

Minor Specification

Public Policy

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Name of minor	Public Policy
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics & International Relations
Faculty that owns the minor	Social Sciences
Minor Leader	Ana Margheritis - Head of Teaching Programmes, Politics and International Relations
Date specification was written	First draft: 2 April 2014 Final draft: 10 September 2015 Approved by FSHMS FPC: 16 September 2015

Overview of Minor

1 Brief outline of the minor

This Minor provides a basic grounding in the theories, issues and methodologies which are central to the study of Public Policy, in order to explore and understand how the policy process works, how problems are defined in policy terms, how public policy is made and how policy interventions are designed across a range of policy areas and societal issues. The Minor provides for: the analysis of theories of the policy process; exploration of policy problems and solutions; interrogation of the complex nature of public intervention and the difficulties of coordination in order to secure desired outcomes; and analysis of the various ways in which policy actors are both constrained and empowered by the complexities of contemporary governance.

2 Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching methods concentrate on relating theory to practice, developing analytical abilities and skills, and examining the impact of policy actions in historical and contemporary contexts. Lectures are complemented by seminars and group activities, some employing simulation exercises and case study analysis.

3 Assessment

Assessment methods allow students to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes by prioritising analysis of complex material that is subject to multiple reasonable interpretations. Essays, policy papers, and group projects allow students to develop and present cases and arguments, focusing on the ultimately contested nature of explanations in the study of Public Policy.

Educational Aims of the Minor

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge of the central theoretical and methodological issues in the study of public policy.
- knowledge of selected issues and events across a range of public policy arenas and sectors.
- capacity for the critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in the field of public policy, and for the application of such perspectives in your own work.
- capacity to undertake independent enquiry into public policy issues, using appropriate methodologies.
- skills in written and oral communication, the use of information technology, the analysis of different forms of information, and working co-operatively in groups to achieve designated outcomes.

Learning Outcomes for the Minor

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this minor, and depending on your choice of modules, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The nature and significance of public policy.
- Public policy processes, significant actors and stakeholders within those processes, and how the organisation of systems of governance impacts on both processes and actors.
- The application of concepts, theories and methods relevant to understanding the dynamics of public policy.
- Different interpretations of public policy issues and debates across a range of policy areas and societal problems.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work, etc.

Assessment methods

Written, unseen examinations; essays and other forms of assessed coursework; individual and group presentations; assessed classroom activities.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to public policy problems
- Develop reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information, and exercise critical judgement
- Reflect on your own learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback
- Manage your own learning self-critically

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work, etc.

Assessment methods

Written unseen examinations; essays and other forms of assessed coursework; individual and group presentations; assessed classroom activities.

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this Minor, and depending on your choice of modules, you will be able to:

- Communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats
- Communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations
- Work independently demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
- Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals
- Identify, select and draw upon a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as a means to the development and presentation of arguments and evidence

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work

Assessment methods

Written unseen examinations; essays and other forms of assessed coursework; individual and group presentations; assessed classroom activities

Subject Specific Practical Skills (optional)

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Describe, evaluation and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting public policy information
- Identify issues for public policy enquiry
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources
- Present scholarly work using appropriate formats and conventions

Structure of Minor

1 Typical content

The Minor in Public Policy introduces and develops your understanding of public policy problems and solutions, as well as the competing traditions of enquiry and analysis that help scholars explore this field of study. Politics broadly concerns those things about which people disagree – about decisions and who makes them, the use of scarce resources, agreed agendas for action – and public policy analysis involves the exploration and impact of contested ideas about what ‘good’ public policy should look like, and the various policy tools and interventions that might be used to address societal problems. The Minor explores the workings of policy processes, the motivations and preferences of actors and stakeholders inside those processes, the fundamental difficulties of coordination associated with policy interventions, and why it often proves so difficult to put ‘good’ policy ideas into practice. The Minor enables you to gain knowledge and understanding about public policy and policy making in general, and also of the context of specific public policy analyses across key policy arenas.

2 Special features of the programme

None.

3 Details of the Minor

You may not select modules that are incorporated as core or compulsory on your Major programme of study.

Back Tracking and Forward Tracking: Back tracking and forward tracking by one level are allowed up to 15 ECTS/30 ECTS.

Teaching is research led at all levels. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer to students wishing to study for the Minor.

The Minor consists of the following:

Year 1 7.5 ECTS/15 CATS from:

PAIR 1004 Political Ideas
SOCI1002 Transformations of the Modern World
CRIM1004 Criminal Justice Studies
PAIR1007 Crises of the 21st Century

Year 2 15 ECTS/30 CATS from:

CRIM2006 Criminology Policy and Practice
DEMO2004 Migration
DEMO2005 Population Processes in the Developed World
DEMO2010 Population in Developing Societies
PAIR2016 Public Policy Analysis
PAIR2032 Democracy and Democratisation in Global Politics
PAIR3014 Globalisation and World Politics
SOCI2008 Race and Ethnicity in Society
UOSM2004 Global Health
UOSM2010 Global Challenges
UOSM2011 The Management of Risk and Uncertainty

Year 3 15 ECTS/30CATS from (with no more than 7.5 ECTS/15CATS from UOSM modules):

Please note: Students cannot take a year 3 version of a module they have previously taken.

CRIM3001 Penology
CRIM3007 Violent and Sexual Offenders
CRIM3002 Issues in Law Enforcement and Social Control
DEMO3008 Population and Environment
PAIR3030 The Politics and Governance of the EU
PAIR3040 Democracy and Democratisation in Global Politics
SOCI3001 Comparative Sociology
SOCI3002 Comparing Welfare States-Evolution, Politics & Impact
ECON3004 Public Economics
GEOG3053 Geographies of Social Justice, Welfare and Rights
GEOG3063 The Creative Economy
UOSM2004 Global Health
UOSM2010 Global Challenges
UOSM2011 The Management of Risk and Uncertainty

Note: Students taking CRIM modules in Year 3 must have taken a CRIM module earlier in the Minor.

Note: Not more than 7.5 ECTS/15 CATS (1 module) may be selected from UOSM-coded modules.

4 Progression Requirements

The programme of which this minor comprises a part follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page>.

Revision History

1. A. Kelso, 14 July 2014
2. Approved by Faculty Programmes Committee, October 2014
3. A. Kelso, 29 July 2015
4. Faculty Scrutiny Group review 15 July 2015
5. A. Kelso, 6 August 2015
6. Approved by Faculty Programmes Committee, 16 September 2015
7. CQA team August 2016
8. S.Casey 18/19 revisions as approved by QAM on 26/03/18