

PUBLIC POLICY 6001 (Fall 2007)
PRO-SEMINAR

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Office: Old Main 439
Hours: Tuesday 9-11 A.M.
(or by appointment)

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce newly admitted students to the interdisciplinary Public Policy Ph.D. program. We will focus on material designed to familiarize students with the following: (1) the advising process, course schedulers, residency requirements/annual reviews, qualifying exam process, and dissertation process; (2) conference participation and manuscript publication; (3) the purpose and writing of literature reviews; (4) the role of objectivity/subjectivity in research, normative vs. empirical statements/theories; (5) the role of measurement in public policy; (6) careers (applied/practitioner public policy, academic policy studies, policy advocacy); (7) some of the basic models/theories of public policy; and (8) examples of research in public policy.

Course Requirements and Expectations

This is a one hour course. We will meet every other Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:50 P.M. This course is a discussion seminar and will be treated as such. Each student is expected to attend class and to be engaged in the discussions. Your participation is essential to the success of the class and will thus determine 75% of your final grade.

Each student is expected to write a literature review on an important public policy question or research problem. The paper should be about 5 pages long (double-spaced). I will be available to meet with you individually as you work on your paper, which will count for 25% of your final grade.

Inclement Weather Policy - If the university declares that the inclement weather policy is in effect (or if the university closes), we will not hold class. The reading scheduled for the day the inclement weather policy (or closure) is in effect is **automatically** moved to the next class day.

Course Outline

August 21 - Introduction and Get Acquainted: Why are you in the program? Why study public policy?

September 4 – advising, course schedulers, residency/annual reviews, qualifying exams, dissertations

September 18 – conference participation and manuscript publication

October 2 - the purpose and writing of literature reviews; examples of public policy research

October 16 - the role of objectivity/subjectivity in research, normative vs. empirical statements/theories

October 30 - the role of measurement in policy studies

November 13 – applied/practitioner public policy, academic policy studies, policy advocacy

November 27 – some of the basic models/theories of public policy