

Course Name – POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PUBLIC POLICY **Course Code** – PEPP 2022

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Dr Padvetnaya is a trained medic with a Master’s in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing from the London School of Economics (LSE) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and a Doctorate in Public Health (Political Economy) from the University of Oxford. He brings over 15 years of experience in advancing development initiatives at the grassroots level. At the LSE, as a researcher in the Department of Social Policy, he contributed to the economic evaluation of public health programmes implemented by local governments of the United Kingdom. Drawing on this blend of academic rigour and field experience, he connects theory with real-world practice, enriching class discussions with practical insights.

Course Description-

*This course, the **Political Economy of Public Policy**, examines how political and economic forces shape the effectiveness of public policy. The course topics are organised into two interrelated sections that together develop a political economy perspective on public policy.*

The first section introduces the foundational concepts such as institutions, governance and government. Then it situates public policy as an expression of governance by the government. Following this, it examines how imperfections in processes related to policy formulation and its implementation can give rise to a policy gap...the divergence between intended and actual outcomes of the policy.

The second section, using the Institutional Analysis and Development framework, developed by Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom and her collaborators, systematically analyses the reasons for the policy gap across three dimensions. First, the organisation and functioning of the institutions of Government. Second, the economic attributes of the policy. And third, the broader sociocultural norms prevalent in the policy's societal context.

Key Learning Outcomes:

Students will develop a strong applied and empirical orientation to Public Policy. Engagement with real-world examples will equip students with the necessary skills to develop analytical frameworks to systematically examine policy effectiveness across different stages and dimensions.

Prerequisites: *Genuine interest in Governance, Governmental affairs and public policy*

Scheme of Evaluation and Grading:

1. Critical Reflective Essay (~1,200 words) <i>On a topic relevant to the course</i>	20%
2. Research Paper (~1,800 words) <i>Which analyses the political economy of a public policy of your choice</i>	40%
3. Class Participation <i>This includes attentiveness in class, Interaction in class, not gazing at your laptop and cell phones continuously during the class, and not engaging in behaviour which disrupts collective learning.</i>	10%
4. Final examination <i>You will be asked to answer 3 out of 6 questions in ~600 words each</i>	30%

RUBRIC TO ASSESS RESEARCH PAPER

1. Purpose (Rationale/Relevance) (Why this essay topic is important?)				
• Essay has a well-articulated purpose.				
Competency:	Sophisticated (O)	Highly Competent (A)	Fairly Competent (B)	Not yet Competent (F)
2. Development of Central Theme (What this essay is about?)				
• The central theme of the essay is clearly and precisely stated				
• Theme is well connected to the purpose				
• Arguments/ideas related to the theme are supported effectively by a balance of empirical evidence, reason, logic and useful illustrations (examples)				
Competency:	Sophisticated (O)	Highly Competent (A)	Fairly Competent (B)	Not yet Competent (F)
3. Organization of Contents (How this essay is structured?)				
• The Introduction provides adequate background (context) to the central theme				
• In the Main Body, the development and organization of arguments/ideas are logically structured around the central theme				
• The remarks in conclusion are based on the discussion presented in the main body				
• There is a clear and distinct connection, between Introduction, Main body and Conclusion				
• Overall organization is cohesive and focussed on and around the central theme				
Competency:	Sophisticated (O)	Highly Competent (A)	Fairly Competent (B)	Not yet Competent (F)
4. Research				
• Arguments/ideas are well researched				
• Researched evidence is consistently and appropriately cited				
• Essay has a separate Reference Section which reflects all the cited evidence				
Competency:	Sophisticated (O)	Highly Competent (A)	Fairly Competent (B)	Not yet Competent (F)
5. Comprehension and Skills (How good is your grasp of the topic?)				
• Good understanding of the central theme and the underpinning theoretical principles				
• Ability and willingness to consider different viewpoints about the central theme				
• Ability and willingness to objectively discuss opposing viewpoints in a non-partisan manner				
• Critical and Analytical thinking skills				
Competency:	Sophisticated (O)	Highly Competent (A)	Fairly Competent (B)	Not yet Competent (F)
6. Writing Style (How professional is your writing?)				
• Writing persuasively appeals to the reader through credible evidence, reason and arguments				
• Diction is smooth, formal, coherent and consistent, with well-chosen words				
• Writing is free of errors: Grammatical, Spelling, Punctuation, and Capitalization				
• Paragraphs are logically and sequentially arranged with effective transitions				
• Sentence structure is clear, lucid and easy to comprehend				
Competency:	Sophisticated (O)	Highly Competent (A)	Fairly Competent (B)	Not yet Competent (F)