01

WORDS & POLICY

Policy Paths: Unraveling Economics, Stats, and Policy

Economics and public policy with the training wheels off — argue positions that survive rebuttal.

Students pick real policy questions, dig into evidence and trade-offs, and write briefs they must defend out loud. The course for the kid who argues at the dinner table – and deserves a worthier opponent.

Last May: children picked real policy problems, wrote solutions and defended them over two rounds of a policy hackathon.



Taught by Anupam Manur, Assistant Professor, Takshashila Institution · Economist.

Needs A laptop; paid ChatGPT/Claude access (details on registration).

Facilitator	Anupam Manur
Duration	3 weeks
Teaching hours	90+
Grade	Grades 8–11 (as of 2027–28)
Needed	A laptop; paid ChatGPT/Claude access (details on registration)

Week by week

01
Thinking like an economist

Why problems that look black-and-white rarely are, and the economist's toolkit for untangling them.

- Incentives and margins
- Trade, specialisation, opportunity cost
- Supply, demand and surplus
- Sunk costs in daily life

02
Markets, and how they fail

How prices steer what people do, with India's own trade policy as the live case, and the six ways markets go wrong.

- Tariffs and price signals
- Six market failures
- Public vs private goods
- Policy taboo (the game)

03
From analysis to policy

How stories move policy, then the Policy Hackathon: design a policy, defend it, rebuild it, and face what you didn't intend.

- Narratives in policy-making
- The solution: theory and design
- Policy Hackathon, rounds 1 and 2
- Unintended consequences

How does this course help your child?

Innovative pedagogy

Every session opens into a floor discussion. Concepts are introduced through cases and then argued over – scenarios, debates, a daily 'fact of the day', and games like policy taboo – so that students practise reasoning out loud rather than recording it.

Academic acceleration

An introductory-economics foundation most students meet only at university, delivered early and through argument: the vocabulary and instincts to read a budget, a tariff, or a subsidy and ask who pays.

Cognitive skillsets

- Reasoning at the margin
- Steelmanning the other side
- Evidence over anecdote
- Writing and defending a brief

Peer networks

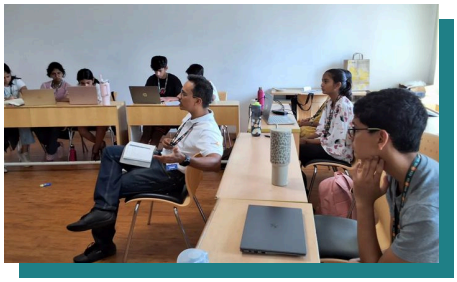
The hackathon is team-built and openly critiqued; students leave with the rare experience of being disagreed with well, by people who read what they wrote.

Questions to wrestle with

- **Who actually pays when a government 'gives' something for free?**
- **Why do well-intentioned policies backfire — predictably?**
- **Can you steelman the position you came in disagreeing with?**







It ends with

A team policy brief, presented twice at the Policy Hackathon and defended at the open day.

May program · 9–29 May 2027 · MAHE Manipal

Like every GSP course: three hours each morning, hands-on afternoons, a real artifact at the closing showcase, and one residential coach or teaching assistant for every five students.

Prerequisites: No prior knowledge of economics, statistics, or public policy is required – basic computer skills and a curiosity about how society functions.

Materials: Paid access to ChatGPT/Claude is required (subscription details provided on registration); everything else is supplied.

Apply and read more: summer.genwise.in · +91 81238 77635

Watch the course in a minute

youtube.com/shorts/zBHYGpaDfW8