

PAD-252 Public Policy Analysis

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Course description. This course is a study of methods and techniques used to determine the effectiveness of public programs. It explores how the selection and definition of policy goals (i.e., equity, efficiency, welfare, liberty, and security), problem definitions, and solutions shape our evaluation of public policy. Upon completion, students will have gained skills in policy research and should be able to analyze case studies with the use of political analysis techniques.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing requirements for this course, the student will be able to:

1. Issue Diagnosis: Students will learn how to analyze issues and how to frame problems with attention to stakeholder values and interest.
2. Policy Design: Students will learn the basics of public policy design including how to compare the strengths and weaknesses of various policy tools. Students will conduct research to identify best practices and adapt these to fit a policy context.
3. Critical Reasoning and Ethics: Students will build their analytical capabilities and learn how to apply a multi-dimensional lens to the analysis of public policy issues.
4. Options Analysis: Students will learn how to use multi-attribute analysis to highlight tradeoffs between alternatives and to identify optimum outcomes.
5. Tradecraft: Students will develop the skills and judgement required to work as professionals in the policy world by gaining experience with research, analysis, and writing.
6. Team Management: Students will learn how to collaborate effectively to produce analyses.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Introduction to Public Policy Analysis
 - A. What is public policy analysis?
 - B. The role of policy analysis in a democratic society
 - C. What role should policy analysis play?
- II. The Policymaking System
 - A. Policy Process as a System
 - B. Policy Types
- III. Informing Background
 - A. Structure and History of Policymaking

- IV. Theoretical Foundations
 - A. Intro to the main theories on the policy process
- V. Structuring Public Problems
 - A. Define the Problem
 - B. Set Criteria
 - C. Specify Policy Alternatives
 - D. Predict Outcomes
 - E. Communicate Recommendations
- VI. Policy Writing
 - A. Structuring Policy Arguments & Acquiring Ethical Research
 - B. Writing the Executive Summary
- VII. Official and Unofficial Actors
- VIII. Implementation, Failure, and Learning
- IX. Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - A. Analyzing the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy decision

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:

The instructor will determine the textbook and other instructional material.