

67520 - Social and public policy law

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 67520 - Social and public policy law

Faculty / School: 109 - Facultad de Economía y Empresa

Degree: 523 - Master's in Sociology of Public and Social Policy

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 1

Semester: Second semester

Subject type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

This subject addresses the role of law and (human, fundamental) rights in the justification, design and implementation of public and social policies, while also providing basic legal notions and an introduction to our complex regulatory system. In particular, students will learn to identify common legal problems in the field of public policy, as well as to critically analyse legislative measures developing or affecting (social) rights; and they will also better understand the legal-administrative, legislative and judicial sides of the public policy cycle. A gender and effective equality approach (SDGs 5 and 10) - which further contributes to a better design of institutional responses to social problems (in line with SDG 16) - is given a special weight in this course.

2. Learning results

After completing the course, students should have a sufficient capacity...

[R1] to explain the obligations derived from social rights recognized at the international, regional and national levels, as well as to assess the effectiveness and level of realisation of social rights.

[R2] to identify problems that arise in developing and applying legal norms related to public and social policies;

[R3] to apply basic knowledge on Spanish (state, regional and European) law relevant to the design, implementation and evaluation of public and social policies;

[R4] to identify key features and explain basic problems of the policy cycle within the public administration, especially in the field of (social) rights;

[R5] to reasonably assess the proportionality of a public policy measure; and

[R6] to explain and apply basic notions of anti-discrimination law, and to incorporate a gender and effective equality approach into the design and analysis of public and social policies.

3. Syllabus

1. Law: some basics for policymakers.
2. Rights and public policies. In particular, social rights.
3. Legislating on rights: notions of theory and practice.
4. Social protection rights in the 'federal' Spanish system ('Estado Autonómico').
5. Public and social policy systems.
6. Fundamentals of anti-discrimination law.

4. Academic activities

Theoretical-practical sessions [1.6 ECTS]: explanation of theoretical contents, combined with interactive and participative classwork on practical contents.

Assignments programme [2.5 ECTS]: application of theoretical contents through exercises and assignments; analysis and discussion of texts and cases; problem-based learning.

Autonomous work [1.8 ECTS]: individual or group tutored autonomous work.

Final evaluation activity [0.1 ECTS]: written theoretical-practical test.

5. Assessment system

Students may opt for a mixed evaluation (continuous evaluation plus short final test) or for a single exam at the end of the term.

Mixed evaluation model. To benefit from this model, students must [1] attend seven (out of eight) sessions, regularly contribute to class discussions, and obtain an average pass mark in the assignments and exercises scheduled for each session (70% of the final grade); and [2] pass a multiple choice test on the course contents (30% of the final grade).

Final exam model. Students who cannot or do not wish to follow the mixed model, or fail to obtain a pass in it, have the option of passing the course by taking a final exam at the end of the term. This exam is split into [1] a multiple choice test on the course contents (30% of the final grade); and [2] two theoretical-practical exercises similar to those carried out during the course (70% of the final grade).

6. Sustainable Development Goals

5 - Gender Equality

10 - Reduction of Inequalities

16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions