

Public Policy Formation & Analysis
PLSC 5163 ~ Old Main 420 ~ Mondays 6:00 – 8:50

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Course Description: Research seminar examining the study of public policy making in complex human systems. Attention is given to issues dealing with cognitive limitations in decisional settings, the use of reasoned persuasion vs. power, and the appropriate application of technical analysis.

Academic Policy: Students will conform to University policies concerning cheating and plagiarism. Any evidence of cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the course.

Any student who requires special arrangements in order to meet course requirements due to a disabling condition must contact the instructor as soon as possible so that the necessary accommodations can be made. Students must present appropriate documentation from the disability center in order to receive special arrangements.

Students who plan to miss class for religious observances are required to submit in writing those days which they intend to miss prior to the completion of the first week of class.

In the event of extremely severe weather, class will be canceled, and you will be notified by email. Please also check the local TV stations

Evaluation Criteria: **50% Policy Analysis Proposal:** your proposal will be split into three separate due dates throughout the semester. I will review and evaluate each segment, but you will only receive one grade on the final completed draft. Failure to submit the segments on time will result in a reduction in your grade.

20% Class Participation: Students are evaluated on the quality of their preparation and their substantive contribution to class discussions. Weekly readings should be done prior to class. If students are not prepared or do not contribute to the course discussion, quizzes or other assignments may be given, which will be factored into the participation grade.

You are expected to be in class and to be prepared to participate. If you are going to miss class, you must notify me via phone or email before class, preferably as soon as you know you will be missing the class. Failure to notify will result in a reduction of your participation grade. Chronic absences may result in a reduction in your overall course grade.

10% Assignments - See Course Outline for Details

20% Exams – Exams will cover class readings including items on reserve

Books: Dipak Gupta, *Analyzing Public Policy: Concepts, Tools, and Techniques*. CQ Press (Washington D.C.).

Jay M. Shafritz, *Classics of Public Policy*, (Addison-Wesley; Nov 29, 2004).

John Kenneth Galbraith, *The Culture of Contentment*. Houghton Mifflin Company (1992: Boston, MA).

Class Outline

- Aug 20: Introduction
- Aug 27: Policy Context and Stages; Policy Analysis Methods
Readings: G 3; **Reserve:** Shafritz & Borick 1, 2; Peters 1, 15
- Sept 3: Labor Day Holiday – No Class
- Sept 10: Policy Problem Definition
Readings: S 35, 37, 39, 40; **Reserve:** Rochefort & Cobb 1, 9
- Sept 17: Agenda Setting
Readings: S 13-15; **Reserve:** Peters 3; Cobb & Ross 1, 2
Assignment #1 Due: Policy Problem Definition
- Sept 24: Stakeholders and Policy Research
Readings: S 8-11
Assignment #2 Due: Lit Search on the Role of Stakeholders in the Policy Process
- Oct 1: Exam #1 (In Class)
- Oct 8: Review Exam #1; **Presentation:** Policy Proposal Part I - Problem Definition, Brief Problem History, and Stakeholder Analysis
- Oct 15: Economic Policy Analysis, Economics as a Science, as an Ideology
Readings: G 2; S 16,19; Galbraith 1-6; **Reserve:** Shafritz & Borick Ch 7
- Oct 22: Economics Cont'd
Readings: Galbraith 7-15
- Oct 29: Time Series, Regression, Multiple Regression & Causality
Readings: G 4 – 8, 12
- Nov 5: **Presentation:** Policy Proposal Part II - Research Strategy
- Nov 12: Implementation & Evaluation
Readings: **Reserve:** Shafritz & Borick p. 120-128; Peters 5, Theodoulou & Cahn 16-19
- Nov 19: Decision Making Theory & the Politics of Policy Making
Readings: G 13, 14; S 6, 7; **Reserve:** Shafritz & Borick Ch 6
Assignment #3 Due: Lit Search on Legislative Decision Making & Policy Making Theory Due
- Nov 26: **Presentation:** Policy Proposal Part III – Policy Options, Preferred Option, and Feasible Implementation Strategy
- Dec 3: Take Home Exam Due