

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Introduction to Public Policy

(4 credits)

#### Teaching Team

|                     |                         |                                                                                                        |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Instructors:</b> | Jonathan Pincus         | <a href="mailto:jonathan.pincus@fulbright.edu.vn">jonathan.pincus@fulbright.edu.vn</a>                 |
|                     | Nguyễn Xuân Thành       | <a href="mailto:thanh.nguyen@fulbright.edu.vn">thanh.nguyen@fulbright.edu.vn</a>                       |
|                     | Phạm Duy Nghĩa          | <a href="mailto:nggia.pham@fulbright.edu.vn">nggia.pham@fulbright.edu.vn</a>                           |
|                     | Vũ Thành Tự Anh         | <a href="mailto:anh.vu@fulbright.edu.vn">anh.vu@fulbright.edu.vn</a>                                   |
| <b>Tutors:</b>      | Hoàng Văn Thắng         | <a href="mailto:thang.hoang.fsppm@fulbright.edu.vn">thang.hoang.fsppm@fulbright.edu.vn</a>             |
|                     | Nguyễn Thị Thanh Bình   | <a href="mailto:binh.nguyen.fsppm@fulbright.edu.vn">binh.nguyen.fsppm@fulbright.edu.vn</a>             |
|                     | Võ Thành Trung          | <a href="mailto:trung.vo.fsppm@fulbright.edu.vn">trung.vo.fsppm@fulbright.edu.vn</a>                   |
|                     | Nguyễn Hoàng Khánh Tiên | <a href="mailto:mpp23.tiennguyen@alumni.fulbright.edu.vn">mpp23.tiennguyen@alumni.fulbright.edu.vn</a> |

#### Online Class Times:

- Tuesday, 17 Oct. 2023: 20:00 – 21:00
- Thursday, 19 Oct. 2023: 20:00 – 21:00

#### Offline Class Times:

- Tuesday-Friday (24-27/10/2023): 08:30 - 11:45 and 13:30 - 16:45

#### Office Hours:

|                         | Online         | Tuesday       | Wednesday     | Thursday      | Friday        |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Jonathan Pincus         | On appointment | 10:00 - 11:00 | 14:00 - 15:00 | 10:00 - 11:00 | 10:00 - 11:00 |
| Nguyễn Xuân Thành       | On appointment | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 |
| Phạm Duy Nghĩa          | On appointment | 16:45 - 17:45 | 16:45 - 17:45 | 16:45 - 17:45 | 16:45 - 17:45 |
| Vũ Thành Tự Anh         | On appointment | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 |
| Hoàng Văn Thắng         | On appointment | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 |
| Nguyễn Thị Thanh Bình   | On appointment | 18:00 - 19:00 | 18:00-19:00   | 18:00 - 19:00 | 18:00 - 19:00 |
| Võ Thành Trung          | On appointment | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 | 17:00 - 18:00 |
| Nguyễn Hoàng Khánh Tiên | On appointment | 17:30 - 18:30 | 17:30 - 18:30 | 17:30 - 18:30 | 17:30 - 18:30 |

*\*Students can make appointments with instructors/tutors in advance using Teams.*

## Course Objective

The objective of the course is to give students an overview of public policy, policy making process, factors affecting policy design, implementation and outcomes, the role and relationship between government and market, the role of public institutions and governance in economic development, major changes in the global economy that shape the environment and policy outcomes. The course presents some key concepts in public policy research and analysis, applying these concepts to analyze specific policy issues.

The second objective of the course is to equip students with vital soft skills for their work in policy fields; for instance, critical thinking skills, presentation skills, group work, discussion and writing skills.

Upon course completion, students are expected to have following competencies and skills:

- Understand policy making process and factors affecting the process;
- Participate in discussion and contribute to policy processes;
- Develop critical mindsets for analysis and synthesis;
- Problem-solving skills and make decisions related to policies.

## Course Description

The course is centered around 6 themes as follows: (i) policy-making process and factors affecting this process; (ii) institutions and the role of institutions in policy-making; (iii) values and the role of values in shaping public policies; (iv) the role and relationship between government and market; (v) stakeholders and the role of advocacy; and (vi) political economic aspects of public policy.

Students are required to examine reading materials and briefly read through to prepare before the course starts (materials will uploaded/updated on Teams on **10<sup>th</sup> October 2023**, 2 weeks before the course starts).

Class meetings consist of lectures by instructors and class discussions based on case studies. To get a sense of what case studies are and how to write policy memos, students can refer to two guidance from Harvard Kennedy School of Government:

- *Learning with case studies*, Case Study Program by HKS.
- *Guidance on how to write policy memos*, HKS Communications Program.

## Readings

Readings include chapters in books, some selected readings from other sources and case studies (refer to detailed schedule below). Students must complete required readings before class. Additional readings are not required but recommended for students to develop a broader and deeper understanding of topics and class discussions.

## Course Requirements

Students must attend the class diligently, complete required readings before class, actively participate in class discussions and complete all assignments. Students should refer to FSPPM Student Handbook for MPP25.

**Evaluation:** Students' grades will be based on:

|                      |                                                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Class participation: | 25% (attendance and discussion)                            |
| Policy memo:         | 30% (2 memos, each accounts for 15%)                       |
| Group paper:         | 45% (students allocate work for each member in the group). |

The course has a total of 4 case studies. Each student chooses to submit **2/3 policy memos** (*Case Study 1 is not included*) based on analytical questions in each case study. Deadline for these memos are **8:20 a.m. Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022**. The length of a memo must be around 1000 words ( $\pm 10\%$ ).

Class of MPP24 (including PA and LM) are divided into 14 small groups (students can form groups on their own and inform teaching team of their groups. Each group must not exceed 4 students and work together to complete a short group paper. **Deadline for group paper is 8:20 a.m. Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. The length of the group paper is 2500 words ( $\pm 10\%$ ).

All papers must be submitted in Word files on Teams as per FSPPM regulations. Students must strictly observe rules related to academic integrity, quote and cite all the reference sources in the right way. All violations on academic integrity will be handled according to procedures specified in Student Handbook for MPP2024. Please be noted that after submission on Teams, all papers will be scanned for similarities and plagiarism using Turniti.

To prepare for Group Paper, students need to follow below schedule:

*Before the course:*

- **From 10-20/10/2023:** Students get used to learning via Teams, propose policy issues of their interest and form groups. Each student can only join one group.
- Notes for tutors: Tutors must contact and guide students on how to study and form groups.

*During the course: :*

- **On 24/10/2023:** Form groups and each group decides their own topics.
- **On 25/10/2023:** Group discussion on policy contexts and issues (output: 1 page).
- **On 26/10/2023:** Group discussion on policy questions and factors that affect policy outcomes (output: 1 page).
- **On 27/10/2023:** Group discussion on Draft proposals (output: 1 page).

*After the course:*

- **On 20/11/2023:** Groups submit their papers which range around 2500 words ( $\pm 10\%$ ).

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Online Class time:

- Tuesday, 17 Oct. 2023: 20:00 – 21:00 Course Introduction (PDN)
- Thursday, 19 Oct. 2023: 20:00 – 21:00 Case Study Method (NXT) –  
(Case: *The Cat Linh – Ha Dong Metro*)

### Offline Class Times:

| Time        | Tuesday (24/10)                               | Wednesday (25/10)                              | Thursday (26/10)                                       | Friday (27/10)                                       |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30-10:00  | Public Policy and Policy-Making Process (PDN) | Role of the State (JP)                         | Institutions and Development (JP)                      | Public Policy in Disruptive Technological Age (VTTA) |
| 10:15-11:45 | <i>Case study 1: Policy Actors</i> (NXT)      | Policy Instruments (NXT)                       | <i>Case study 3: Institutional Fragmentation</i> (NXT) | <b>The Global Economy and Vietnam</b> (NXT)          |
| 13:30-15:00 | How to write policy memo (VTTA)               | Political Economy of Public Policy (VTTA)      | State Failures (VTTA)                                  | Policy Research and Analysis (JP)                    |
| 15:15-16:45 | Market Failures (JP)                          | <i>Case study 2: Law and Development</i> (PDN) | Public Private Partnership (PDN)                       | <i>Case study 4: Policy Advocacy</i> (PDN)           |

## DETAILED SCHEDULE AND CLASS MATERIALS

### Tuesday (24/10)

#### Public Policy and Policy-Making Process (*Pham Duy Nghia*)

- Birkland (2016). Chapters 1 & 2.
- Kingdon (2013). Chapter 1.

