This course is designed to provide an introduction to the topic of entrepreneurship and public policy: It looks mainly at the impact public policy has on entrepreneurship (with a view to discern between entrepreneurship-enhancing and entrepreneurship-inhibiting public policies) but also it explores some of the ways entrepreneurship generates and shapes public policy. The course has an applied focus but it methodically emphasizes the crucial role theoretical thinking has in problem-definition and policy theory, design and evaluation.

The class is organized around the task of learning how to develop theoretically-informed case studies of situations involving entrepreneurship in its institutional and policy context as well as effective policy research designs. With this end in view, the class combines the study and discussion of the relevant scholarly literature with policy-relevant, applied work.

Selected readings will be made available to the students.

The course grade will be based upon: Midterm exam 20%; The case-study project 30%; The research design project 30%; Class participation 20%.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 28


This session introduces the objectives, structure and approach of the class. The basic themes are overviewed, the individual and group tasks are explained, and the evaluation criteria and procedures are collectively agreed upon.

F.A. Hayek. „The Use of Knowledge in Society”, American Economic Review, XXXV (4), September (1945)


1 The schedule and the list of readings are tentative. The final details of the schedule and of the list of readings will be decided after an overview of the class participants’ interests, background, expectations and objectives.
September 4

Public Policy: Frameworks for Analysis, Design and Evaluation

This session focuses on the distinctive nature of applied and policy research in comparison with and in relationship to academic and scholarly research. What is public policy and what is policy research? What is the role of the policy researcher in the intellectual division of labor and what kind of intellectual products is supposed to craft? What kind of contribution are you expected to deliver as a policy researcher or analyst and how is your operating environment going to affect your work and its outcomes?


Wildavsky, A. Implementation, University of California Press, 1973 (Preface and Chapter 1)


Applied research workshop:

September 11

Public Policy: From Quantitative Economic Policy to Structural/Institutional Policy

The session discusses the impact of the institutional theory revolution on administrative sciences and introduces two different approaches to public policy: Policy seen as “control”, and policy seen as a “cultivation” strategy through which the decision-maker attempts to cultivate rather than control the forces of the social process.


Applied research workshop:
September 18

Entrepreneurship: Varieties of Conceptualizations and Theories (1)

Once the basic parameters of the “public policy” side have been tentatively clarified, the course turns to the “entrepreneurship” side. The following three sessions explore the diverse ways entrepreneurship has been conceptualized and theorized in the literature. The issue is crucial because the empirical and policy research domains thoroughly depend on the operationalization of these definition and concepts. The theoretical lenses used are critical for determining not only what is to be measured, assesses, encouraged etc. but also what kind of causal relationships should be used as instrumental in the policy interventions meant to change the targeted policy variable. The first session overviews the field and discusses the classical perspectives of Joseph A. Schumpeter and Israel M. Kirzner.


September 25

Entrepreneurship: Varieties of Conceptualizations and Theories (2)

The second session dedicated to the diverse ways entrepreneurship has been conceptualized and theorized in the literature discusses some more recent views that either extend the classical perspectives or depart from them in substantive ways.


October 2

Entrepreneurship: Varieties of Conceptualizations and Theories (3)

The last session dedicated to the diverse ways entrepreneurship has been conceptualized and theorized in the literature focuses on the notion of public entrepreneurship. The situation in which entrepreneurship is not just a targeted variable of a public policy but becomes a source of public policy itself is discussed in its three main forms: social entrepreneurship, political entrepreneurship and institutional entrepreneurship.


October 9

Entrepreneurship Policy

Based on the clearer understanding gained in the previous sessions on both “entrepreneurship” and “public policy”, we are now in the position to look at the two in conjunction. This session overviews the domain and the main facets of entrepreneurship policy.


October 16

Errors, Mistakes, Failure in Entrepreneurship Policy

This session builds on the insights gained in the previous one dedicated to general themes and perspectives on entrepreneurship policy, and concentrates on the lessons one may learn about the nature, potential and limits of these policies from the errors and failures in their design and implementation. Focusing on errors is an effective heuristic and pedagogical strategy and this session tries to make the most of that.


Majone G. and Quade, E., *Pitfalls of Analysis*, John Wiley, 1990 (Chapter 1 and 2)

Bovens M. and Thart, P. *Understanding Policy Fiascoes*, Transaction Publ., 1998 (Chapter 1)

October 23: MIDTERM

October 30


This session is dedicated to a step-by-step introduction of a working framework for writing effective policy research designs. The framework is to be used in writing the policy research design to be presented by each student and evaluated and graded at the end of the course.


November 6

Entrepreneurship Research: Overview of Themes, Problems and Approaches

This session makes a step further and looks at more substantive issues in entrepreneurship research. Is X a driver/cause/condition of Entrepreneurship? How do we determine the answer? If yes, what are the policy implications? The attention is put on what one can learn from the readings about the most effective ways of approaching the individual research design projects planned.


**November 13**

**Entrepreneurship, Institutions and Culture: Structural Conditions for Entrepreneurship Policy**

If entrepreneurship policy is not about one-factor, one-shot solutions, then the environment, the configuration of structural factors and the cultural context should be of great interest to entrepreneurship policy research. This session makes another step further looking at the contextual elements of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship policies that may have a role in their design, implementation, success or failure.


**November 20**


**November 27**

Thanksgivings Break

**December 7**

Entrepreneurship and Public Policy: Conclusions and Lessons Learned.