

Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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PPPA 6011 (Sec. 11): Introduction to Public Policy/ Politics & Policy Analysis

Thursdays, 3:30-5:30, 2020 K Street, Room 24
Fall 2014, George Washington University

Overview

This is the introductory course for students entering the Master of Public Policy program within the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration. The course features a basic introduction to policy analysis and a broad overview of the politics of the policy process. I assume a basic familiarity and understanding of the American political system. If you lack this background then you should take PPPA 6010 and PPPA 6006 rather than this course. For those with the background but who may be a bit “rusty,” James Anderson’s *Public Policymaking* is a decent refresher. Any edition back to at least the 4th is fine. The newest edition is grotesquely overpriced.

Readings and Participation

All the required course readings are available on either J-STOR or Blackboard. You may come across an annoying bug in Blackboard claiming that the file you are trying to open is corrupt. The work around is to download the file to your desktop and open it from there.

Participation is a big part of the course. You should have done the reading beforehand and come in prepared to discuss the readings. Excellent attendance coupled with little or no participation will net you, at best, four out of the possible ten percentage points towards your final grade.

Exam

The course will include one exam, a take-home final. It will be distributed in class on December 4th and will be due by Noon on Thursday, December 18th. You may, of course, turn it in earlier.

Policy Analysis Memo

The course will feature a Policy Analysis “Suite” where you will choose a realistic topic to analyze and produce three products: a Criteria/Alternatives Matrix (CAM), a formal policy analysis in the form of a memo, and an “elevator pitch.” Due dates are as follows:

- September 2nd (Noon): Memo topic via email to YoungG@gwu.edu;
- September 9th (Noon): CAM via blackboard;
- September 25th (in class): Verbal presentation of Elevator Pitch;
- September 29th (Noon): Written version of Elevator Pitch via blackboard;
- October 21st (Noon): Formal Memo via Blackboard.

Grading

Your course grade will be derived as follows:

- Analysis Memo – 45% total
 - Alternatives Matrix – 5%
 - Main Memo – 20%
 - Elevator Pitch – 20%
- Final – 45%
- Participation – 10%

Student Learning Objectives

From taking this course you should be able to understand the basic parameters of the major models and theories of politics and the policy process, analyze specific policy cases using the various models and theories, and intellectually consume academic policy research based on the various models and theories. Likewise you should have a solid understanding of the bases of policy analysis and the relative issues involved with market failure and governmental intervention, be able to consume and critique policy analyses, and have a basic ability to carry out policy analysis on your own.

Academic Integrity

All examinations, papers, and other graded work products and assignments are to be completed in conformance with the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity.

Course Schedule

You should be prepared to discuss each reading at each class. Excepting the texts, all readings are available on Blackboard and J-STOR (which can be accessed through ALADIN).

August 28: Course Introduction

September 2 (Tuesday): Topic for PA Memo due by Noon via email (YoungG@gwu.edu)

September 4: Introduction to Policy Analysis

- Munger, Michael. 2000. *Analyzing Politics*, New York: Norton, chpt. 1 [Blackboard]
- Weimer, David & Aidan Vining, *Policy Analysis*, 4th Edition, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, chpt. 2 [Blackboard]
- 3 PA Memos [Blackboard]

September 9 (Tuesday): Criteria/Alternatives Matrix due by Noon via Blackboard

September 11: Market Failure and Governmental Intervention

- Weimer & Vining, *Policy Analysis*, chpts. 4-7 [Blackboard]

September 18: Limits to Governmental Intervention

- Weimer & Vining, *Policy Analysis*, chpts. 8-9
- Munger, *Analyzing Politics*, chpts. 5-6

September 25: Presentation of Elevator Pitches

- These will be 2 minute verbal pitches.

September 29 (Friday): Written Version of Elevator Pitches due via Blackboard by Noon

October 2: The Public Policy Process

- Anderson, James. 2006. "The Study of Public Policy," Chapter 1 in James Anderson, *Public Policymaking* Boston: Houghton-Mifflin. (Blackboard)
- Kingdon, John. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy* 2nd Edition. New York: Harper-Collins, chpts. 1-9. (Blackboard)

October 9: Theories of American Politics

- Class discussion on pluralism, elite theory, & institutionalism (no reading)
- Lowi, Theodore. 1964. "American Business, Public Policy, Case Studies and Political Theory." *World Politics* 16:677-715. (J-STOR)
- Wilson, James Q. 1980. "The Politics of Regulation," ch. 10 in James Q. Wilson, ed. *The Politics of Regulation* New York: Basic Books (Blackboard).