#### Official and Unofficial Actors and Stakeholders (*Phạm Duy Nghĩa*)

- Birkland (2016). Chapters 4 & 5.
- Kingdon (2013). Chapters 2 & 3.

#### Case Study #1: Actors in the Making of Trade Policy (*Nguyễn Xuân Thành*)

- Nike versus New Balance: Trade Policy in a World of Global Value Chains, HBS Case

#### How to write policy memo (*Vũ Thành Tự Anh*)

- Learning with case studies, Case Study Program by HKS.
- Guidance on how to write policy memos, HKS Communications Program.

### Market Failure (*Jonathan Pincus*)

- José Luis Gómez-Barroso, Public Economics: A Concise Introduction, Routledge, 2023, Chương 2, “Reasons for State Activity.”
- “The Biggest obstacle to saving rainforests is lawlessness,” The Economist, February 27, 2023. <https://www.economist.com/international/2023/02/27/the-biggest-obstacle-to-saving-rainforests-is-lawlessness>
- Patrick Greenfield. Revealed: more than 90% of rainforest carbon offsets by biggest certifier are worthless, analysis shows. The Guardian, January 18, 2023. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/18/revealed-forest-carbon-offsets-biggest-provider-worthless-verra-aoe#:~:text=The%20research%20into%20Verra%2C%20the,companies%20%E2%80%93%20a%20likely%20to%20be%20%E2%80%9C>

#### Mini Case Study: Is Big Tech Creating Monopolies?

- Zephyr Teachout, “Big Tech’s Governmental Ambitions,” in Break ‘em Up, Macmillan, 2020.

#### Mini Case Study: Thu Thiem land auction: Market failure or state failure?

- Lan Anh (2023), The failure of Thu Thiem land auction (“Thất bại của cuộc đấu giá đất Thủ Thiêm”). <https://zingnews.vn/that-bai-cua-cuoc-dau-gia-dat-thu-thiem-post1333741.html>, July 9 2023.

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### Wednesday (25/10)

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### The Proper Role of the State (*Jonathan Pincus*)

- José Luis Gómez-Barroso, Public Economics: A Concise Introduction, Routledge, 2023, Chương 1, “State Activity in the Economy: A Global Perspective.”
- “Governments across the world are discovering homeland economics,” The Economist, October 2, 2023. <https://www.economist.com/special-report/2023/10/02/governments-across-the-world-are-discovering-homeland-economics>

#### Mini Case Study: Will Climate Change and Covid Permanently Change the Role of Government?

- Matthew Wilburn King, “Why the next stage of capitalism is coming,” <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210525-why-the-next-stage-of-capitalism-is-coming>, May 27, 2021.
- “Governments are not going to stop getting bigger,” The Economist, <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2021/11/20/governments-are-not-going-to-stop-getting-bigger>, November 20, 2021.

#### Mini Case Study: Should the government socialize education and health?

- Lan Anh-Hoang Loc (2023), Medical socialization: Don't treat patients as a source of income (“Xã hội hóa y tế: Đừng coi bệnh nhân là nguồn thu”). <https://tuoitre.vn/xa-hoi-hoa-y-te-dung-coi-benh-nhan-la-nguon-thu-20230915075858871.htm>, September 15, 2023.
- Trung Hung (2021), Promote autonomy, socialize education to solve the situation of both

redundancy and shortage of teachers. (“Thúc đẩy tự chủ, xã hội hóa giáo dục để giải quyết tình trạng vừa thừa, vừa thiếu giáo viên.”) <https://nhandan.vn/thuc-day-tu-chu-xa-hoi-hoa-giao-duc-de-giai-quyet-tinh-trang-vua-thua-vua-thieu-giao-vien-post673550.html>, October 2, 2023.

### Public Policy Instruments (*Nguyễn Xuân Thành*)

- Salamon, L.M. (2002). The Tools of Government: A Guide to the New Governance, Chương 1.
- May, P. J. (2012): Policy Design and Implementation in B.G. Peters and J. Pierre (eds.). Handbook of Public Administration. London: Sage. 2nd ed. (Chỉ có bản tiếng Anh, bài đọc tham khảo, không bắt buộc).

