



Outline of course on:

“Theories of public policy”

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The goal of this course is to introduce students to the most important theories and debates about public policy. According to John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owen: “a theory is a kind of simplifying device that allows you to decide which facts matter and which do not” (Baylis, Smith, Owen, 2011: 3). They believe that theories are a like glasses with different-colored lenses that we use to see the world: with pink glasses, the world seems pink, with yellow glasses, it seems yellow, etc. The glasses may be different, but the world remains the same. A theory is a tool that is used to identify important variables and to hierarchize them for analysis and comprehension. Because the public policy process is complex, we need theories to explain and understand public policies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to improve knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of research in the area of public policy. At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- understand the great currents of thought in analysis and theories of public policy;
- analyze and criticize theories with the help of an adapted epistemological questioning;
- develop positive and normative skills about the theories of public policy through the manipulation of concepts specific to the theories of the sector.

1) What is a theory of public policy?

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3) Interest based analysis

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4) Ideas

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5) Institutions

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6) Agenda setting

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8) Implementation and policy instruments

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9) Theories of change in public policy

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