**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL**

**PROGRAMME : MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**OPTION : PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT**

**COURSE NAME : PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS THEORY AND PRACTICE**

**COURSE CODE : MBA 8157**

**YEAR : TWO**

**SEMESTER : ONE**

**ACADEMIC YEAR : 2025/2026**

***Lecture time: Monday 5.30 – 8.30 pm Venue: ADB Lecture Theatre 2***

***Facilitators: Dr. Annet. K. Nabatanzi-Muyimba (PhD)/Mr. Wilson Mutumba***

**Course description:**

This is a core course for the MBA Public sector management option. The course focuses on the key theoretical and practical underpinnings of public policy analysis. It also addresses the nature of public policy, its context, process, techniques and tools for its formulation, implementation and evaluation. It is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills and competencies as well as to build the right attitude. The course will in particular expose learners to analytical tools needed by practitioners and researchers to assess, evaluate and select public policy options. Using learner-centered, problem-oriented and multidisciplinary synthesis, the course bridges the gap between theory and practice in public policy analysis, making and implementation.

**Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Explain the concepts, process, theories and frameworks used in public policy analysis.
2. Evaluate the role that public policies play in public sector management, governance and development.
3. Determine the dynamic nature of public policies, and effectively communicate public policies to different stakeholders
4. Use different theories, models and analytical tools to identify and define policy problems and analyse the context in which they arise, assess and interpret policy arguments and assumptions, evaluate policy options, outputs, outcomes and impact.
5. Collect and analyse data to inform evidence-based policy making.

**TEACHING METHODS**

Interactive lectures blended with e-learning; case analysis, class discussions and presentations; guest lectures.