### Political Economy of Public Policy (*Vũ Thành TỰ Anh*)

- Jeffry Frieden (2020). The Political Economy of Economic Policy, *Finance & Development*, Tháng 6/2020.
- Vũ Thành TỰ Anh (2006). Cạnh tranh xé rào hay cuộc chạy đua xuống đáy, *Thời báo Kinh tế Sài Gòn* số 13, 22/3/2006.
- Tu-Anh Vu-Thanh (2023). “The Political Economy of Private-Sector Development in Vietnam Since Doi Moi,” Chapter 12 in Jonathan London (Ed), “*Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Vietnam*”, tr. 184-202.

### Case Study #2: Law and Development (*Phạm Duy Nghĩa*)

- Quyết định 32/2023/QĐ-UBND ngày 26/7.2023 của UBND TP. HCM, quy định về quản lý và sử dụng tạm thời một phần lòng đường, hè phố trên địa bàn Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh.

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## Thursday (26/10)

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### Institutions and Development (*Jonathan Pincus*)

- Daniel Kaufman, “Its Complicated: Lessons from 25 Years of Measuring Governance,” <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2021/09/30/its-complicated-lessons-from-25-years-of-measuring-governance/>.
- Martin Painter, Poor Governance For Development in China and Vietnam,” in *Is Good Governance Good for Development?* Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.
- Glorious revolutions and their discontents. *The Economist*, December, 4, 2013, <https://www.economist.com/free-exchange/2013/12/04/glorious-revolutions-and-their-discontents>

### Case Study #3: Relocation of HCMC Sea Ports

- Nguyễn Xuân Thành, Jonathan Pincus (2012), *Di dời cảng biển TP. Hồ Chí Minh*, Fulbright Economics Teaching Program

### **State Failures** (*Vũ Thành TỰ Anh*)

- Anne Krueger (1990). “Government Failures in Development,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 4:3, 9-23.
- Jonathan Pincus (2023). “Contemporary Vietnam: State Effectiveness Under Conditions of Commercialization.” Chapter 11 in Jonathan London (Ed), “*Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Vietnam*”, tr. 164-183.
- Vũ Thành TỰ Anh và Đỗ Hoàng Phương (2012). “Thị trường dịch vụ điện thoại di động ở Việt Nam,” *Nghiên cứu tình huống của Chương trình giảng dạy kinh tế Fulbright*.

### **Public-Private Partnership** (*Phạm Duy Nghĩa*)

- PDN (2023). Socialization in Health Sector.

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### **Friday (27/10)**

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#### **Public Policy in Disruptive Technological Age** (*Vũ Thành TỰ Anh*)

- Toomas Hendrik Ilves (2020). “Số hóa một quốc gia - Chia sẻ của cá nhân về cách thực hiện số hóa, lý do thực hiện và những bài học có thể rút ra từ quá trình đó.” Tài liệu trích từ *Kỷ yếu Diễn đàn cải cách và phát triển Việt Nam 2020* do Chính phủ Việt Nam tổ chức.
- Anna Piperal (2019). Chính phủ số có diện mạo như thế nào? (What a Digital Government Looks Like?), Bài *Ted Talk* của Anna Piperal tại TEDSummit 2019, truy cập tại: [https://www.ted.com/talks/anna\\_piperal\\_what\\_a\\_digital\\_government\\_looks\\_like/transcript?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/anna_piperal_what_a_digital_government_looks_like/transcript?language=en)
- Yuval Noah Harari (2021). “Lessons from a year of Covid,” *Financial Times*, February 26, 2021, <https://www.ft.com/content/f1b30f2c-84aa-4595-84f2-7816796d6841>

#### **The Global Economy and Vietnam** (*Nguyễn Xuân Thành*)

- IMF, Vietnam: 2022 Article IV Consultation Staff Report, September 2023.

#### **Policy Research and Analysis** (*Jonathan Pincus*)

- Bardach and Patashnik (2020), *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, SAGE, CQ Press. Part 1: “The Eightfold Path.”
- Kraft and Furlong (2021), *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternative*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, SAGE, CQ Press. Part I & II (recommended, not required).
- FETP (Vũ Thành TỰ Anh): Viết bài Phân tích chính sách.
- Phạm Duy Nghĩa (2023) tổng hợp: Nhìn lại Quá trình Khởi động sửa đổi Luật Đất đai 2013.

#### **Case Study #4: Policy Advocacy** (*Phạm Duy Nghĩa*)

- PDN (2023): Revising the Land Law 2023: A review of the legislative process.