy and State: Welfare, Secularism and Developments in Contemporary India*, (Delhi: Oxford University Press).

Michael Howlett and M.Ramesh (2003), *Studying Public Policy*, (Ontario: Oxford University Press),

Shalendra D. Sharma (2003), *Development and Democracy in India*, (New Delhi: Rawat publications).

Thomas A. Birkland, *An Introduction to the Policy Process, Theories, concepts and models of Public Policy Making*, (New York: M.E. Sharpe: 2005)

Wolfgang H. Reinicke, *Global Public Policy*, (Washington, Brookings Institution Press, 1998)