**ASSESSMENT**

Course works 40 %

Final written examination 60 %

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Journal Articles/Reference books/ study cases** |
| **August 11, 2025** | **Course Orientation** | **Course outline** |
| Aug 18, 2025 | **1. The nature and the role of public policy**   1. Nature of public policy  * Definition of Public Policy, * Characteristics of public policies * Qualities of a good policy * Sources of policy, * Actors in Public Policy * Policy typologies: levels, types and classifications  1. Role of public policy in public sector management, governance and development. | 1. Dunn, W. N. (2012) *Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction*, New Jersey: Pearson. 2. Knoepfel, P., Larrue, C., Varone, F. and Hill, M. (2011) *Public Policy Analysis*. Bristol: The Policy Press. 3. Weimer, D.L. and Vining, A. R. (1999). *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practices*. Prentice Hall 4. Anyebe, A. A (2018). An Overview of Approaches to the Study of Public Policy. International Journal of Political Science (IJPS). Volume 4, Issue 1, PP 08-17 5. Aiyede, E.R (2023). Governance and Politics of Public Policy in Africa. Chapter 5 in Public Policy in Africa book edited by Aiyede and Muganda, Palgrave MacMillan, published by Springer Nature, Switzerland. 6. Anderson, J. E. (2003). Public policymaking: An introduction. Boston: Houghton. Chapter 1.   **Recommended:**   1. Cloete, F. and De Coning, C. (Eds.). (2011) *Improving Public Policy: Theory, Practice and Results,* Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers. 2. Dunn, W. N. (2012) *Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction*, New Jersey: Pearson. 3. Fischer, F., Miller, G. J.and Sydney, M. S. (2007) *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory Politics and Methods*. New York: CRC Press-Taylor and Francis Group. 4. Heilman, R.A., Bluhm, W.T., Peterson, S.A. and Kearny, E.N. (2001). *The World of the Policy Analyst: Rationality, Values and Politics*. London: Chatham House Publishers. 5. Salamon, L. M. (2001) “The New Governance and the Tools of Public Action: An Introduction,” *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, Volume 28, pages 1612-74, New York: Fordham University. 6. Theodoulou, S.Z. and Cahn, M.A. (1995). Public Policy: The Essential Readings |
| Aug 25, 2025 | 1. **Theories and Models of Public Policy** 2. ***Classical theories:***   - Elite theory;  - Group theory  - Systems theory  - Institutional theory  - Rational choice theory  - Liberal democratic theory;  - other theories | **Required:**   1. Cloete, F. and De Coning, C. (Eds.). (2011) *Improving Public Policy: Theory, Practice and Results,* Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers. 2. Dunn, W. N. (2012) *Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction*, New Jersey: Pearson. 3. Fischer, F., Miller, G. J.and Sydney, M. S. (2007) *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory Politics and Methods*. New York: CRC Press-Taylor and Francis Group. |
| Sep 1, 2025 | 1. ***Models of public policy* development and analysis:**   - Systems model (linear, stage, cyclical)  - Multi-actor /collaborative/participatory models  - Society-centred models  - Self-centred models  - State-centred models  - Change models  - Complex models - environmental scanning and Contingency.  ***iii. Analysis and applicability,*** of these theories and models in an African and national context. | **Required:**   1. Cloete, F. and De Coning, C. (Eds.). (2011) *Improving Public Policy: Theory, Practice and Results,* Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers. 2. Dunn, W. N. (2012) *Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction*, New Jersey: Pearson. 3. Fischer, F., Miller, G. J.and Sydney, M. S. (2007) *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory Politics and Methods*. New York: CRC Press-Taylor and Francis Group. |
| Sept 8 , 2025 | 1. **Context of Public Policy in Africa** 2. Continental, regional, national dynamics 3. Exogenous influences (international bodies, donors,) 4. Contexts  * Political * Economic * Socio-cultural * Technological * Ecological * Legal  1. Influence of legacy systems (diverse influences, historic, geographic, legal, etc.) 2. Public policy and development nexus | **Required**:   1. Mutahaba, G. and Balogun, M.J. (1993). *Enhancing Policy Management Capacity in Africa.*Kumarian Press. 2. Ohemeng, F. et al. (2013). *Public Policy Making in Ghana*. The EdminMeller Press 3. Kalu, K.A. (2004). Agenda *Setting and Public Policy in Africa*. Ashgate Publishing Ltd. 4. Ijeoma, E. O. (2010). *Africa’s New Public Policy: Imperatives for Globalization and Nation-Building in Nigeria*. African Books Collective.   **Recommended:**   1. Cloete, F. and De Coning, C. (Eds.). (2011) *Improving Public Policy: Theory, Practice and Results,* Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers. 2. Guess, G. M. and Farham, P.G. (2000). *Cases in Public Policy Analysis* Georgetown University Press. 3. Hogwood, B. W. and Gunn, L.A. (1984). *Policy Analysis for the Real World*. Oxford University Press    1. Schreiner, G. and Rycroft, A.J. (1994). Forums for Public Policy Making. |
| Sept 15, 2025 | 1. **The Policy Process (part 1)** 2. The “ideal” and “real” policy process 3. Policy agenda setting  * what it is * What are policy issues and why are they issues? * Issue identification * Why issues become issues * Actors in policy agenda setting and why? * How does agenda-setting work? * Public participation; * Problem identification (research, advocacy); * Problem definition and structuring * Problem prioritization | **Required:**   1. Anderson, J. E. (2011). *Public Policy Making*, Wadworth- USA 2. Sabatier, P. (2007). *Theories of the Policy Process*. West-view Press. 3. Hill, M. (2005). *The Public Policy Process.* Pearson Longman 4. Hill, M. and Hans, C. (1997). *The Policy Process in the Modern State.* Prentice Hall 5. Birkland, T. A. (2007). *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts and Models of Public Policy Making*. Armonk: M.E. Sharpe. 6. Peters, G. and Pierre, J. (2006). *Handbook of Public Policy*. Sage   **Recommended:**   1. Guess, G. M. and Farham, P.G. (2000). *Cases in Public Policy Analysis* Georgetown University Press. 2. Vedung, E. (1997). *Public Policy and Programme Evaluation*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers 3. Kingdon, J.W. (2011). Agendas, alternative and Public Policies, Longman 4. Moran, M., Rein, M. and Goodin, R.E (2012). *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*. Oxford University Press 5. Howlett, M., Pierre, A. and Ramesh, M. (2009). *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*. Oxford University Press |
| Sept 22, 2025 | **CW1 Test** |  |
| Sept 29, 2025 | **Policy Process (Part 2)**  iii. Policy design:   * The necessity of clear goals and objectives in policy analysis; * Policy options generation and analysis; * Scenario construction and forecasting in policy design.   iv. Policy decision making and adoption:   * Nature and meaning of policy decision making; * Decision making process; * Decision making environment; * Creativity in decision-making. | **Required:**   1. Anderson, J. E. (2011). *Public Policy Making*, Wadworth- USA 2. Sabatier, P. (2007). *Theories of the Policy Process*. West-view Press. 3. Hill, M. (2005). *The Public Policy Process.* Pearson Longman 4. Hill, M. and Hans, C. (1997). *The Policy Process in the Modern State.* Prentice Hall 5. Birkland, T. A. (2007). *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts and Models of Public Policy Making*. Armonk: M.E. Sharpe. 6. Peters, G. and Pierre, J. (2006). *Handbook of Public Policy*. Sage   **Recommended:**   1. Guess, G. M. and Farham, P.G. (2000). *Cases in Public Policy Analysis* Georgetown University Press. 2. Vedung, E. (1997). *Public Policy and Programme Evaluation*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers 3. Kingdon, J.W. (2011). Agendas, alternative and Public Policies, Longman 4. Moran, M., Rein, M. and Goodin, R.E (2012). *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*. Oxford University Press 5. Howlett, M., Pierre, A. and Ramesh, M. (2009). *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*. Oxford University Press |
