

# The Philosophy of Policymaking

## Overview

This course will present the field of the philosophy of policymaking. The focus is, therefore, on applied areas of policy, where both questions of ethical theory and the philosophy of science play important roles. We will discuss topics ranging from the regulation of gambling and drug-use, via policy-questions regarding poverty and disability, to problems regarding democracy. The course consists of eight lectures on topics in the philosophy of policymaking, three seminars that aim to go in depth on particular policy-problems, two policy challenges lectures, and two workshops on writing in this genre. The examination for the course consists in participation in seminars and workshops, and the writing of a final paper at the end of the course. These papers are graded on the ECTS scale and teachers provide comments. The topic will be on using ethical theory and philosophy of science to discuss a policy problem.

## Teachers

Lars Lindblom - LL - [lars.lindblom@liu.se](mailto:lars.lindblom@liu.se)

Erik Gustavsson – EG – [erik.gustavsson@liu.se](mailto:erik.gustavsson@liu.se)

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Paula Gürtler – PG - [paula.guertler@arcor.de](mailto:paula.guertler@arcor.de)

## Literature

Wolff, Jonathan. 2019. *Ethics and Public Policy: A Philosophical Inquiry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London: Routledge.

Edmunds, David (ed.). 2019. *Ethics and the Contemporary World*. London: Routledge.

Hausman, Daniel, Michael McPherson & Debra Satz. 2016. *Economic Analysis, Moral Philosophy, and Public Policy*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gustavsson, Erik. 2018. *Characterising Needs in Health Care Priority Setting*. Linköping Studies in Arts and Science No. 733, pp. 41-49. Available at <http://liu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1172747/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

## Schedule

Time	Room	Topic	Readings	Teacher
19/8: 10:15- 12:00	Comenius	Roll Call and Introductory Lecture on the Philosophy of Policymaking – also including introduction to academic writing and anti-plagiarism	Wolff: Chapter 1. Scientific experiments on animals and	LL

			Chapter 13. Conclusion.	
19/8: 13:15-17:00	Comenius	Information about the program from administrators, language support, the library, student advisor, student health, international office and teachers on the program.	N/A	LL
21/8: 13:15-15:00	TBA	Lecture 2: Policy issues regarding Gambling and Drugs	Wolff: Chapters 2. Gambling and 3. Drugs	LL
27/8: 13:15-15:00	TBA	Lecture 3: Policy issues regarding Safety and New Technologies	Wolff: Chapters 4. Safety and 5. New technologies	LL
28/8 13:15-15:00	TBA	Seminar 1: Free Speech on the Internet	Edmunds: The Section on Ethics in Social Media, preparatory materials	LL
29/8: 10:15-12:00	TBA	Lecture 4: Policy issues on Criminal Justice and Healthcare	Wolff: Chapters 6. Crime and punishment, and 7. Health	LL
3/9: 13:15-15:00	TBA	Lecture 5: Policy issues on Employment and Markets	Wolff: The Chapters 9. The free market and 10. The future of work	LL
4/9: 13:15-15:00	TBA	Seminar 2: The Philosophy of Economics	Hausman, McPherson & Satz, Chapter 6	LL
5/9: 10:15-12:00	TBA	Lecture 6: Policy Issues on Poverty and Disability	Wolff: The Chapter 8. Disability and 11. Poverty	LL
6/9: 13.15-15:00	Online	Policy Challenges: European AI Policy	No readings	PG
10/9: 13:15-15:00	TBA	Policy Challenges: A Perspective from Linköping City Hall	No readings	LV
11/9: 10:15-12:00	TBA	Workshop 1: Introduction to Philosophical Writing	Gustavsson, pp 41-49	EG
11/9: 13:15-15:00	TBA	Lecture 7: Policy Issues on Migration and Borders	Wolff: Ten Chapter 12. Immigration. Edmunds: 5. Immigration and Borders and 10. Charity and Partiality	LL
12/9: 13:15-15:00	TBA	Lecture 8: Democracy	Edmunds: Part 6: Democracy	LL
16/9: 10:15-12:00	TBA	Workshop 2: Practicing Philosophical Writing		EG
16/9: 13:15-15:00	TBA	Seminar 3: Topics in the Philosophy of Policymaking.	Section chosen by the students from Edmunds	LL

22/9: 23:59	LISAM	Deadline for Long Paper		
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## Seminar Participation

The seminars on the course are mandatory. In order to achieve full participation, one must read the required readings, do the preparatory assignment, and upload it to Lisam before the start of the seminar, and participate in the discussion during the seminar. Seminar attendance is graded on a pass/fail scale.

