Policy Design and Delivery:
Innovation and Scaling

COURSE B OUTLINE

This course will prepare you to engage in policy innovation and scaling – two of the most important and challenging policy design processes, which will stretch your individual abilities, those of your colleagues and organization, and invite resistance and risk. Policy innovation is a deliberate process of trying new things to drive towards positive change in your context; scaling is the process by which you bring successful policy innovations to broader audiences. In this course, you will learn concrete tactics for building innovative policy solutions within dynamic systems, and develop skills to test and iterate innovation. You will discover the paths through which solutions can scale, and acquire strategies for navigating the sensitive political and organizational aspects of innovation and scaling.

	Topic	Content	Assignments
Week 1	**Introducing Innovation and Scaling**	Defining innovation and scaling in a policy context Pathways and common landmarks in innovation and scaling processes The ways values inform this work	**Individual assignments** • Writing assignment • Discussion **Group assignments** • Synchronous hour meeting • Group assignment
Week 2	**Innovating in a Dynamic System**	Characteristics of policy innovation Understanding complex, dynamic systems, centering beneficiaries, and identifying areas for innovation Lessons from the technology sector Tool: Systems mapping	**Individual assignments** • Writing assignment • Case analysis **Group assignments** • Synchronous hour meeting • Group case analysis
Week 3	**Testing Innovations**	Background on techniques for assessing and iterating policy innovation. Introductions to design thinking, Smart Policy Design and Iteration, and Problem-Driven Iterative Adaptation Learning from failures Tools: iterative testing techniques	**Individual assignments** • Writing assignment • Case analysis • Discussion **Group assignments** • Synchronous hour meeting • Group case analysis

	Topic	Content	Assignments
Week 4	**A Scaling Framework**	Types of scaling, pathways for policy solutions to scale, common barriers Lessons from scaling challenges and preconditions for getting to scale Framework: Scaling framework	**Individual assignments** • Writing assignment • Case analysis • Quiz **Group assignments** • Synchronous hour meeting • Group case analysis
Week 5	**Managing Change**	The role of "large P and small p" politics in innovation and scaling Auditing authorization and designing a political strategy Tools: expert tactics around resistance to change	**Individual assignments** • Writing assignment • Case analysis **Group assignments** • Synchronous hour meeting • Group case analysis
Week 6	**Looking Forward**	Common strategies across innovation and scaling State-of-the-art topics and the practice of continual learning The role of courage Tool/framework: Policy matrix, policy communication	**Individual assignments** • Writing assignment • Discussion **Group assignments** • Synchronous hour meeting • Group assignment

Materials

All course materials will be provided each week, including videos, readings, assignment templates.

This course examines global cases from across sectors to help you understand policy innovation and scaling. Examples include food assistance and healthcare in the U.S.A., vocational training in Pakistan, and community development in Indonesia. You will also engage with a policy challenge of your own choosing.

Scoring

Course performance is not assigned a letter grade, but instead a designation of Pass or No Pass. Approximately the top 10% of the course (not necessarily those who score above 90%) are recognized with Pass with Distinction.

50%: Individual Assignments & Quizzes
25%: Group Assignments
10%: Case Analysis Companions
10%: Discussion Posts
5%: Feedback Surveys

Course Policies

See onlinelearning.hks.harvard.edu for full FAQs.