| Oct 6, 2025 | **The Policy Process - Part 3**  v. Policy implementation:   * Setting objectives, priorities, and sequencing of tasks; * Determining, time, people, money, infrastructure required; and, * Forecasting expected policy outcomes.   vi. Policy monitoring and evaluation:   * Monitoring in policy analysis; * Approaches to monitoring; * Techniques for monitoring; * Types of evaluation; * Evaluation decision, design and approaches; * Indicators for policy evaluation; * Developing a monitoring and evaluation framework; and, * Assessing policy outputs, outcomes and impact.   v) Charting the way forward: determining the inputs into the new or reviewed policy. | **Required:**   1. Anderson, J. E. (2011). *Public Policy Making*, Wadworth- USA 2. Sabatier, P. (2007). *Theories of the Policy Process*. West-view Press. 3. Hill, M. (2005). *The Public Policy Process.* Pearson Longman 4. Hill, M. and Hans, C. (1997). *The Policy Process in the Modern State.* Prentice Hall 5. Birkland, T. A. (2007). *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts and Models of Public Policy Making*. Armonk: M.E. Sharpe. 6. Peters, G. and Pierre, J. (2006). *Handbook of Public Policy*. Sage   **Recommended:**   1. Guess, G. M. and Farham, P.G. (2000). *Cases in Public Policy Analysis* Georgetown University Press. 2. Vedung, E. (1997). *Public Policy and Programme Evaluation*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers 3. Kingdon, J.W. (2011). Agendas, alternative and Public Policies, Longman 4. Moran, M., Rein, M. and Goodin, R.E (2012). *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*. Oxford University Press 5. Howlett, M., Pierre, A. and Ramesh, M. (2009). *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*. Oxford University Press |
| Oct 13, 2025 | 1. **Policy Instruments** 2. Meaning, objectives and functions of policy instruments 3. Classification of policy instruments  * Direct government regulation (Regulatory instruments): Legislations, regulations and standards * Deregulatory instruments * Economic/Fiscal and financial instruments: Taxes and fees/levies, subsidies, incentives and tradable permits * Voluntarism: Self-regulation, quasi-regulation and co-regulation * Supportive actions * Education and information instruments * Research and development  1. Selection/choice of policy instruments | **Required:**   1. Australian Government (2009)*. Smarter Policy: Choosing Policy Instruments and Working with others to Influence Behaviour*. Commonwealth of AustraliaOffice of Best Practice Regulation 2007, *Best Practice Regulation Handbook*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.,<http://www.finance.gov.au/obpr/docs/handbook.pdf> 2. Kagan, ‘Regulatory Enforcement’ in D. Rosenbloom & R. Schwartz (eds.), *Handbook of Regulation and Administrative Law*. 3. OECD 1995, Recommendation of the Council of the OECD on Improving the Quality of Government Regulation, p. 18, <http://www. oecd.org   **Recommended:**   1. N. Gunningham & D. Sinclair (1998). ‘Instruments for Environmental Protection’ in N. Gunningham & P. Grabosky (eds.), *Smart Regulation: Designing Environmental Policy*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2. Australian Government: Changing Behaviour: A Public Policy Perspective and Tackling Wicked Problems: A Public Policy Perspective 3. Dekker, New York, 1994, quoted in N. Gunningham & D. Sinclair, ‘Instruments for Environmental Protection’ in N. Gunningham& P. Grabosky (eds.), *Smart Regulation: Designing Environmental Policy,* Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1998 4. Australian Public Service Commission 2007, Changing Behaviour: A Public Policy Perspective, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, p. 29, <http://www.apsc.gov.au> |
| **Oct 20, 2025** | 1. **Process & Tools for Public Policy Analysis** 2. The process of policy inquiry 3. Policy analysis as an interdisciplinary function. 4. Forms of policy analysis. 5. The politics of analysis and critical thinking: Who wins? Who loses? | **Recommended:**   1. Weldeslassie, S (2021). Basis for policy formulation: Systematic policy analysis or intuitive policy decision? *Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research, Vol. 13(1) pp. 11-19, January-June, 2021* 2. Pal, L. (2010) “Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice” in *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times, 4th Edition*, Toronto: Nelson Education 3. Guess, G. M. and Farham, P.G. (2000). *Cases in Public Policy Analysis* Georgetown University Press. 4. Munger, M.C. (2000). *Analysing Policy: Choices, Conflicts and Practices*. W.W Norton and Company. 5. Fischer, F. and Miller (2006). *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics and Methods.* Taylor and Francis 6. Eugene, B. (2008). *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*. CQ Press |
| **Oct 27, 2025** | **Tools for public policy analysis**   1. Selected tools  * Cost -benefit analysis; * Cost-effectiveness analysis; * Cost-utility and cost-feasibility analysis; * Social equity/ Gender based analysis: possible mitigation? | **Required:**   1. Weimer, D.L. and Vining, A. R. (1999). *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practices*. Prentice Hall. 2. Patton, C.V. and Sawick (1993*). Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning* 3. Dunn, W. N. (2012) *Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction*, New Jersey: Pearson. 4. Sockey, E. And Zeckhauser (1978). *A Primer for Policy Analysis*. W.W Norton and Company. 5. Eugene, B. (2008). *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*. CQ Press 6. John, P. (2011). *Analysing Public Policy*. Taylor and Francis Ltd/Routledge 7. Peter, K.; Corrine, L. and Hill, M. (2011). *Public Policy Analysis*. Policy Press.   **Recommended:**   1. Guess, G. M. and Farham, P.G. (2000). *Cases in Public Policy Analysis* Georgetown University Press 2. Fischer, F. and Miller (2006). *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics and Methods.* Taylor and Francis 3. Pal, L. (2010) “Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice” in *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times, 4th Edition*, Toronto: Nelson Education 4. Munger, M.C. (2000). *Analysing Policy: Choices, Conflicts and Practices*. W.W Norton and Company. |
| **Nov 3, 2025** | 1. **Policy Dynamics: Change, Failure and Success** 2. Reasons for policy change:  * Changing environment; * Changes in public opinion; * Changes in demands on the government; * Changes in political leadership; * Changes in policy solutions or service delivery strategies; * Changing nature of institutions; and, * Change in resource base.  1. Policy performance - failure and success 2. Policy change models:  * Policy maintenance and adaptation; * Policy innovation; * Policy termination and * Policy succession.   iii. Constraints on policy change and countering strategies:   * Ideological, rational and/or emotional resistance; * Lack of support; * Legal obstacles; and, * Financial obstacles. | **Required:**   1. Cloete, F. and De Coning, C. (Eds.). (2011) *Improving Public Policy: Theory, Practice and Results,* Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers 2. Fischer, F. and Miller (2006). *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics and Methods.* Taylor and Francis. 3. Moran, M., Rein, M. and Goodin, R.E (2012). *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*. Oxford University Press 4. Peters, G. and Pierre, J. (2006). *Handbook of Public Policy*. Sage |
| **Nov 10, 2025** | 1. **Communicating Public Policy** 2. The process of policy communication (rationale, benefit, expected outcomes of policy) 3. Communicating with/to:  * Decision makers; * Stakeholders: local, national and international partners; * Beneficiaries and the public. | 1. Sigrid, K and Voltmer, K. (2010). *The Public Policy and the Mass Media: The Interplay of Mass Communication and Political Decision Making*. Routledge. 2. Smith, C.F. (2012). *Writing Public Policy: A Practical Guide to Communicating the Public Policy Process*. Oxford University Press. 3. Mansel, R. and Raboy, M. (Eds.) (2009). *The Handbook of Global Media and Communication Policy*. Wiley-Blackwell. |
| **Nov 17-23, 2025** | **Revision and completion of assignments** |  |
| **Nov 24 -Dec 15, 2025** | **Final Examination** |  |

