The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

POLICY IN AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE - 59621

Last update 27-09-2023

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Public Policy

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Limor Samimian-Darash

Coordinator Email: limor.darash@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: monday, 16:00-17:00

Teaching Staff:
  Prof Limor Darash

Course/Module description:
  The course deals with the questions- what is a policy? How can it be studied anthropologically?
The anthropology of public policy aims to capture the work of policy as a socio-cultural and historical phenomenon in its myriad aspects: as a concept; an instrument of government; the ethos of policy-makers themselves; as an assemblage of technologies by which it is put into motion; a mobilizer of collectivities; and a form of governance which creates forms and modes of subjectivities.

Course/Module aims:
  In this course we will study the main theoretical approaches of the anthropology of the state, and look at policy in a variety of fields, with attention to how and within what regime of truth and power policies are developed and implemented, including: security and humanitarianism, science and technology, health and environment.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  To identify the human aspect in policy
To critically analyze policy as a man-made product
To apply the acquired theoretical knowledge when facing policy

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course divides to two: a seminar and an anthropology lab. The former is frontal and will provide the theoretical base, and the latter is a small working groups design to give first hand experience

Course/Module Content:
  Anthropology, policy and science
Anthropology of policy
State and policy - theoreis
From state to governmentality
Problematization

Rational or ritual?
Language and discourse
Subjectivity and power

<u>*Required Reading:*</u>
A full list will be given at class.

ובר, מקס. 2009. "המדע כיעוד," אסף שגיב, עורך. חקירות ודרישות: מאמרי מופת על חברה, אמונה ומצב האדם. אור יהודה: כנרת, זמורה ביתן. עמ' 98-128.

Rabinow, Paul. 2007. Marking Time: On the Anthropology of the Contemporary. Pp. 1- 11, 54-65. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Shore, Cris, and Susan Wright. 2011. "Conceptualizing Policy: Technologies of Governance and the Politics of Visibility," Cris Shore, Susan Wright, and Davide Pero, eds. Policy Worlds: Anthropology and Analysis of Contemporary Power. Pp. 1-25. New York: Berghahn Books.

Wedel, Janine R., Cris Shore, Gregory Feldman, and Stacy Lathrop. 2005. "Toward an Anthropology of Public Policy," The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 600(1): 30-51.

Ferguson, James, and Gupta, Akhil. 2002. "Spatializing States: Toward an Ethnography of Neoliberal Governmentality," American Ethnologist 29(4): 981-1002.

Scott, James C. 1998. Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed. Pp. 1-52. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Dean, Mitchell. 1999. "Basic Concepts and Themes," Governmentality: Power and Rule in Modern Society. Pp. 9-39. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Foucault, Michel. 2007. Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-78. Pp. 55-86, 115-134. New York & London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Foucault, Michel. 2003. The Essential Foucault: Selections from Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984. Paul Rabinow, and Nikolas S. Rose, eds. Pp. 18-24, 58-63. New York: New Press.

Porter, Theodore. 1996. "Making Things Quantitative," Michael Power, ed. Accounting and Science: Natural Inquiry and Commercial Reason. Pp. 36-56. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Riles, Annelise. 2004. "Real Time: Unwinding Technocratic and Anthropological Knowledge," American Ethnologist 31(3): 392-405.

Brenneis, Don. 1994. "Discourse and Discipline at the National Research Council: A Bureaucratic Bildungsroman," Cultural Anthropology (9): 23-36.

Calhoun, Craig. 2004. "A World of Emergencies: Fear, Intervention, and the Limits of Cosmopolitan Order," Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue Canadienne de Sociologie 41(4): 373–395.

Hacking, Ian. 1986. "Making Up People," Thomas L. Heller, and Christine Brooke-Rose, eds. Reconstructing Individualism. Pp. 161-171. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Petryna, Adriana. 2013. "Biological Citizenship," Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl. Pp. 115-148. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Additional Reading Material:
  A full list will be given at class.

Grading Scheme:
  Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %
  Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 15 %
  Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %
  Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 5 %

Additional information: