



SYLLABUS
Public policies and public policy analysis
University year 2025-2026

1. Information regarding the programme

1.1. Higher education institution	Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca
1.2. Faculty	Faculty of Political, Administrative, and Communication Sciences
1.3. Department	Department of Public Administration and Management
1.4. Field of study	Administrative Sciences
1.5. Study cycle	Doctorate
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	Doctoral School of Administration and Public Policy
1.7. Form of education	Full-time education

2. Information regarding the discipline

2.1. Name of the discipline	Public policies and public policy analysis	Discipline code: SCDAPP2
2.2. Course coordinator	Prof. univ. dr. Cătălin Ovidiu Baba	
2.3. Seminar coordinator	Prof. univ. dr. Cătălin Ovidiu Baba	
2.4 Year of study	I	2.5 Semester
	I	2.6. Type of evaluation
		C
		2.7 Discipline regime
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3. Total estimated time (hours/semester of didactic activities)

3.1 Număr de ore pe săptămână	3	Din care: 3.2 curs	2	3.3 seminar/laborator	1
3.1 Hours per week	42	Din care: 3.5 curs	28	3.6 seminar/laborator	14
3.4 Total hours in the curriculum					
Allocation of study time:	175				
Study supported by textbooks, other course materials, recommended bibliography and personal student notes	64				
Additional learning activities in the library, on specialized online platforms and in the field	63				
Preparation of seminars / laboratory classes, topics, papers, portfolios and essays	48				
Tutoring	5				
Examinations	0				
Other activities: -					
3.7 Total individual study hours	161				
3.8 Total hours per semester	175				
3.9 Number of ECTS credits	7				

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	Not applicable
4.2. competencies	Not applicable

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for the course	Not applicable
5.2. for the seminar /lab activities	Not applicable



6. Competencies

6.1 Specific competencies acquired

Key competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and evaluation of public policies • Application of public policy process methodology • Development and management of research in the field of public policy • Critical thinking and complex problem solving in public and organizational contexts • Collaborative work and continuous professional development in the field of public policy
Transversal competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepening understanding of the main concepts specific to the field, their use, and specialized terminology in multiple situations. • Deepening understanding of the methodology for analyzing and evaluating alternative public policies: cost-benefit analysis. • Guiding organizational behavior in a global context from the position of public policy proposers/developers. • Developing in-depth specific skills that enable students to analyze a public policy. • The ability to apply the theoretical concepts and principles acquired in the stages of the public policy process (formulation, design, decision-making, implementation, evaluation). • Application of public policy analysis methods; development of program impact assessment design; development of impact assessment tools • Ability to develop, implement, and evaluate a research project in the field of public policy—in particular, the analysis of a public policy.
Professional/essential competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic approach—with both theoretical and practical arguments—to complex problem situations of medium complexity, with a view to solving them efficiently and ethically • Objective self-assessment of the need for professional training in order to enter and remain adaptable to the requirements of the labor market • Applying effective working techniques in a multidisciplinary team



6.2 Learning outcomes

Knowledge	<p>Upon completion of the course, doctoral students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain and conceptually delineate the main theories, models, and paradigms in the field of public policy and public policy analysis; • critically analyze the theoretical foundations of the public policy process (agenda setting, formulation, decision-making, implementation, evaluation); • compare classical and contemporary models of public policy analysis (rational, incremental, institutional, group, systemic); • describe and interpret the role of institutional and non-institutional actors in the public policy-making process; • explain the methodology and limitations of the main instruments for public policy analysis and evaluation (including cost-benefit analysis and impact assessment); • integrate concepts and theories from economics, public administration, and political science into the analysis of complex public policies.
Skills	<p>Upon completion of the course, doctoral students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply theoretical and methodological models of analysis to specific public policy case studies; • develop a rigorous analysis of a public policy, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods; • construct the design of an evaluation approach for public policies or programs; • interpret empirical data relevant to the development and evaluation of public policies; • critically evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of public policies on different target groups; • formulate theoretically and empirically grounded public policy recommendations; • argue coherently and structurally, in writing and orally, the results of the analyses performed.



Responsibility and autonomy:	<p>Upon completion of the course, doctoral students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take responsibility for the independent design and implementation of a complex public policy analysis; • demonstrate intellectual autonomy in selecting the theoretical and methodological frameworks appropriate to their own research; • critically evaluate their own research efforts and identify professional and scientific development needs; • coordinate and moderate academic debates on public policy issues in interdisciplinary contexts; • comply with ethical and deontological principles in the analysis, evaluation, and communication of public policies; • integrate research results into doctoral work and the preparation of the doctoral thesis.
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7. Objectives of the discipline

7.1 General objective of the discipline	In-depth knowledge of the theoretical perspectives developed on this field and the development of the capacity for elaboration, analysis and understanding of public policies.
7.2 Specific objective of the discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth investigation and study of public policy design and analysis procedures; developing conceptual models for differentiated types of public policies; evaluation of economic, administrative research methods, both quantitative and qualitative, for the substantiation, development, application, analysis and evaluation of public policies. • Knowing, understanding of basic concepts, theories and methods of the field and area of specialization; their proper use in professional communication. • Skill development for elaborating a public policy proposal in various institutional contexts.

