

Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management

Summer 2024 Course Outline

COMPARATIVE PUBPLIC POLICY

Teaching Team

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Pincus (jonathan.pincus@fulbright.edu.vn)

Teaching Assistant: Nguyen Vo Hoang Trinh (mpp23.trinhnguyen@student.fulbright.edu.vn)

Class Meetings & Office Hours

Class Schedule

Online	20:00 – 21:00, 22/05 and 29/05/2024.
	Zoom: <u>link</u> .
	Meeting ID: 915 8406 5354. Passcode: 337108
Offline	13:30 – 16:45, 01/06 – 04/06, and 06/06 – 08/06/2024
	10:15 – 11:45, 05/06/2024

Office Hours

Dr. Pincus	17:00 – 18:00 everydays, or by appointment (01/06 – 08/06)
NVH Trinh	9:00 – 10:00 everydays on campus, or by appointment (01/06 – 08/06)
	Online via Teams, by appointment (17/05 – 31/05 and 09/06 – 23/06)

Course Description

Why do policies and policy outcomes differ from country to country? Even countries at similar levels of development pursue sharply contrasting policies on issues such as public health, education and environmental protection. Students of policy making cite history, culture, institutions, and ideas in their explanations of these differences, but which of these factors are most important. And are there deeper causes at work? Comparing policy outcomes across countries can help shed light on the strengths and weaknesses of policy options, although care must be taken when comparing outcomes in different settings. The class considers the constraints that interest groups impose on policy makers and the impact of globalization on the scope that countries have to make autonomous policy choices. Case studies are drawn from comparative study of economic development strategies and policies relating to higher education, social assistance and the transition to renewable energy.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to have read the assigned materials and to participate in class discussions. Assessment will take the form of a group project and an in-class final exam.



Students' class participation will also be assessed. The final grade will reflect the following weights:

Class participation 25%Group project 50%Final exam 25%

More details on assessment are provided below.

Required and Supplementary Reading

There is no textbook for the course. One or more required readings are assigned for each class. Supplementary readings are also listed below for each session. Videos are available on this page for most weeks.

Code of Conduct / Academic Integrity

Please refer to the university's Student Handbook for more information about the code of conduct. Plagiarism, or submitting work that is not one's own, is strictly prohibited and if detected will result in expulsion from the course. Plagiarism includes copying the work of a fellow student and using the words or ideas of published work without proper acknowledgement using an appropriate bibliographic attribution.

Books

Some of the required readings are taken from the following books. Students will find them useful when they prepare to lead class discussions. These books are available on the Notion page for the class.

- Asif, Muhammad, ed. (2022) Handbook of Energy and Environmental Security, Academic Press.
- Baker, Jonathan B. (2019) The Antitrust Paradigm: Restoring a Competitive Economy, Harvard University Press.
- Balla, Stephen J., Martin Lodge and Edward C. Page, eds (2015) The Oxford Handbook of Classics in Public Administration, Oxford University Press.
- Barnett, Michael N., W. Pevehouse, and Kal Raustiala (2022) Global Governance in a World of Change, Cambridge University Press.
- Béland, Daniel (2019) How Ideas and Institutions Shape the Politics of Public Policy, Cambridge University Press.
- Chen, Yi-Ling and Hyun Bang Shin, eds. (2019) Neoliberal Urbanism, Contested Cities and Housing in Asia, Palgrave Macmillan.
- Costa-Font, Joan, Gilberto Turati and Alberto Batinti, eds. (2020) The Political Economy of Health and Healthcare, Cambridge University Press.
- Cramer, Christopher, Ha Joon Chang and Arkebe Oqubuy (2020) The Oxford Handbook of Industrial Policy, Oxford University Press.
- Espring-Andersen, Gosta (1990) The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, Polity Press.
- Gerard, Damien and Ioannis Llanos (2019) Reconciling Efficiency and Equity: A Global Challenge for Competition Policy, Cambridge University Press.
- Gibb, Kenneth, Chris Leishman, Alex Marsh, Geoffrey Meen, Rachel Ong ViforJ and Craig Watkins, eds. (2024) The Routledge Handbook of Housing Economics, Routledge.