**General Reading List**

1. Eneanya, A.N. (2010). Comparative Public Administration and Public Policy. Lagos:
2. University of Lagos Press Ltd
3. Eneanya, A.N. (2010). Policy Research, Analysis and Effective Public Policy-Making
4. in Nigeria. Lagos: Concept Publications Ltd
5. Hagwood & Dunn. V (1981). Policy Analysis for the Real World; Englewood Cliffs, N.J,
6. Haron Wildvlsky: Art and Craft of Policy Analysis
7. Ikelegbe, A.O. (1994). Public Policy-making and Analysis. Benin-City: Uri Publishing Ltd.
8. Owolabi, J. (2005). Policy making and Educational Policy Analysis. Uganda, Makerere University Printing Press
9. Thomas Dye (1981). Understanding Public Policy; Monterey, California, Books Cole.
10. Anyebe, A. A (2018). An Overview of Approaches to the Study of Public Policy. International Journal of Political Science (IJPS). Volume 4, Issue 1, PP 08-17
11. Aiyede, E.R (2023). Governance and Politics of Public Policy in Africa. Chapter 5 in Public Policy in Africa book edited by Aiyede and Muganda, Palgrave MacMillan, published by Springer Nature, Switzerland.
12. Anderson, J. E. (2003). Public policy making: An introduction. Boston: Houghton. Chapter 1.