

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Code / Title** : HA2028 Ethics in Public Policy Making and Implementation

**Pre-requisites** : HA1003

**No. of AUs.** : 3

**Contact Hours** : 39

### **Course Aims**

This course aims to acquaint you with the study of ethical considerations and issues in public policy making and implementation. The study of ethical considerations and issues as such is a critical area of public policy analysis as it addresses one core question that confronts particularly scholars and practitioners of public policy, but also any professional and/or organizational entity with stakes in public policy globally: how (best) to design and implement ethical public policy within a certain societal context? In addressing this core question, you will navigate the different ethical perspectives, issues as well as tensions/dilemmas that arise during the public policy making and implementation phases in key policy sectors primarily, but not exclusively, within the Asia-Pacific region. These policy sectors are prominent sectors that are seen in many Asia-pacific societies, including the education, economic, housing, social and environmental sectors. Therefore, lectures are focused on delivery of relevant concepts and perspectives relating to ethics in public policy making and implementation. Lectures in the first part of the course will centre around concepts and perspectives on ethics in public policy making and implementation. Lectures in the second part of the course will situate the concepts and perspectives covered in the first part of the course in specific case studies that reflect the abovementioned key policy sectors. Extending from these lectures, the tutorials will provide you with the opportunity to apply what you have learnt in lectures to analyse and evaluate the ethical considerations, dilemmas and tensions that arise within the respective public policy sectors under study.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand the ethical concepts and perspectives covered.
2. Understand the key aspects of the public policy making and implementation phases.
3. Analyse the ethical considerations, issues, dilemmas and tensions that arise during the public policy making and implementation phases in the respective policy sectors under study.
4. Evaluate competing and/or converging ethical considerations, issues, dilemmas and tensions that arise during the public policy making and implementation phases in the respective policy sectors under study.

- Present your arguments and thoughts on the topics covered clearly and coherently.

### Course Content

Lecture	
1	Ethics in public policy making and implementation – what it is and what it is <i>not</i>
2	Conventional morality – is public policy the reflection of societal consensus?
3	Consequentialist ethics – public policy as means to end(s)
4	Deontological ethics – public policy as end(s) in themselves
5	Aristotelian virtue ethics – the intrinsic good <i>in</i> public policy
6	Al-Farabi and Confucian virtue ethics – the altruistic good <i>of</i> public policy
7	Education policy – end(s) in themselves?
8	Economic policy – is it always a means to end(s)?
9	Housing policy – public and private interests and does either ethically matter more?
10	Assimilation/Integration policy – an altruistic good and/or an instrumental good?
11	Environmental policy – how are practical situations construed as ethical justifications?
12	Conclusion and some final thoughts
13	Term paper presentations

### Course Assessment

Critical Review Piece	: 20%
Class Participation	: 10%
Individual Term Paper Presentation	: 30%
Term Paper	: 40%
<b>Total</b>	----- <b>100%</b>