

This document provides detailed information on the module named below. It will be updated as necessary when modifications to the module are approved. Modules are allocated to a Subject Network not a programme, and may be accessed by students studying on different programmes.

1 SUMMARY MODULE INFORMATION

a Module title

Policy Framework and Analysis.

b SITS module code

UL411966

c UHI Subject Network

Science, Environment and Rural Resource Management

d Exam board

MSc Managing Sustainable Rural/Mountain Development.

e SCQF level

11

f SCOTCAT credit points

15

g Module leader and contact details (email, phone)

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h Brief description of module

The module provides an introduction to policy analysis, from identifying problems and generating and evaluating alternative policies, to implementing policies and evaluating their impacts, as part of the policy cycle. The differing values and goals of different groups, and links between social, economic and environmental policies, will be explored.

i Pre-requisites or co-requisites

An undergraduate degree award.

j Primary mode(s) of delivery and support

(e.g. Face-to-face teaching, blended, block teaching, wholly online, etc).

Wholly online, supported by tutor.

k Assessment

Essay, report and online discussion.

To pass the module overall, you must get at least 50% in each of the assignments and the discussion board, as well as an overall weighted mark of at least 50%.

l Suitable for access via Learning Centres?

Yes.

2 MODULE DESCRIPTOR

a Aims

To explore the complex process of developing and implementing public policy, particularly in rural and remote areas.

b Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the module, the student should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of the process of policy analysis, from problem definition to policy implementation;
- identify and evaluate the main challenges and opportunities in formulating and implementing policies;
- critically assess and discuss the complementarities and tensions between environmental, social, and economic policies at different scales relating to rural and remote regions.

c Indicative content

- identification and definition of problems: causes, effects, and trends;
- generation and evaluation of policy alternatives: competing values and goals; environmental and social costs and benefits;
- selecting a preferred policy;
- policy implementation;
- policy impact evaluation, and feedback into new policy alternatives;
- linkages between policies at different scales;
- the module will be based on a series of case studies relating to rural and mountain areas.

d Mode(s) of delivery and support for teaching and learning

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Face-to-face | 0 hours or | ... % |
| Video-conference | 0 hours or | ... % |
| Supported online learning | 40 hours or | ... % |
| Self-directed learning | 110 hours | ... % |
| | | |
| Total activity | 150 | 100% |

e Assessment

Policy summary paper (1500 words) (35%).

Analysis of an issue, leading to a policy recommendation (2500 words) (50%)

Contribution to Blackboard discussion board (15%)

f Key learning resources

Essential:

Bardach, E., 2004, A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving. CQ Press,US.

Recommended:

Chambers, R., 1996, Rural Development: Putting the Last First. Longman: Harlow.

Hill, Michael, 2004, The Public Policy Process, Pearson Education Ltd.

Parsons, D. W., 1995, Public Policy: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis, Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

Rose, Richard, 2004, Learning from Comparative Public Policy: A Guide to Analysis, Routledge.

Spiker, Paul 2006, Policy Analysis for Practice: Applying Social Policy, Policy Press.

Stone, D., 2001, Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making. W.W. Norton: New York.

Therivel, Riki, 2004, Strategic Environmental Assessment in Action, Earthscan Publications Ltd.

Weimer, D. L. & Vining, A. R., 1999, Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practices (3rd edition). Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Background:

Various current web sites of government and international NGOs, to be advised by Tutor.

g Additional background information

Tutorials will be supported by web-based learning resources and guided study provided by on-line contact (individual e-mail and computer conferencing).

h Specialist resource requirements

- internet access to web and e-mail facilities;
- access to a PC and printer;
- access to on-line library resources.