**Comparative Public Policy**

The course introduces students to debates in public policy and then examines the changing nature public policy provision in a number of policy areas: Civil service reform, education, welfare, the environment, food safety and financial regulation. In general terms the case studies draw on experience from the anglo-saxon public policy world (Ireland, the UK, New Zealand and Australia). The course seeks to explore the rise of state intervention in the post war period under the aegis of the Keynesian welfare state and attempts at reform thereafter that have been informed by the ideas of the New Right.

The first section of the course introduces students to debates about the nature of state intervention and the role of pressure groups in the formation of policy. The aim of this section is familiarise students with competing views of the role of the state and pressure groups in the policy making process (pluralism, the New Right, Marxism etc). Students are expected to complete a mid term MCQ exam and a final exam (2hrs).

The second section of the course explores the rise of public service provision (and regulation) and the challenge presented to that form of provision from advocates of the free market (New right). The topics covered include Civil service, public and private partnerships, education, unemployment and welfare, environmental and food regulation. Students will be expected to answer two short questions (30mins) in the exam on this section.

The final section examines current debates about risk and regulation in the areas of the environment, food safety, blood financial regulation. Students are expected to answer one exam question from this section (one hour).

Learning Outcomes:

Identify and explain key terms in the field of public policy and distinguish between different theoretical approaches.

Construct arguments in the respective public policy areas using theoretical and conceptual frameworks

Analyse trends identified in public policy fields across the individual countries/policy fields examined in the course.

Assess the arguments and evidence surrounding current controversies in public policy .

**Two Core Texts:**

Taylor, G. (2005) Negotiated governance and public policy in Ireland. Manchester, UK New York: Manchester University Press

Boston, J. (1999) Redesigning the welfare state in New Zealand: problems, policies, prospects / edited by Jonathan Boston, Paul Dalziel, Susan St John.  Auckland, N.Z.: Oxford University Press.

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McLennan, G. (1989) Marxism, pluralism, and beyond: classic debates and new departures.  Cambridge: Polity Press.

Smith, M.J. (1995) “Pluralism”, in Theory and methods in political science / edited by David Marsh and Gerry Stoker.  Houndmills, Basingstoke: Macmillan Press

Lindblom, C.E. (1973) Politics and Markets: The World's Political Economic Systems. New York: Basic Books.

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**The New Right**

King, Desmond S.:  The new right: politics, markets and citizenship. Chicago, Ill. : Dorsey Press, 1987

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Jessop, B. (1994) “The Transition to Post-Fordism and the Schumpeterian Workfare State”, in Towards a post-Fordist welfare state? / edited by Roger Burrows and Brian Loader.  London : Routledge, 1994 (’03 ed. Available online)

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Hyman, R. (1988) “Flexible Specialisation: Miracle or Myth?” in New technology and industrial relations / edited by Richard Hyman and Wolfgang Streeck.Oxford:Basil Blackwell.

**Marxist state theory.**

Marsh, D.(1994) “On Convergence in Contemporary State Theory”, in Theory and methods in political science / edited by David Marsh and Gerry Stoker..  Houndmills, Basingstoke : Macmillan Press.

Taylor, G (1994) “Marxist State Theory”, in Theory and methods in political science / edited by David Marsh and Gerry Stoker. Houndmills, Basingstoke : Macmillan Press.

Carnoy, M (1984):  The state and political theory, Princeton, N.J.:Princeton University Press.

Sassoon, Anne Showstack (1987). Gramsci's politics. Minneapolis:University of

Manley, J. (1983) “Neo-Pluralism: A Class Analysis of Pluralism I and Pluralism II” The American Political Science Review, 77(2), pp. 368-383

**Civil Service Reform: Globalisation, “Hollowing out of the State”, public and private partnerships**

Rhodes, R.A.W. et al (1997) The hollow crown: countervailing trends in core executives. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Hogwood, B. (1993) “Restructuring Central Government: The Next Steps Initiative”, in  Managing public organizations: lessons from contemporary European experience / edited by Kjell A. Eliassen and Jan Kooiman. London: Sage Publications.

Davies, A., & Willman, J. (1991). What next? Agencies, departments and the civil service. London, Institute for Public Policy Research.

Taylor, G. (2005) Negotiated governance and public policy in Ireland. Manchester, UK New York: Manchester University Press (Chapter 3)

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Regulation: Less is More, Reducing Burdens, Improving Outcomes (2005) HMSO. London

**Education**

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Boston, J. (1999) Redesigning the welfare state in New Zealand: problems, policies, prospects / edited by Jonathan Boston, Paul Dalziel, Susan St John.  Auckland, N.Z.: Oxford University Press.

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**Unemployment and the Welfare State**

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G Taylor (2003) 'From the Slurry to the Curry: The Politics of Food regulation and Reform in Ireland'. Irish studies in International Affairs. Vol. 14, pp149-164

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\*Taylor, G. (2008) 2007b Risk Science and Blood: A Comment on A Farrell’s account of reform in European blood regulation. (Working Paper)

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Louis H. Orzack, Kenneth I. Kaitin, and Louis Lasagna. **Pharmaceutical Regulation in the European Community: Barriers to Single Market Integration.** *Journal of Health Politics Policy and Law*, Winter 1992; 17: 847 - 868. Not available electronic or print.

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