8. Content

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Remarks
1. Introduction	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Introduction / presentation of the Syllabus and the course content
2. Public Policies. Public Policies Analysis	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Defining public policy concepts and analyzing public policies
3. Public Policies Models	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation of the main theoretical models with relevance in the field of public policy analysis
4. Rationality and Irrationality in Public Policies	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates	Presentation and application of rational theories in public policy - the rational model



	Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation of the planning, organization, decision, selection, coordination process, recruitment and budgeting in public policies
5. Strategic Approach in Public Policies Studies – Healthcare and Social Services	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation of the main actors (governmental / public and / or private) involved in the process of developing public health policies
6. The Importance of Groups in Public Policies	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation of the theory of groups and interest groups Applying the group model and interactions between groups Presentation of management techniques in group conflicts
7. Incrementalism. Economic Policy	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation and application of the incremental model Analysis of economic policies in public health
8. Analysis of interests. Fiscal Policy in the Public Sector	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation and application of fiscal and monetary policy models in the public sector with examples in public health policies
9. Institutional Framework and Public Policies	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation and application of the institutional model in public policies Institutional analysis
10. Inputs and Outputs in Public Policies	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation and application of the system model, stakeholder analysis Analysis of the role of NGOs and interest groups
11. The Process of Public Policies	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation of the public policy development process Problem identification Establish a timetable for decision making Formulation of proposals Legislation of policies Policy implementation Policy evaluation



		Assessing the impacts of programs on targets and non-target groups in society
12. Public Policies Evaluation	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation of the main theoretical aspects related to: - policy evaluation - studying the programs - reporting the results of government programs Assessing the impacts of programs on targets and non-target groups in society Suggesting changes and adaptations

References:

Analiza cost-beneficiu, Anthony E. Boardman, David H. Greenberg, Aidan R. Vining, David L. Weimer
 Understanding Public Policy, Thomas R. Dye, 8th edition, 1995
 Policy Paradox, Deborah Stone, W. W. Norton; 3rd edition, 2001
 Public Policymaking, Anderson, James E. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000 p. 1-37
 The Science of Muddling Through, Charles E. Lindblom, Public Administration Review, 19, 1959, p. 79-88
 People, Policy and Politics, George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenberg, Robert T. Lineberry, 12th edition, Chapter 5: Civil Rights and Public Policy
 The Young and the Violent, Wall Street Journal, Septembrie 23, 1992, p. 8
 Replacing Welfare with Work, Will Marshall and Elaine C. Kamark, in Mandate for Change ed. Will Marshall and Martin Schran, 1993, New York, p. 224
 Politics Markets and the Organization of Schools, John E. Chubb, Terry M. Moe, in American Political Science Review 82, dec. 1988, p. 1065-1087
 Global warming: A reduced Threat?, Patrick J. Michaels, David E Stooksbury, in Bulletin of American Meteorological Society, 1992, nr. 23, 1563-1577
 The Bottom Up Review: Forces for a New Era, Office of the Secretary of Defense, september 1, 1993
 Economics of the Public Sector, Stiglitz, Joseph. New York: WW Norton, section on Cost/Benefit Analysis, pp. 217 – 228
 Bardach, E. and Patashnik, E.M. (2023) A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving. 7th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
 Kraft, M.E. and Furlong, S.R. (2024) Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives. 8th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
 Mishan, E.J. and Quah, E. (2021) Cost-Benefit Analysis. 6th ed. London: Routledge.
 Saltelli, A. and Di Fiore, M. (eds.) (2023) The Politics of Modelling: Numbers Between Science and Policy. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Remarks
1. Introduction	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Introduction / presentation of the Syllabus and the course content



2. Public Policies. Public Policies Analysis	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Defining public policy concepts and analyzing public policies
3. Public Policies Models	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation of the main theoretical models with relevance in the field of public policy analysis
4. Rationality and Irrationality in Public Policies	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation and application of rational theories in public policy - the rational model Presentation of the planning, organization, decision, selection, coordination process, recruitment and budgeting in public policies
5. Strategic Approach in Public Policies Studies – Healthcare and Social Services	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation of the main actors (governmental / public and / or private) involved in the process of developing public health policies
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7. Incrementalism. Economic Policy	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation and application of the incremental model Analysis of economic policies in public health
8. Analysis of interests. Fiscal Policy in the Public Sector	Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students	Presentation and application of fiscal and monetary policy models in the public sector with examples in public health policies



