

PUBA 609: Policy Analysis and Implementation

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Purpose: This course will introduce you to the process and issues of applied public policy analysis. It explores current understandings of the motivation for public policy, describes the tools and concepts that policy analysts frequently use, and illustrates, through application, the policy analysis cycle.

Student Learning Objectives: By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Identify and utilize the major "market failure" justifications for economic policy in a particular context.
- Identify and discuss the major "government failures" involved in economic public policy.
- Identify and utilize major elements of cost-benefit analysis to conduct public policy analysis.
- Apply the course's analytical concepts to structure an economic public policy analysis of a particular issue.

Readings:

Books:

(WV) Weimer, David L. and Aidan R. Vining. 2011. *Policy Analysis. 5th Ed.*, Boston: Pearson Education, Inc. This book is available as an e-textbook from CourseSmart.com. You can access the text for rental here. The book is also available from Amazon or other sellers.

Articles:

Cao, Xun and Aseem Prakash. 2011. "Growing Exports by Signalling Product Quality: Trade Competition and the Cross-National Diffusion of ISO 9000 Quality Standards." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 30(1): 111-135.

Clark, Benjamin Y. and Andrew B. Whitford. 2011. "Does More Federal Environmental Funding Increase or Decrease States' Efforts?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 30(1): 136-152.

Coase, Ronald H. 1960. "The Problem of Social Cost." *Journal of Law and Economics*. 3: 1-44.

Grandy, Christopher. 2009. "The 'Efficient' Public Administrator: Pareto and a Well-Rounded Approach to Public Administration." *Public Administration Review* 69(6): 1115-1123.

May, Peter J. and Soren C. Winter. 2007. "Politicians, Managers, and Street-Level Bureaucrats: Influences on Policy Implementation." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 19: 453-476.

Robert, Christopher and Richard Zeckhauser. 2011. "The Methodology of Normative Policy Analysis." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 30(3): 613-643.

Shapiro, Stuart. 2010. "The Evolution of Cost-Benefit Analysis in U.S. Regulatory Decisionmaking." *Jerusalem Papers in Regulation & Governance. Working Paper No. 5.*

Shetty, Kanaka, Thomas DeLeire, Chapin White, and Jayanta Battacharya. 2011. "Changes in U.S. Hospitalization and Mortality Rates Following Smoking Bans." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 30(1): 6-28.

Required work:

Project: You will develop a detailed outline or discussion of a policy analysis on a particular issue. You may work on any issue that interests you, but the topic must be approved by me. Please submit the written portions of this project to me electronically via Laulima. There will be four elements to this project which will contribute to your grade in the course:

On September 26, you will submit your First Project Report, an Issue Description and Literature Review. This is a short, written report that describes the issue and its context and explains why you believe it is interesting and/or significant. The report will also contain an initial "literature review." In this section, your purpose is to find out what is known about the issue you chose. For most issues, you will not be able to read everything (or even most things) that seem relevant. So the goal is to identify the "major" or "most significant" items. Your literature review should identify the purpose of each of the studies/reports/articles, the themes raised, and the major findings. Resist the temptation to simply provide an item-by-item treatment of the pieces of literature. Instead, write the literature review around the themes that appear in the pieces--this may lead you to discuss one piece of literature more than once (if it touches on more than one theme). The report should not exceed 6 pages.

On October 31, you will make a brief (5 minute) in-class report on your project. Please state the nature of the problem, two or three of the issues you find most interesting, and a few (two or three) possible policy alternatives that might address the problem.

Also on October 31, you will submit the Second Project Report, a Preliminary Analysis of the Issue. This will lay out the question or questions that your analysis hopes to answer. It will describe the nature of the problem and the possible alternatives for addressing it. This document should also contain some preliminary analysis of some (but perhaps not all) of the alternatives, with the ultimate goal of recommending a specific course of action. You are unlikely to be ready to make a specific recommendation at this stage, but you should have done enough analysis/thinking so that you can indicate which of the alternatives are not likely to be successful and which are worthy of further investigation. Your emphasis should be on the arguments for or against an alternative rather than on simply stating whether you favor the alternative.

On December 5, you will make a "posterboard" presentation on your project.

On December 8, you will turn in (electronically) the Third and Final Project Report, a Final Analysis and Recommendation. This document should summarize or re-work the material submitted in the two previous reports, bringing the material up to date (for example, you may have come across additional literature that should be added to the literature review and you will have completed the elements of your analysis). The document should include your final analysis of the alternative solutions to the problem posed in your issue, and it should make a recommendation on a course of action with explanation and justification.

Attendance, Participation: This course is most rewarding if you engage and participate. Not only does this make your experience richer, it adds to the learning of your peers. Each week, participants will be expected to attend class AND to make a posting on the discussion section of our course in Laulima. The weekly contribution must be posted BEFORE class each week, and may comment on the readings for the class, pick up an issue raised in a previous class, or discuss related issues found in newspapers or other periodicals. Commenting on each others' postings is especially encouraged, as this promotes dialogue and mutual understanding. The purpose of the postings is to encourage you to actively think about, and apply, the ideas and concepts that we discuss; and to encourage others to engage your observations and ideas. The postings need not be long, but they should be substantive in terms of content.

On occasion, I may post something, but I will typically not participate in these postings. I will, of course, monitor them.

Because unexpected events happen to all of us, up to two missed classes may be made up by a substantial posting in the week of the absence. A third missed class will negatively affect the final grade in the course. A fourth missed class will result in a failing grade or, at my discretion, an Incomplete.

Course Grade: Your grade in this course will be assigned as follows:

First Project Report (Sep. 26)	15%
Brief Oral Report (Oct. 31)	5%
Second Project Report (Oct. 31)	20%
Posterboard presentation (Dec. 5)	15%
Third Project Report (Dec. 8)	30%
Overall participation	15%

Outline/Calendar:

Session	Date	Topic	Readings
1	8/22	Introduction	WV: Ch. 1 & 2

2	8/29	Competition & Efficiency Gathering Information	WV: Ch. 4, Ch. 14
	9/5	Labor Day: NO CLASS	
3	9/12	Market Failures I	WV: Ch. 5 through p. 97 Coase : pp. 1-8
4	9/19	Market Failures II	WV: Ch. 5 pp. 97-112; Ch. 6. Cao and Prakash
5	9/26	Distributional Goals & Equity Methods of Analysis First Project Report Due	WV: Ch. 7, Ch. 15 to p. 359. Grandy
6	10/3	Government Failures	WV: Ch. 8 & 9 (skim) Clark and Whitford
7	10/10	Generic Policies I	WV: Ch. 10 to pp. 235
8	10/17	Generic Policies II	WV: Ch. 10, pp. 235 to 261 Shetty et al.
9	10/24	Goals-Alternatives	WV: Ch. 15 pp. 359-382.
10	10/31	Policy Adoption & Implementation Brief Oral Report (5 min.) Second Project Report Due	WV: Ch. 11 & 12 May and Winter
11	11/7	Government Supply	WV: Ch. 13
12	11/14	Cost-Benefit I	WV: Ch. 16 to pp. 399 Shapiro
13	11/21	Cost-Benefit II	WV: Ch. 16 pp. 399-423
14	11/28	Policy Analysis & Ethics	WV: Ch. 3 & 18 Robert and Zeckhauser
15	12/5	Student Posterboard Presentations	
	12/8	NO CLASS Final Project Report Due	