The course starts with reviewing the basic concepts for understanding the practice, analysis, and assessment of public policy. Students will learn how to define problems, to evaluate extent of problems, to select alternative solutions, and to assess implementation of chosen options. The second part of this course covers cost-benefit analysis or CBA. The goal of this course is to provide students both solid understanding of critical concept and analytic skills involving policy analysis.

Textbook:


Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>70%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Assignment Due Policy

No late assignment will be graded.

Term paper Due date: May 1st.

Your term paper presentation on the last class session April 27th
Attendance

If you miss three class sessions without my approval, I will take out 10 percent of your course grade. Also please avoid being late for class since it is very disturbing to the other students. A student being late for class frequently and my third warning will lose his or her 10 percent of course grade.

Spring Break (March 10 to 15)

No class on March 13th

University Policies

*Academic Honesty Policy* (http://www.uh.edu/provost/shared-interest/policy-guidelines/honesty-policy/)

*Academic Accommodations for Students with Disability* (http://www.uh.edu/provost/shared-interest/policy-guidelines/student-disability-accommodation/)

*If you need special accommodation to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me by the second class session.

Policy on Cell Phone and Laptop Use

DO NOT USE your electronic devices for playing with social media sites such as facebook, twitter, etc., texting, email, web surfing during class session. If you are expecting work related emergency call, please sit closer to the door and take the call outside of classroom. Needless to say, your cell phone or tablet should be either turned off or on manner mode during each class session.

Course Outline

**Topic 1: Understanding Public Policy and Policy Context**

Readings:
Smith (chapter 1 through 5)
Weimer and Vining (chapter 1 and 2)

Topic 2a: Conceptual Foundations of Policy Analysis

Topics
A theory of “evidence of use”
Introduction to Cost-Benefit Analysis
Conceptual foundations of Cost-Benefit Analysis
Supply, Demand and Price Policies
Welfare and Distribution
Linear market model analysis with Excel

Readings:
Cartwright and Hardie Part I & II
Weimer and Vining (chapter 4)

Topic 2b: Ethics and Public Policy Analysis

Readings


Weimer and Vining (chapter 3)

### Topic 3a: Defining Policy Problem I-Market Failure

**Topics**

- A review of markets and rational behavior
- Efficiency standards for public policy decisions
- Public goods
- Market failure

Readings:

- Revisit Smith Chapter 3
- Weimer and Vining (chapter 5 through 7)

### Topic 3b: Defining Policy Problem II-Government Failure

**Topic**

- Public choice and Government Failure

Readings:

- Weimer and Vining (chapter 8 and 9)

### Topic 4a: Policy Analysis and Identifying Alternatives

**Topics**
**Process of policy analysis**

**Criteria for intervention**

Readings

Clemons and McBeth (Chapter 5 and 6)


Smith Chapter 6 to 8


Weimer and Vining (Chapter 14 and 15)

Read carefully: Two policy analysis examples Weimer and Vining (Chapter 1 & 9)

*The Canadian Salmon Fishery*

*The Madison Taxicab Policy analysis Example*


**Topic 4b: Political Feasibility and Policymaking**

**Critique of rational approach**

**Non rational (political) approach**

**Adaptation**

*Strategies for finding contributing factors*

Readings

Clemons and McBeth (Chapter 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Weimer and Vining (chapter 11)

Cartwright and Hardie Part III

Revisit Smith Chapter 5


*Government Service Delivery: Drawing Organizational Boundaries*

Weimer and Vining (chapter 13)


*Implementation*

Weimer and Vining (chapter 12)

Cartwright and Hardie Chapter II.B

**Topic 4c: Efficiency and the role of government**

**Government intervention in imperfect markets**

**Genetic policies and choice of alternatives**

Weimer and Vining (chapter 10)

**Topic 5: Cost-Benefit Analysis**

Weimer and Vining (chapter 16 through 18)


*Primary markets*

*Secondary markets (economic impact analysis)*

**Discounting Future Benefits & Costs**

Readings


**Topic 6: Dealing with Uncertainty**

*Sensitivity analysis*

*Decision Tree analysis*

Readings

Topic 7: Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

Readings


Topic 8: Predicting Monetizing Impacts

Readings


**ADDITIONAL READING TBA**

VSL & VSLY


**QALY**


**Topic 9: Valuation of impacts**

Readings


Cartwright and Hardie Part 4

**Topic 10 Contingent Valuation (using survey)**

Readings