- Gough, Ian Geof Wood, Armando Barrientos, Philippa Bevan, Peter Davis, Graham Room (2008) Insecurity and Welfare Regimes in Asia, Africa and Latin America: Social Policy in Development Contexts, Cambridge University Press.
- Hall, Peter A. and David Soskice. eds. (2001) Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage, Oxford University Press.
- Hundt, David and Jitendra Uttam (2017) Varieties of Capitalism in Asia, Palgrave Macmillan.
- Jorgens, Helge, Christoph Knill and Yves Steinbach, eds. (2023) The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Policy, Routledge.
- Milanovic, Branko (2019) Capitalism, Alone, Belknap Press.
- Moore, Joel David (2018) Varieties of Capitalism in Southeast Asia, Palgrave Macmillan.
- Moran, Michael, Martin Rein and Robert E. Goodin, eds. (2008) The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy, Oxford University Press.
- Nicolas Petit (2020) Big Tech and the Digital Economy, Oxford University Press.
- Rose-Ackerman, Susan (2006) International Handbook on the Economics of Corruption, Edward Elgar.
- Walker, Alan and Chack-kie Wong, eds. (2005) East Asian welfare regimes in transition: From Confucianism to globalization, Polity Press.
- Zhang, Angela Huyue (2021) Chinese Antitrust Exceptionalism, Oxford University Press.

Course Schedule and Readings

Class 1	Course Introduction		
20:00–21:00,	No Readings		
22/05)	• Zoom: <u>link</u> .		
	 Meeting ID: 915 8406 5354. Passcode: 337108. 		
Class 2	Group Project Discussion		
20:00-21:00,	No Readings		
29/05	• Zoom: <u>link</u> .		
	 Meeting ID: 915 8406 5354. Passcode: 337108. 		
Class 3	Why do we study comparative policy?		
13:30–15:00,	Required Reading		
01/06	"Bans on paying for human blood distort a vital global market," The Economist, May 10, 2018, https://www.economist.com/international/2018/05/10/bans-on-paying-for-human-blood-distort-a-vital-global-market .		
	Jon Ungoed-Thomas and Robin McKie, 'Plasma was called liquid gold': The true story of the UK infected blood scandal, The Observer, April 27, 2024, https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/apr/27/plasma-true-story-uk-infected-blood-scandal-products .		
	Suggested Reading		
	Melvin Richter "Comparative Political Analysis in Montesquieu and Tocqueville" Comparative Politics, 1:2, January 1969.		
	Iain McLean and Jo Poulton, "Good Blood, Bad Blood and the Market: The Gift Relationship Revisited," Journal of Public Policy, 6:4, 1986.		



Michael Sandel, "How Markets Crowd Out Morals," Chapter 3 in What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013.

Richard Titmuss, The Gift Relationship: From Human Blood to Social Policy, Policy Press, 1970.

De Toqueville and the French exception, The Economist, August 9, 2018, https://www.economist.com/schools-brief/2018/08/09/de-tocqueville-and-the-french-exception.

Class 4

Methods of comparative public policy analysis

15:15-16:45,

Required Reading

01/06

Guy Peters, "The Comparative Method and Comparative Public Policy," in the Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Comparative Policy Analysis, Edward Elgar, 2020.

"Corruption is Getting Worse in Many Poor Countries," The Economist,

Suggested Reading

Mushtaq Khan, "Determinants of Corruption in Developing Countries: The Limits of Conventional Economic Analysis," International Handbook on the Economics of Corruption, Edward Elgar, January 2006.

Paul M. Heywood and Jonathan Rose, "Close but no Cigar: The measurement of corruption," Journal of Public Policy, 34:3, December 2014.

"Corruption is getting worse in many poor countries," The Economist, January 25, 2022, Corruption is getting worse in many poor countries (economist.com).

Class 5

Institutions and Public Policy

13:30–15:00, 02/06

Required Reading

Danielle Wenner and Kevin Zollman How to End International Tax Competition, New York Times, November 2, 2017, Opinion | How to End International Tax Competition - The New York Times (nytimes.com).

"Commons Sense," The Economist, July 31, 2008, Commons sense (economist.com).

Suggested Reading

Malcolm Rutherford, Institutional Economics: Then and Now, Journal of Economic Perspectives, 15:3, Summer 2001.

Elinor Ostrom, "The Comparative Study of Public Economies," The American Economist, 42:1, Spring 1998.

Sonja Opper, New Institutional Economics and its Application on Transition and Developing Economies, New Institutional Economics: A Guidebook, Cambridge University Press, 2010.

David Lowery, "Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups," in The Oxford Handbook on Classics in Public Policy and Administration, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Amy R. Poteete, "Elinor Ostrom, Governing the Commons," in The Oxford Handbook on Classics in Public Policy and Administration, Oxford University Press, 2015.



	distory and Path Dependence Required Reading
15:15-16:45, R	Pequired Reading
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	Daniel Rosenbloom, "Breaking Carbon Lock-In Through Innovation and Decline," Vashington, DC: World Resources Institute, 2020.
S	Suggested Reading
	acob Torfing, "Rethinking Path Dependence in Public Policy Research." Critical Policy Studies, 3:2009.
	Adrian Kay, "Policy Trajectories and Legacies," in the Routledge Handbook of Public Policy, Routledge, 2012.
а	chiro Sato, Beth Elliott and Clea Schumer, "What to Know About Carbon Lock In and How to Avoid It?" World Resources Institute, May 25, 2021, What to Know About Carbon Lock-in and How to Avoid It World Resources Institute (wri.org)
Class 7	nterests and Public Policy
· ·	Required Reading
	America is a health-care outlier in the developed world," The Economist, April 26, 2018, America is a health-care outlier in the developed world (economist.com).
	effrey Frieden, "The Political Economy of Economic Policy, Finance and Development, June 2020, The Political Economy of Economic Policy - IMF F&D.
S	Suggested Reading
	Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page, "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, nterest Groups, and Average Citizens," Perspectives on Politics, September 2014.
р	oan Costa-Font, Gilberto Turati and Alberto Batinti, "Interest groups and health policy," in The Political Economy of Health and Healthcare, Cambridge University Press, 2020.
Class 8	deas and Public Policy
15:15-16:45, R	Required Reading
В	Bradley Parks, "What makes the World Bank so influential—is it money or ideas?" Brookings, May 19, 2020, What makes the World Bank so influential—its money or its ideas? Brookings.
S	Suggested Reading
	ohn L. Campbell, "Idea, Politics and Public Policy," Annual Review of Sociology, 28, 2002.
	Daniel Beland, How Ideas and Institutions Shape the Politics of Public Policy, Cambridge University Press, 2019.
D a 9 P	Stephen Knack, Bradley C. Parks Ani Harutyunyan and Matthew DiLorenzo, "How Does the World Bank Influence the Development Policy Priorities of Low-Income and Lower-Middle Income Countries?" World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 1225, April 2020, How does the World Bank Influence the Development Policy Priorities of Low-Income and Lower-Middle Income Countries? Policy Research
V	Vorking Papers.



13:30-15:00, Required Reading 04/06 "Climate ambitions threaten a new wave of trade protectionism," Economist Intelligence Unit, October 12, 2023, Climate ambitions threaten a new wave of trade protectionism - Economist Intelligence Unit (eiu.com). Ana Swanson, "Climate change may usher in a new era of trade wars," New York Times, January 25, 2023, Climate Change May Bring New Era of Trade Wars, as E.U. and U.S. Spar - The New York Times (nytimes.com). Suggested Reading Colin Hay, Globalization and Public Policy, in the Oxford Handbook of Public Policy, Oxford University Press, 2008. Aaron Cosbey, Susanne Droege, Carolyn Fischer and Clayton Munnings, "Developing Guidance for Implementing Border Carbon Adjustments: Lessons, Cautions, and Research Needs from the Literature," Review of Environmental Economics and Policy, 13:1, Winter 2019. Michael N. Barnett, Jon C.W. Pevehouse, and Kal Raustiala, "Introduction: The Modes of Global Governance," in Global Governance in a World of Change, Cambridge University Press, 2022. Class 10 **Cases: Industrial policy** 15:15-16:45, Required Reading 04/06 Gillian Tett, "How to tell good industrial policy from bad," Financial Times, May 2, 2024, How to tell good industrial policy from bad (ft.com). "China's industrial policy has worked better than critics think," The Economist, January 2, 2020, China's industrial policy has worked better than critics think (economist.com). Suggested Reading Reda Cherif and Fuad Hasanov, "The Return of the Policy That Shall Not Be Named: Principles of Industrial Policy, IMF Working Paper 2019/074, The Return of the Policy That Shall Not Be Named: Principles of Industrial Policy (imf.org). Martin Wolf, "Britain desperately needs a growth strategy," Financial Times, December 12, 2023, Britain desperately needs a growth strategy (ft.com). Rajah Rasiah, Industrial Policy in Southeast Asia, in The Oxford Handbook of Industrial Policy, Oxford University Press, 2020. Class 11 Cases: Competition policy and big tech

10:15-11:45, 05/06

Required Reading

"The Growing Demand for More Rigorous Antitrust Action," The Economist, January 10, 2022, The growing demand for more vigorous antitrust action (economist.com).

