
Course Descriptions

Executive Master in Public Policy Program

Saudi Political System – PSE 601 (Compulsory)

This course aims to deepen students' knowledge of the Saudi state and political system. It includes extensive readings on the political, social, and economic origins and development of the Saudi state and society, the political system and its fundamental laws, major political institutions, regional administration and councils, municipal councils, and the levels and stages of public policy-making. The course also discusses foreign policy topics, development plans, models of public policies, and contemporary challenges facing the Saudi state.

Comparative Politics – PSE 602 (Compulsory)

This course aims to deepen students' knowledge of the field of comparative politics. It addresses three main aspects:

First, it clarifies the concept of comparative politics and the nature of the comparative method.

Second, it discusses concepts and theories of the state, political systems, formal and informal institutions, and major types of political regimes.

Finally, it reviews concepts and theories related to comparative political phenomena such as political development, political violence, political culture, and political participation.

International Relations – PSE 603 (Compulsory)

This course aims to deepen students' knowledge of the field of international political relations. It includes extensive readings on the nature of international relations, stages in the development of the international political system, major concepts, intellectual schools, and theories of international relations, as well as issues related to globalization and the contemporary global political economy.

Public Policy – PSE 604 (Compulsory)

This course aims to deepen students' knowledge of public policy-making processes. It includes extensive readings and in-depth discussions on the nature of public policy and its environment, assumptions, theories, and stages of policy-making, as well as how policies are implemented and evaluated and the factors influencing their success. The course also includes analysis and comparison of national and international public policy models and practical applications.

Public Policy Implementation and Evaluation – PSE 614 (Compulsory)

This course focuses on the study of public policy implementation and evaluation processes. It discusses the methods and factors that contribute to successful implementation and management of public policy and explains ways to evaluate policies within the framework of the objectives established for them.

Applied models of national and international public policy implementation and evaluation are also analysed.

Political Economy of Public Policy – PSE 617 (Compulsory)

This course examines the relationship between political economy and policy-making processes by focusing on the following topics:

- Review of basic microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts for public policy students
 - The role of government in the economy and its relationship with the business sector
 - Economic policy instruments
 - The nature of public finance
 - The impact of domestic economic factors and economic globalization on public policy
 - Models of economic public policies such as economic growth, investment, inflation, and employment policies
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Research Methods – PSE 694 (Compulsory)

This course aims to deepen students' knowledge of the theory and practice of scientific research in political science and to enable them to conduct research procedures effectively.

It begins with a discussion of the philosophy and characteristics of scientific research, then focuses on developing students' skills in:

- Research design and methodologies
 - Data collection, presentation, and analysis techniques
 - Principles of preparing and writing academic research and theses at the graduate level
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Research Project – PSE 698 (Compulsory)

This course enables students to implement an independent applied research project in their field of specialization.

Students integrate theoretical knowledge with practical research skills to study a contemporary issue related to public policy.

Elective Courses

Security Policies and Strategies – PSE 624 (Elective)

This course focuses on studying the processes of formulating and implementing various security policies and strategies. It examines the development of the concept of security, its theories, and the institutions and policies that seek to enhance it.

The course also addresses the concept and theories of security strategy, the nature of the relationship between internal and external security, external security policies such as defense and regional and international security, and internal security policies such as counterterrorism, crime control, and drug control.

Models of national and international security policies are analyzed and compared.

Foreign Policy Analysis – PSE 626 (Elective)

This course aims to introduce students to the processes of foreign policy-making, its objectives, and methods of implementation. It includes the study of approaches and theories of foreign policy analysis, the relationship between domestic and foreign policy, the impact of globalization on foreign policy, and the policies of major powers, particularly toward regional issues.

Energy and Environmental Policies – PSE 628 (Elective)

This course aims to study public policies related to energy and environmental issues. It seeks to analyse the stages of oil policy-making, alternative energy policies, and environmental conservation policies. It also discusses the factors, institutions, and issues influencing these policies at the national, regional, and international levels, with particular emphasis on Saudi oil policy and its role in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the global energy market.

Urban and Regional Policies – PSE 633 (Elective)

This course aims to introduce students to public policies related to population concentration in cities and the policies established by the state to address urban expansion issues. It discusses the nature of urban and regional areas through reviewing ideas explaining problems associated with city growth and economic planning to link cities and regions. It also examines the impact of spatial organization and land-use systems on basic human needs and quality of life.

Modern Management and Public Policy – PSE 635 (Elective)

This course focuses on discussing modern management concepts and their applications in public policy. It provides students with knowledge related to effective management of institutions and organizations and positive interaction with various administrative situations in the competitive environments that characterize organizations today.

Case studies are analysed to help develop students' abilities and skills in decision-making based on scientific principles that enhance the efficiency of implementing and achieving public policy objectives.

Law and Public Policy – PSE 637 (Elective)

This course discusses aspects related to the process of formulating and implementing public policies. It introduces students to the branches of law, the types of legal rules, and their economic and regulatory functions. It also explains how legal rules are employed to regulate public sector activities, address market failures, and govern relationships in which the state is a party in its sovereign capacity. This is achieved through examining the organization of the judiciary, its various levels and jurisdictions, as well as the legal systems governing financial and administrative transactions within the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
