

Winter term 2018/2019

University of Cologne
Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP)
Chair of International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology

Seminar Vergleichende Politische Ökonomie:

Public Policy Analysis: Energy, Climate and the Environment

ECTS points: 4 (alte Prüfungsordnung) / 6 (neue Prüfungsordnung)

When: Tuesdays, 12:00 – 13:30

Room: IBW-Building (211), seminar room S101

Lecturer: Dennis Abel

E-Mail: abel@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Tel.: 0221 / 470-7446

Office hours: By appointment only

Course summary

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to data analysis on the basis of energy, climate and environmental policy.

In the first part of the course, we will discuss general approaches and concepts of public policy analysis. The students will investigate the single components of policies and the major steps in the policy cycle. In addition, different theoretical approaches for the explanation of policy change will be elaborated. Finally, we will debate forms of governance and the concept of policy convergence.

In the second part of the course, we will apply these approaches on the analysis of energy, climate and environmental policy. The protection of the population against environmental hazards and the mitigation of climate change have emerged as a core task of government policy. We will investigate the decision-making process in crucial environmental subfields such as climate change mitigation and renewable energy policy.

The course includes several sessions on basic data analysis. It covers an introduction on hands-on quantitative data analysis with R. Although helpful, no prior knowledge of statistics is expected or required.

Registration

Students have to register via KLIPS2.

Deadline for the exam registration: **tba.**

Course requirements and examination

All participants are expected to:

- attend the seminar on a regular basis
- self-study the obligatory readings according to schedule
- actively contribute to class discussions
- give a 10 to 15 minutes presentation in the seminar

The examination consists of three parts:

1. A short presentation (10-15 minutes) followed by a discussion session.

The presentation will be graded as either “pass” or “fail”.

2. A written term paper. Depending on the “Prüfungsordnung”, participants are expected to write

- 2500 words (alte Prüfungsordnung - 4 ECTS) /
- 3500 words (neue Prüfungsordnung - 6 ECTS).

Participants must “pass” the presentation as well as the term paper in order to successfully finish the course.

The written examination accounts for 100% of the final grade. The term paper will be graded on the basis of the assessment criteria for term papers as published on our web page (http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/Assessment_criteria_for_research_papers_and_final_thesis.pdf). Points given for the term paper will be converted to the final grade as follows:

Points	Grade
100-95	1,0
94-90	1,3
89-85	1,7
84-80	2,0
79-75	2,3
74-70	2,7
69-65	3,0
64-60	3,3
59-55	3,7
54-50	4,0
49-0	5,0

3. Bonus work: For most sessions the participants are asked to prepare short reading reports (max. 200 words) or “data challenges”. The deadline for submission of this bonus work is Monday midday before the upcoming session. A student receives one bonus point for each assignment. A maximum of five bonus points can be added to the final grade.

The term paper has to be handed in as electronic version via email to abel@wiso.uni-koeln.de. The print version should be handed in personally at the administration office of the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (IBW Gebäude, Herbert-Lewin-Str. 2, 1st floor, Room 1.09).

Deadline for submitting the term paper: **22.02.2018, 18:00.**

Students should consult the information on writing a term paper and plagiarism on our web page:

http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/Information_on_how_to_write_a_term_paper_or_thesis.pdf

The term paper must include the following signed statement:

<http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/EidesstattlicheErklaerung.pdf>

We would like to point out that term papers submitted in this context will be checked anonymously for plagiarism with the software Turnitin.

Literature

Participants are advised to buy a copy of: Knill, C., & Tosun, J. (2012). *Public Policy. A New Introduction*. London – New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

For the data analysis part, I recommend the following introduction to R: Wickham, H., & Grolemund, G. (2017). *R for Data Science*. London: O'Reilly.

Schedule

I. Introduction

1. (6.11.2018) Introduction to the course programme

Introduction of the course. Administrative matters.

2. (13.11.2018) What is public policy? What is environmental policy?