October 16: Social Construction, Collective Action & Framing

- Kernell, Samuel and Gary Jacobson. 2003. *The Logic of American Politics* Washington: CQ Press, pp. 7-20. (Blackboard)
- Jordan, Grant and William Maloney. 2007. *Democracy and Interest Groups* New York: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 38-52 (Blackboard)
- Weingarten, Gene. 2007. "Pearls Before Breakfast." *Washington Post*, April 8. (Blackboard)
- Schneider, Anne and Helen Ingram. 1993. "Social Construction of Target Populations: Implications for Politics and Policy." *American Political Science Review* 87: 334-347. (J-STOR)

October 21 (Tuesday): Policy Analysis Memo due by Noon via Blackboard

October 23: Federalism

- Sharkansky, Ira. 1967. "Government Expenditures and Public Services in the American States." *American Political Science Review* 61: 1066-1077. (J-STOR)
- Berry, Frances Stokes and William Berry. 2007. "Innovation and Diffusion Models in Policy Research," in Paul Sabatier, ed., *Theories of the Policy Process* 2nd edition Boulder: Westview Press. (Blackboard)

Policy Memo topic due via Email by Noon

October 30: Policy Change

- Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chs. 1-4. (Blackboard)
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chpts. 1-3. (Blackboard)

November 6: Congress

- Lee, Frances. 2005. "Interests, Constituencies and Policy Making," in Paul Quirk and Sarah Binder, eds. *The Legislative Branch* London: Oxford University Press. (Blackboard)
- Adler and Wilkerson. 2013. *Congress and the Politics of Problem Solving* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chpts, 1-2.

November 13: The Presidency

- Kernell, Samuel. 2007. *Going Public* Washington: CQ Press, chpts. 1, 2. (Blackboard).
- Rudalevige, Andrew. 2013. “The Presidency and Unilateral Power: A Taxonomy.” (Blackboard)
- Edwards, George. 2013. “The Faulty Premises of the Electoral College.”

November 20: The Executive Branch

- Weingast, Barry. 2005. “Caught in the Middle: The President, Congress, and the Political-Bureaucratic System,” in Aberbach and Peterson, ed. *The Executive Branch* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kerwin, Cornelius and Scott Furlong. 2010. *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy*, 4th Edition, Part I.

November 27: No class, Thanksgiving

December 4: Judiciary

- Rosenberg, Gerald. 1991. *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?* Chicago: University of Chicago, pp. 9-71, 173-201. (Blackboard)
- Segal, Jeffrey A., Harold J. Spaeth, and Sara C. Benesh. 2005. “Approaches to Judicial Decision-Making,” in *The Supreme Court in the American Legal System*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Blackboard)

Exam distributed in class, due via Blackboard by Noon Thursday, December 18

TSPPPA CLASS POLICIES

1. Incompletes: A student must consult with the instructor to obtain a grade of I (incomplete) no later than the last day of classes in a semester. At that time, the student and instructor will both sign the CCAS contract for incompletes and submit a copy to the School Director. Please consult the TSPPPA Student Handbook or visit http://www.gwu.edu/~ccas/faculty/files/Incomplete_poli0.pdf for the complete CCAS policy on incompletes.
2. Submission of Written Work Products Outside of the Classroom: It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that an instructor receives each written assignment. Students can submit written work electronically only with the express permission of the instructor.
3. Submission of Written Work Products after Due Date: Policy on Late Work: All work must be turned in by the assigned due date in order to receive full credit for that assignment, unless an exception is expressly made by the instructor.
4. Academic Honesty: All examinations, papers, and other graded work products and assignments are to be completed in conformance with the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity. (see <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>)

Note especially the definition of plagiarism: “intentionally representing the words, ideas, or sequence of ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise; failure to attribute any of the following: quotations, paraphrases, or borrowed information.”

5. Changing Grades After Completion of Course: No changes can be made in grades after the conclusion of the semester, other than in cases of clerical error.
6. The Syllabus: This syllabus is a guide to the course for the student. Sound educational practice requires flexibility and the instructor may therefore, at her/his discretion, revise content and requirements during the semester.
7. Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: In order to receive accommodations on the basis of disability, a student must give notice and provide proper documentation to the Office of Disability Support Services, Marvin Center 436, 202-994-8250. Accommodations will be made based upon the recommendations of the DSS Office.
8. University Counseling Center: The University Counseling Center (UCC), 202-994-5300, offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:
 - crisis and emergency mental health consultations
 - confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals<http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices>