

Course
Public Policy Analysis

Academic Year: 2014/2015

Semester: 1st

Instructor(s): João Confraria

Course Description: Public Policy Analysis provides a framework to understand the sources and dynamics of policy making and an economic framework to evaluate public policies. The course provides, first, an analytical framework to understand the origins of public policy, according to both public interest and public choice theories. Second, trade-offs in policy making and different approaches to policy making are considered. A wide range of policies is considered, including consumer protection, workers protection, environmental policies, the regulation of monopolies and the promotion of competition and social policies. In the third part of this course, the objective is to develop abilities to discuss and conduct analysis of the impact of state intervention. Regulatory impact analysis will be discussed as well as benefit cost analysis of public policies.

Course Content:

1. Market efficiency, market failure and the public interest argument for state intervention
2. Government failure and Public Choice theories.
3. Policy choices. Regulation, incentives, taxation and law. Trade-offs in public policies.
4. The contribution of behavioural economics to policy making.
5. Regulatory impact analysis.
6. Benefit cost analysis of public policies. Case studies.

Course Objectives:

After attending the course students should be able:

1. To discuss the origins of public policy, using both market failures and public choice arguments.



2. To consider and evaluate different policy options to pursue given policy objectives, including environmental policies, control of monopoly power and antitrust policies, safety in consumption and at the workplace, health policies and consumer protection.
3. To evaluate the effects of uncertainty on policy analysis and on policy design.
4. To make critical evaluation of cost benefit analysis and to conduct cost benefit analysis of public policies and investment projects

Grading:

The final grade will be based on a weighted average of an intermediate mid-term (35%) and a final midterm (65%). For students missing or failing the intermediate mid-term the final midterm will account for 100%.

Students with an average of 8/20 and 9/20 will have to make a final exam (100% of final grade).

Bibliography:

Boardman, A., Greenberg, D., Vining, A., Weimer, D., 2010, *Cost Benefit Analysis. Concepts and Practice*, Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice Hall.

Guess, G., Farnham, P., *Cases in Public Policy Analysis*, 2011, Georgetown University Press,
Florio, M., 2007, *Cost-Benefit Analysis and Incentives In Evaluation: The Structural Funds of the European Union*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

Kirkpatrick, C., Parker, D., (ed.) 2007, *Regulatory Impact Assessment*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

Manski, C., 2013, *Public Policy in an Uncertain World. Analysis and Decisions*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass..

Weimer, D., Vining, A., 2010, *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, Upper Saddle River NJ: Prentice Hall.

Winter, H., 2013, *Trade-Offs. An Introduction to Economic Reasoning and Social Issues*, Chicago: Chicago University Press



Biography:

João Confraria holds a Doctoral degree in Economics (1991, Catholic University of Portugal) and a Master in Economics (1988, New University at Lisboa), after undergraduate studies at the Catholic University of Portugal (1977-1982).

Currently, he serves as member of the Board of ICP-Anacom, Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (the Portuguese regulatory authority for communications markets).

Previous positions include having served as vice-president of Instituto Nacional da Aviação Civil (Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority) (2007-2011), representative of the Portuguese Government at the Council of Eurocontrol (2011) and member of the Board of ICP and ICP-Anacom (1996 – 2002).

At the Catholic University of Portugal he teaches Public Policy, Regulation & Competition and Telecommunications and is scientific coordinator of the Masters on Law and Business. He has been director of the Centre for Applied Studies (2005-2007), coordinator of the Executive Program on Economics of Regulation and Competition (2003-2007) and member of the Board of directors of the MBA Program (1991-1993).

He has worked as a consultant on economic regulation in telecommunications, postal services, transport, energy and water industries and is the author of several books and papers on economic regulation and industrial policy. Books published in the last 5 years include: *Regulação e Concorrência. Desafios do século XXI*, Lisboa, Edições Universidade Católica, 2010, 2^a ed.; *O Interesse Público na Política de Comunicações. 1910-2010*, Lisboa, Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações, 2010; *Comunicações na Idade Contemporânea. Cartas, Telégrafos e Telefones*, (coord.), Lisboa, Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações, 2009 and *Comunicações na Idade Contemporânea. Tempos Digitais*, (coord.), Lisboa, Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações, 2008.

Contact(s) and Office hours:

To be agreed with the students of this Policy Analysis course.