To pass this part of the class, the student must participate actively in all three of the seminars. To make up for missed participation in the seminar the student must write a paper (900-1000 words excluding references) that presents the core theoretical points of the reading for the seminar in question. These make-up papers should be uploaded to Lisam no later than 22/9 23:55 in the folder for make-up assignments.

**Seminar 1: Free Speech on the Internet** To prepare for this seminar one should read the section Ethics in Social Media in Edmunds. One should also read the free speech policies of Facebook and Twitter that are uploaded on the Lisam page. The goal for this seminar is to figure out what a good moderation policy would be for social media. In order to prepare for this discussion, one should also write answers to the preparatory questions and upload them to Lisam before the seminar starts.

**Seminar 2: The Philosophy of Economics:** Readings will be from Hausman, McPherson & Satz, Chapter 6. The topic of the seminar will be the question of Markets for Organs. Three questions will form the core of the seminar: i) How is the market described and is this a reasonable description? ii) What principles are used for evaluating the market and are they reasonable? iii) How should we handle the market for x? In order to prepare for this discussion, one should also write answers to the preparatory questions and upload them to Lisam before the seminar starts.

**Seminar 3: Topics in the Philosophy of Policymaking.** The students collectively choose their favorite section of Edmunds book for discussion. All students are then to read the entire section. In groups they are then to develop a policy proposal for the relevant government agency. The seminar then takes as its starting point these proposals. The proposals should be uploaded to Lisam before the seminar starts.

## Policy Challenges

The policy challenges lecture will be held by Lars Vikinge who has extensive background in politics in Linköping and has served as mayor of the city. He will talk on a topic of his choosing regarding a contemporary policy challenge.

## Workshop Participation

In order to introduce the students to writing in philosophy, the workshops focus on the methodology of writing in applied ethics. Participation in the workshops is mandatory and will be graded on a pass/fail scale. For full participation, one should read the required readings, participate in discussion, and do the preparatory assignment and upload it to Lisam before the start of workshop 2.

To pass this part of the class, the student must participate actively in both workshops. To make up for missed participation in workshop 1, one must write a paper (900-1000 words excluding references) that presents the core theoretical points of the text by Gustavsson. To make completions for workshop 2, one writes a longer version of the preparatory assignment (900-1000 words excluding references) for this workshop. These make-up papers should be uploaded to Lisam no later than 22/9 23:55 in the folder for make-up assignments.

Workshop 1: Introduction to Philosophical Writing. This meeting will consist mainly of a lecture in order to prepare for the work of workshop 2. The lecture will present topics and criteria in the methodology of moral philosophy. As preparation one should read Gustavsson 2018, pp 41-49.

Workshop 2: Practicing Philosophical Writing. This workshop will be devoted to practicing the arts of characterizing and defining concepts. In order to prepare for this workshop, one must make a preparatory assignment (250-300 words) and upload it to Lisam before the start of the workshop.

## **Final Paper**

The exam will be on a structured essay question This essay should be 1800-2000 words excluding references and be uploaded to Lisam on Sunday 2024-09-22: 23:59 at the latest. References should be formatted according to the Harvard System. For an instruction of how to use this system, see: <https://www.umu.se/en/library/search-write-study/writing-references/harvard-references-in-text/>

The topic for the final paper will concern using the theoretical tools discussed in the course to analyze one or more policy problems. As a rule of thumb, a third of the paper should be devoted to describing and explaining relevant theory, one third to explain the theoretical or practical problem you focus on, and the final third should present your own argument.

If this opportunity to submit is missed, there will be a re-test period during November. During this period a new topic will be given for the final paper. One can also submit completions for missed seminars again during this time.