Rana Foroohar, The great US-Europe Antitrust Divide," Financial Times, February 4, 2024, The great US-Europe antitrust divide (ft.com).

Steve Lohr, "To Rein In Big Tech, Europe Looked Beyond Lawsuits. Will the U.S. Follow? New York Times, December 10, 2022, To Rein In Big Tech, Europe Looked Beyond Lawsuits. Will the U.S. Follow? - The New York Times (nytimes.com).



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Blair Levin and Larry Downes, Microsoft, Google and a New Era of Antitrust, Harvard Business Review, February 17, 2023.

Andrew I Gavil and Harry First, "Lessons from the Microsoft Antitrust Cases," The World Financial Review, January-February 2015, twfr_jan-feb_2015_lessons_microsoft_antitrust_cases.pdf (ucl.ac.uk).

Daniel L. Rubinfeld, "Antitrust Enforcement in the US and the EU: A Comparison of the Two Federal Systems," in Reconciling Efficiency and Equity, Cambridge University Press, 2019.

Marc Jarsulic, Ethan Gurwitz and Andrew Schwartz, "Toward a Robust Competition Policy," Center for American Progress, April 3, 2019, Toward a Robust Competition Policy - Center for American Progress.

Jonathan B. Baker, "Market Power in an era of antitrust," in The Antitrust Paradigm: Restoring a Competitive Economy, Harvard University Press, 2019.

Class 12

Cases: Welfare regimes

13:30–15:00, 06/06

Required Reading

Jonathan London, 'Welfare Regimes in China and Vietnam," Journal of Contemporary Asia, 44:1, 2014.

Suggested Reading

Ian Gough, "Welfare Regimes in Development Contexts: A Global and Regional Analysis," in Insecurity and Welfare Regimes in Asia, Africa and Latin America: Social Policy in Development Contexts, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Seungwoo Han, "Welfare Regimes in Asia: Convergent or Divergent?" Humanities and Social Sciences Communication," November 14, 2023, Welfare regimes in Asia: convergent or divergent? | Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (nature.com).

Martin Powell and Armando Barrientos, "Welfare Regimes and the Welfare Mix," European Journal of Political Research, 43, 2004.

Kieke GH Okma and Theodore R Marmor, "Comparative studies and healthcare policy: learning and mislearning across borders," Clinical Medicine, 13:5, 2013.

Class 13

Cases: Varieties of capitalism

15:15-16:45,

Required Reading

06/06

Arthur Goldhammer, "A Tale of Two Capitalisms," Democracy, Spring 2020, A Tale of Two Capitalisms : Democracy Journal.

"Which is the best market model?" The Economist, September 12, 2020, Which is the best market model? (economist.com).

Suggested Reading

Peter A. Hall, "Varieties of Capitalism," in Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, John Wiley and Sons, 2015.

Joel David Moore, "Capitalist Varieties: An Introduction, in Varieties of Capitalism in Southeast Asia, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.



	Joel David Moore, "Constraints and Development," Varieties of Capitalism in Southeast Asia, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
	Branko Milanovic, "Political Capitalism," in Capitalism Alone, Harvard University Press, 2019.
Class 14	Cases: Comparative education policy
13:30-15:00,	Required Reading
07/06	"OECD and Pisa tests are damaging education worldwide – academics," The Observer, May 6, 2014, OECD and Pisa tests are damaging education worldwide - academics School tables The Guardian.
	Suggested Reading
	Svein Sjøberg, "The PISA-syndrome – How the OECD has hijacked the way we perceive pupils, schools and education, Confero Essays on Education Philosophy and Politics, February 2019.
	Hai-Anh Dang, Paul Glewwe, Jongwook Lee and Khoa Vu, "What Explains Vietnam's Exceptional Performance in Education Relative to Other Countries? Analysis of the 2012, 2015, and 2018 PISA Data," Economics of Education Review, 96, 2023.
	E. Auld, J. Rappleye and P. Morris, "PISA for Development: how the OECD and World Bank shaped education governance post-2015, Comparative Education, 2018.
Class 15	Cases: Housing policy
15:15-16:45,	Required Reading
07/06	John Bryson, "A century of public housing: lessons from Singapore, where housing is a social, not financial, asset," The Conversation, July 31, 2019, A century of public housing: lessons from Singapore, where housing is a social, not financial, asset (theconversation.com).
	Suggested Reading
	Ya Ping Wang and Alan Murie, "The New Affordable and Social Housing Provision System in China: Implications for Comparative Housing Studies," International Journal of Housing Policy, 11:3, 2011.
	Hoai Anh Tran and Ngai-Ming Yip, "Neoliberal Urbanism Meets Socialist Modernism: Vietnam's Post-Reform Housing Policies and the New Urban Zones of Hanoi," in Neoliberal Urbanism, Contested Cities and Housing in Asia, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.
	Josh Ryan-Collins, "The Political Economy of Housing Policy Interventions," in the Routledge Handbook of Housing Economics, Routledge, 2024.
	Fulong Wu, Jie Chen, Fenghua Pan, Nick Gallent and Fangzhu Zhang, "Assetization: The Chinese Path to Housing Financialization," Annals of the American Association of Geographers, 2020.
	Sock-Yong Phang and Matthias Helble, "Housing Policies in Singapore," Asian Development Bank Institute Working Paper No. 559, March 2016, Housing Policies in Singapore (adb.org).
Class 16	Cases: Renewable energy
	Required Reading



13:30–15:00, 08/06	Meera Subramanian, "India's Quest to Build the World's Largest Solar Farms," The New Yorker, April 26, 2023, India's Quest to Build the World's Largest Solar Farms The New Yorker.
	Suggested Reading
	Yuehong Lu, Zafar A. Khan, Manuel S. Alvarez-Alvarado, , Yang Zhang, Zhijia Huang, and Muhammad Imran, "A Critical Review of Sustainable Energy Policies for the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources," Sustainability, May 3, 2020.
	Jorge Blazquez, Rolando Fuentes-Bracamontes, Carlo Andrea Bollino, and Nora Nezamuddin, "The renewable energy policy paradox," Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 2018.
	David Dapice, Phu V Le and Thai-Ha Le, "Phase change: getting to a sustainable energy future in Vietnam, in Handbook of Energy and Environmental Security, Academic Press, 2022.
Class 17	Final Exam
15:15-16:45,	
08/06	

Assessment

Class Participation:

Students' constructive participation in class will be assessed by the instructor. Evidence of familiarity with the required and supplementary readings, and comments and questions that raise important points and or helpful to fellow students, will earn a higher score. Students will form groups to lead class discussions of policy cases, and students' performance in these classes will factor in the grade for participation.

Group Project:

Each class discussion group will prepare a policy memo addressing their topic. The policy memo will compare policies in at least two countries, regions, provinces or cities. The memo will draw lessons from the comparison and propose a policy change or innovation. The project will be NO MORE THAN SIX double-spaced pages in 12-point font in English (about 3000 words). Groups should schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss the nature of the policy comparison and conclusions. Click on the link below to see the policy memo framework.

Final exam:

The final session of class will consist of a closed book final exam. Students will be given three to four questions and will be required to answer one question in essay form. Students will write their answers long hand and cannot use computers, but handwritten or printed notes may be brought to class. Students will receive point for citing the readings and lectures.

Grading Rubric

The same grading rubric that applies to papers and exams will apply to the policy memo project. Remember that this is assessed work, and one of the criteria for assessment is the use of theories and arguments from the classes and readings.



Another important factor is the use of evidence. Careful use of evidence will earn higher marks. Sloppy use of evidence, meaning evidence not derived from reliable sources or presented in an unstructured manner, will lose marks.

Linking the evidence and theory to your conclusion is very important. Policy recommendations that are supported by evidence, and that are based on sound theories, will gain points.

Criteria			Pts
Structure and organization Every answer should have a thesis statement summarizing the main argument and its components. The body of the answer makes the argument and the final section concludes.	20.0 pts Full Marks	0.0 pts No Marks	20.0 pts
Use of evidence The main argument should use evidence from the region, clearly stating sources and the relevance of the information provided	20.0 pts Full Marks	0.0 pts No Marks	20.0 pts
Use of theories and arguments from the readings A good answer will demonstrate command of the material presented in the readings.	20.0 pts Full Marks	0.0 pts No Marks	20.0 pts
Reference to material from the lectures and discussions A good answer will refer to the material from the lectures and discussions. This does not mean that you have to agree with the point of the view of the lecturer, and good answers can critique these ideas. But the answer should show evidence that the student has thought about the material.	20.0 pts Full Marks	0.0 pts No Marks	20.0 pts
Originality Good answers are original and creative. Presenting a new angle on a theory or idea, especially if well-supported by evidence, is the difference between a good and great essay.	20.0 pts Full Marks	0.0 pts No Marks	20.0 pts