Evaluation of public policy

Academic Year: (2018 / 2019) **Review date: 21-05-2018**

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: VIÑAS CHIAPPINI, VERONICA ESTHER

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 3 Semester : 2

Branch of knowledge: Social Sciences and Law

OBJECTIVES

BASIC AND GENERAL COMPETENCES

CG4 - Be able to manage information: identify, organize and analyze relevant information critically and systematically within the context of international relations.
CG5 - Be able to debate and formulate critical reasoning, using precise terminology and specialized resources, when analyzing international and global phenomena, employing both the concepts and knowledge from different disciplines as well as the methods of analysis, paradigms and concepts pertaining to the Social Sciences.
CB1 - Be able to show that they possess and comprehend facts and contents in an area of study which, based on a previous general secondary school level, have been extended to those included in advanced textbooks and in some aspects proceed from the most advanced studies in this area.
CB2 - Be able to show that they have learned how to apply their knowledge professionally to their future jobs or tasks and that they possess the competences needed to develop and defend arguments and solve problems in that area of study.
CB3 - Be able to show that they are capable of collecting and interpreting the relevant data (normally within their area of study) needed for formulating judgments which require critical thought on social, scientific and ethical topics of relevance.
CB4 - Be able to show that they are able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions both to specialized and non-specialized publics.
CB5 - Be able to show that they have developed the learning skills required to perform further studies with a high degree of self-dependence.

OVERLAPPING COMPETENCES

CT1 - Acquire the capacity to communicate knowledge in oral and written form, both to specialized and to non-specialized publics.
CT2 - Acquire the capacity to establish good interpersonal communication and to work both in interdisciplinary and international teams.
CT3 - Acquire the capacity to organize and plan workloads, taking correct decisions based on the available information, collecting and interpreting relevant data in order to provide assessments in that area of study.
CT4 - Develop the motivation and capacity to perform independent continuous learning for life, with an endowment to adapt to change and new situations.

SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

CE13 - Be familiar with the principles of cost-benefit analysis and its application to basic problems.
CE14 - Be able to design and evaluate viable and sustainable political and socio-economic programs designed for social advancement.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Applied knowledge regarding evaluation methodology and preparation of an evaluation-oriented research design.
Applied knowledge regarding the experimental method in public policy, treatment and randomization, types of experimental design.
Applied knowledge regarding the collection, development and interpretation of indicators to measure the impact and consequences of interventions and programmes.
Applied knowledge regarding how to effectively carry out a real evaluation in the social field.
Applied knowledge regarding the preparation of an evaluation report.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

Public policies at the international level: programmes and interventions by States, supranational institutions, NGOs.
Elements of Evaluation Theory: intervention logic, control groups, the concept of counterfactual.
Methodological problems of policy evaluation: causality, endogeneity and selection bias. Design of experiments: experimental, quasi-experimental and non-experimental designs; validity of the conclusions of an experiment.
Measurement and indicators.
Impact estimation techniques.
Fieldwork.
Preparation of an evaluation report.
Case studies: social interventions, peacekeeping missions, trade embargoes, military interventions, development cooperation and aid programmes, economic and political reforms.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Learning activities:
- Practical exercises (tests, text analysis and practical case studies, etc.). Some of them will be graded.
- Design, planning and execution of an evaluation of a public intervention or programme.

Tutorship:
On an individual basis, according to the established schedule.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

1. Assessment of the level of knowledge achieved by the student through a compulsory final exam. It is essential to obtain a minimum score of 5 out of 10 in order to pass the course
2. Assessment of the student¿s ability to apply the acquired theoretical knowledge in planning, designing and executing an evaluation.
3. Assessment of the student¿s interest, participation and dedication.

Final exam: 40%.
Learning activities (including carrying out a real impact evaluation with real data): 60% of the final grade
Percentage weight of the final exam: 40
Percentage weight of the rest of the evaluation: 60

% end-of-term-examination:	40
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	60

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Angrist, J. & Pischke, J. Mostly Harmless Econometrics., Princeton University Press., 2008
- Bernal, R. y Peña, X. Guía Práctica Para La Evaluación De Impacto, CEDE, Facultad de Economía, Universidad de los Andes, 2011
- HM Treasury Magenta book. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-magenta-book., ., .
- Impact Evaluation in Practice. http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821385418, ., .