<p>9. Institutional Framework and Public Policies</p>	<p>Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates</p> <p>Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students</p>	<p>Presentation and application of the institutional model in public policies</p> <p>Institutional analysis</p>
<p>10. Inputs and Outputs in Public Policies</p>	<p>Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates</p> <p>Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students</p>	<p>Presentation and application of the system model, stakeholder analysis</p> <p>Analysis of the role of NGOs and interest groups</p>
<p>11. The Process of Public Policies</p>	<p>Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates</p> <p>Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students</p>	<p>Presentation of the public policy development process</p> <p>Problem identification</p> <p>Establish a timetable for decision making</p> <p>Formulation of proposals</p> <p>Legislation of policies</p> <p>Policy implementation</p> <p>Policy evaluation</p> <p>Assessing the impacts of programs on targets and non-target groups in society</p>
<p>12. Public Policies Evaluation</p>	<p>Presentation, exposure, discussions and debates</p> <p>Discussions based on case studies and theoretical materials available for students</p>	<p>Presentation of the main theoretical aspects related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - policy evaluation - studying the programs - reporting the results of government programs <p>Assessing the impacts of programs on targets and non-target groups in society</p> <p>Suggesting changes and adaptations</p>
<p>References:</p> <p>Analiza cost-beneficiu, Anthony E. Boardman, David H. Greenberg, Aidan R. Vining, David L. Weimer</p> <p>Understanding Public Policy, Thomas R. Dye, 8th edition, 1995</p> <p>Policy Paradox, Deborah Stone, W. W. Norton; 3rd edition, 2001</p> <p>Public Policymaking, Anderson, James E. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000 p. 1-37</p> <p>The Science of Muddling Through, Charles E. Lindblom, Public Administration Review, 19, 1959, p. 79-88</p> <p>People, Policy and Politics, George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenberg, Robert T. Lineberry, 12th edition, Chapter 5: Civil Rights and Public Policy</p> <p>The Young and the Violent, Wall Street Journal, Septembrie 23, 1992, p. 8</p>		



Replacing Welfare with Work, Will Marshall and Elaine C. Kamark, in Mandate for Change ed. Will Marshall and Martin Schran, 1993, New York, p. 224
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 The Bottom Up Review: Forces for a New Era, Office of the Secretary of Defense, september 1, 1993
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9. Corroborating the content of the discipline with the expectations of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers within the field of the program

The Public Policy and Public Policy Analysis course is adequate to the requirements related to the development of skills for understanding and applying the process of analysis and development of public policies required of doctoral students, skills that will be used for the development of doctoral dissertation.

10. Evaluation

Activity type	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Percentage of final grade
10.4 Course	Final project, which consists in analyzing a public policy of your choice using one of the models discussed in the course	The written paper is evaluated on the basis of a scale; students must also make the oral presentation of the paper, in the presentation being pointed out aspects related to the quality of the presentation (clarity, ability to summarize, use of appropriate graphic support, etc.).	70%
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	Proposing an article based on a case study referring to the failure of a public policy in Romania or another country in transition; moderating this debate with colleagues for 30 minutes	There is a scale based on which the discussions are evaluated which includes the quality of the proposed text, the clarity of the summary of the main ideas, the importance of the ideas proposed for debate by colleagues, etc.	30%
10.6 Minimum standard of performance			
The student must obtain the “promoted” qualificative			



11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

								
Sustainable Development Goals								
1 FĂRĂ SĂRĂCIE 	2 FOAMETE „ZERO” 	3 SĂNĂTATE ȘI BUNĂSTĂRE 	4 EDUCATIE DE CALITATE 	5 EGALITATE DE GEN 	6 APĂ CURATĂ ȘI SANITATIE 	7 ENERGIE CURATĂ ȘI LA PREȚURI ACCESIBILE 	8 MUNCĂ DECENTĂ ȘI CREȘTERE ECONOMICĂ 	9 INDUSTRIE, INOVAȚIE ȘI INFRASTRUCTURĂ 
10 INEGALITĂȚI REDUSE 	11 ORAȘE ȘI COMUNITĂȚI DURABILE 	12 CONSUM ȘI PRODUCȚIE RESPONSABILĂ 	13 ACȚIUNE CLIMATICĂ 	14 VIAȚA ACVATICĂ 	15 VIAȚA TERESTRĂ 	16 PACE, JUSTITIE ȘI INSTITUȚII EFICIENTE 	17 PARTENERIATE PENTRU REALIZAREA OBIECTIVELOR 	

Date:
 October 2025

Signature of course coordinator
 Prof. univ. dr. Cătălin Ovidiu Baba

Signature of course coordinator
 Prof. univ. dr. Cătălin Ovidiu Baba