Key aspects: What are policies (components, dimensions and typologies), brief introduction on policy process, governance principles, policy styles, actors, multi-level problems, the environment as a policy problem.

Obligatory reading:

Knill, C., & Tosun, J. (2012). *Public Policy. A New Introduction*. London – New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 1-39.

Carter, N. (2007). *The Politics of the Environment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 173-206.

II. Concepts and approaches in public policy analysis

3. (20.11.2018) Theoretical approaches to policy-making: Structure, institutions and interests

Key aspects: socioeconomic school, cleavage approach, new institutionalism, interest based – rational choice.

Obligatory reading:

Knill, C., & Tosun, J. (2012). *Public Policy. A New Introduction*. London – New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 69-96.

4. (27.11.2018) The policy cycle

Group presentations of the main stages of the policy cycle: 1. Problem definition and agenda setting, 2. Decision-making, 3. Implementation and 4. Evaluation. Students are expected to research examples from environmental policy to illustrate the stages in policy-making.

Obligatory reading:

Each group prepares one chapter. Agenda setting ch. 5, decision-making ch. 6, implementation ch. 7, evaluation ch. 8 from Knill, Tosun (2012).

5. (4.12.2018) Governance

Key aspects: Modes of governance (hierarchy, markets, networks), typologies (varieties of capitalism, developmental / regulatory / green entrepreneurial state), what is “good” governance?

Obligatory reading:

Knill, C., & Tosun, J. (2012). *Public Policy. A New Introduction*. London – New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 199-221.

6. (11.12.2018) Policy change and policy convergence

Key aspects: dimensions of policy change (density and intensity), rent-seeking, regulatory capture, explanatory approaches: advocacy coalition framework, learning, punctuated equilibriums, path-dependency, veto points, multiple stream approach, types and causes of convergence, related concepts (transfer, diffusion, isomorphism).

Obligatory reading:

Knill, C., & Tosun, J. (2012). *Public Policy. A New Introduction*. London – New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 250-279.

7. (18.12.2017) Instrument choice

Key aspects: Introduction into regulatory styles and environmental policy instruments (command-and-control, market-based, voluntary agreements etc.).

Obligatory reading:

Carter, N. (2007). *The Politics of the Environment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 321-352.

III. Data analysis lab

Sessions 8-11 (4x90mins) will be held as a block seminar before Christmas. Date and room: tba.

This day will be dedicated to hands-on data analysis in R. Topics covered:

- Data sources and processing: Measuring environmental policy change and levels of policy output and outcome
- Basic descriptive statistics
- Visualisation: Graphs and maps
- Basic multiple regression analysis

- Christmas holidays -

IV. Macro-comparative perspectives on environmental policy

12. (8.1.2019) Environmental policy leaders and laggards

Key aspects: Conceptualisation of policy leaders and laggards, how to measure leadership, policy portfolios.

Obligatory reading:

Liefferink, D. et al. (2009). Leaders and laggards in environmental policy: a quantitative analysis of domestic policy output. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 16(5), 677-700.

13. (15.1.2018) Environmental policy convergence

Key aspects: Measuring policy convergence, causes of convergence in environmental policy, policy portfolios.

Obligatory reading:

Holzinger, K., Knill, C., & Sommerer, T. (2014). Is there convergence of national environmental policies? An analysis of policy outputs in 24 OECD countries. In H. Jörgens, A. Lenschow & D. Liefferink (Eds.), *Understanding Environmental Policy Convergence* (pp. 39-63). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

V. Governing climate change and the energy transition

14. (22.1.2019) Climate change mitigation

Key aspects: understanding characteristics of emissions trading as a policy instrument, historical development in US and EU, policy-making process in Kyoto Protocol and EU level.

Obligatory reading: tba

15. (29.1.2019) Renewable energy and technological innovation

Key aspects: green industrial policy, policy instruments, price- and quantity-based approaches for RES-E support, diffusion of instruments

Obligatory readings: tba