The course starts with reviewing the basic concepts for understanding public policy and policy cycle. During the first part of the semester, the course focuses on ambiguous but intricate part of policy studies: democracy, value conflicts and politics. 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 rational methods and technical tools for policy analysis: sensitivity analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and cost effectiveness analysis. The goal of this course is to provide students both solid understanding of critical concepts and analytic skills and rigorous methodology involving policy analysis.

Textbook:

Required


Recommended


Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Assignment Due Policy

No late assignment will be graded.

Term paper Due date: May 1st.
Spring Break (March 12 to 17)

No class on March 12

University Policies


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

Course Outline

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

Readings:

Howlett et al. (chapter 1 through 3)

Weimer and Vining (chapter 1 through 3)


**Topic 2: Conceptual Foundations of Policy Analysis**

*Topics*

*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:

Weimer and Vining (chapter 4)

Boardman et al. (chapter 1 through 3)

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

*Topics*

* A review of markets and rational behavior
* Market failure

Readings:

Weimer and Vining (chapter 5 through 7)


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

*Topic*

*Public choice and Government Failure*

*Ethics for policy analysis*

Readings:

Weimer and Vining (chapter 8 and 9)

Bellinger (2007) Chapter 2

**Topic 4: Conceptual foundations for Problem Analysis and Solution Analysis**

*Topics*

*Public goods*

*Criteria for intervention*

Readings:

*Generic Policy Instruments*
Weimer and Vining (chapter 5 & chapter 10)
Howlett et al. (chapter 5)

**CBA Theory**

*Valuing Benefits and Costs in Primary Markets*
Boardman et al. (chapter 4)

*Valuing Benefits and Costs in Secondary Markets*
Boardman et al. (chapter 5)

**Topic 5: Political Feasibility and Policymaking**

**Adaptation**

Weimer and Vining (chapter 11)
Howlett et al. (chapter 4)


**Government Service Delivery: Drawing Organizational Boundaries**

Weimer and Vining (chapter 13)


Implementation

Weimer and Vining (chapter 12)

Howlett et al. (chapter 7)

**Topic 6: Policy Analysis and Identifying Alternatives**

Readings


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*


**Cost-Benefit Analysis**

Weimer and Vining (chapter 16 through 18)


**Topic 7: Dealing with Uncertainty**

*Sensitivity analysis*

Boardman et al. (Chapter 7 and 8)

**Topic 8: Predicting Monetizing Impacts**

Boardman et al. (chapter 9 and 11)


**Topic 9: Discounting Future Benefits & Costs**

**Topic 10: Valuation of impacts**

*Topics*

*Meta-Analysis*

Boardman et al. (chapter 12, 13, 14 and 16)

Meta-Analysis

Select two or three peer review journal articles on meta-analysis related to your term paper topic.

**Topic 11: Contingent Valuation (using survey)**

Boardman et al. (Chapter 15)

**Topic 12: Cost-effectiveness Analysis**

Boardman et al. (chapter 18 and 19)