



FULBRIGHT  
UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM

FULBRIGHT SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

# Course introduction

Comparative Public Policy  
Spring 2024



---

# What you need to know about this class

---

- Classes
- Notion page
- Cases and discussions
- Readings
- Videos
- Assessment



# Structure of the course

<b>Introduction to Comparative Policy</b>	<b>Case Studies</b>
1. Course introduction	9. Case: Fiscal policy
2. Why do we study comparative policy?	10. Case: Industrial policy
3. Methods of comparative public policy analysis	11. Case: Welfare regimes
4. Institutions and public policy	12. Case: Varieties of capitalism
5. History and path dependence	13. Case: Education policy
6. Interests and public policy	14. Case: Housing policy
7. Ideas and public policy	15. Case: Controlling pollution
8. Globalization and public policy	16. Case: Renewable energy



# The Notion page



## Comparative Public Policy 2024

Owner      Verification      Tags  
Jonathan Pincus      Empty      Empty

Instructor: Jonathan Pincus  
Email: jonathan.pincus@fulbright.edu.vn

May 23-June 8, 2024

### Course Description

#### Overview

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

- You have also been invited to the *Notion* page for the course (let me know if you haven't received the email invitation)
- You will need to sign up with Notion but it is free.
- The Notion page gives you another way to access the readings, data and videos.
- You cannot edit the Notion page, but you can leave comments for me if you find errors or missing links or if you have any questions.
- I have put some free books on the page that you can download and read.



# Cases and class discussions

---

- Students will form 8 groups
- Each group will select one case discussion to lead from the sign-up sheet
- The group is responsible for reading the assigned and recommended readings and making a presentation to the class comparing public policies of at least two countries or regions on the chosen topic.
- After the presentation, the student group will lead the class discussion on the topic.
- You should work hard on the presentation and class discussion as it will factor into your final grade for the course.



# Videos on the Notion page

- Videos related to each class are posted on the Notion page
- You are not required to watch them, but you might find them interesting and relevant to class discussions.
- Feel free to suggest new videos—I can post them if they are directly related to the course.

## What Explains GDP?



## Joseph Stiglitz: Measuring What Counts for Economic Development and Social Performance





# Lectures and classes

---

- The first eight classes will consist of a lecture and then class discussion.
- All students will be expected to read the required readings **BEFORE CLASS**.
- Don't be surprised if you are called on in class to discuss the material (even if you have not put up your hand!)
- Please put your phone away during class.
- You may use your computer in class but please show respect to your fellow students and teachers by keeping your focus on the class discussion.



# Assessment

---

- Assessment will take the form of class participation, a group project and a final exam.
- Class participation: Attendance will be taken and we will keep track of student participation in class. Evidence that you have done the readings, and the quality of student group presentations are important components of the final grade.
- Group Project: The same groups that led the student discussion will produce a policy memo of no more than 6 typed pages (double spaced). 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.
- Final Examination: A closed book examination will be administered in the final class. 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 may use computers, but handwritten or printed notes may be brought to class. Students will receive point for citing the readings and lectures.

- Participation: **25%**
- Final project: **50%**
- Final Exam: **25%**





# The final project

---

- Student groups will produce a policy memo on the topic on which they have led the class discussion.
- I will not read draft projects but you should meet me to discuss your ideas.
- The project consists of a policy comparison of at least two countries or regions (students may also compare policies in two provinces or cities in Vietnam).
- There is a strict 5,000 word limit including tables and appendices.
- Use the comparative methods discussed in class.
- It is half of your grade so spend some time on it.

# Questions?

---

