PBA 405 Online: Policy Analysis  
Spring 2016

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Office Hours: Because this is an online course, I will not hold any official office hours; however, I am always available by cell / text / email / in-person appointment when you need me.

Catalog Description: Study of analytical tools necessary for evaluating public policies and problems. Prerequisites: PSC 141, 142 and PBA 300 or instructor approval.

Program Learning Outcomes:

• Discuss the institutional, political, and legal processes involved in public policy and public policy analysis in the United States of America
• Articulate the functions of public administration in terms of historical roots, structure, and contemporary issues as it relates to the policy process and to policy evaluation
• Implement the theoretical knowledge for understanding, developing, and implementing public policy and to integrate this understanding into an applied practice of public policy analysis
• Demonstrate the ability to effectively apply important terminology, facts, concepts, [principles, analytic techniques, and theories in the field of public policy analysis when analyzing complex factual situations]
• Exercise critical reasoning, problem solving abilities, communications skills, technology skills and ethical consideration relating to public responsibility while conducting policy analysis
• Appreciate and consider the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that influence public administration, public policy, and public policy analysis
• Communicate, through various mediums, important terminology, facts, concepts, and theories used in the field of public administration as they practice public policy analysis

Student Objectives:

• The student will demonstrate knowledge of the various models of public policy  
• The student will be able to engage in cooperative policy analysis with fellow colleagues  
• The student will be able to understand the complexity of policy analysis

Academic Integrity: An individual’s integrity is a reflection not only on themselves, but on the reputation of their profession as well. The standards you hold in your academic career will weigh heavily on those you retain throughout life. Your professional reputation is of the utmost importance in maintaining a positive career path. Thus, your academic integrity will be held to the highest possible standard while in this classroom. Zero tolerance will be given for academic
irregularities. If I catch you violating this policy, you will be reported. If another student accuses you and there is no other evidence, you will be required to resubmit a new assignment or take a new exam. If you choose not to, you will be reported. According to the university: “Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp”

Students With Disabilities: “To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/”. If modifications or accommodations are needed due to disability, please make an appointment with me as early as possible so arrangements can be made.

Classroom Policies:

• This is an online course, so you will be required to engage in self-study and self-reminders as to when assignments are due and what is required of you. We will maintain regular contact throughout the semester through D2L. A due date timeline is posted in the Content Browser, and I will post announcements when necessary.

• Late assignments are not accepted. Make-up exams will only be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Having another exam or paper due that week is not an exceptional circumstance. Grades are non-negotiable.

• The open exchange of ideas will be respected by all students. Respectful discussion is required. While you are allowed to express your opinions during the discussions remember that other students may have different opinions and have the right to have and express those opinions. Personal attacks are not allowed as they do not promote civilized debate (one of the main purposes of the required discussions).
• According to the university: “Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54) Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.”

• “Acceptable Student Behavior. Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.”

Course Requirements

• 2 Exams 300 Points (150 points each): Each exam contains 25 multiple choice questions, 4 short answer questions, and 2 essay questions. Exams are not cumulative. Each exam is timed. You have 3 hours to complete the exam. You will be able to take the exam at any time during the week wherein the exam is located.

• Lessons 550 Points: 14 total, worth 40 points each except for Lesson One which is worth 30 points. Each lesson contains (unless otherwise noted) a set of lecture style materials in html format and some with embedded multimedia links you are expected to view, one discussion question that you will respond to and will then reply to a fellow student’s response (you will lose points for not responding to a colleague), an exercise of some sort (it will depend on the topic of the week, for example it could be a short answer response, a research exercise, or an additional discussion question…it depends on the material being covered), and one writing assignment (1-2 pages; will connect with the required textbook reading for the week). Lessons are available beginning on Monday morning at 8am and will close on Saturday evening at 11pm unless otherwise noted.

• Collaborative Assignment 150 Points: Students will be divided into small groups. Each group will analyze a particular public policy case. Students will be able to complete the
collaborative assignment in a virtual environment. Additional details on the collaborative assignment are provided in the Getting Started Lesson.

**Grading Scale:** A (1000-900 points); B (899-800 points); C (799-700 points); D (699-600 points); F (599 and below)

**Required Materials**

*You are responsible for acquiring the required textbook for the course.*

Title: Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice
Author: Weimer & Vining
ISBN: 978-0-205-78130-0

Additional materials will be assigned and provided by instructor during the semester

**Calendar at a Glance:** Calendar is not set in stone and is subject to change! Readings should be completed prior to class of the week of the assigned reading. Some assignments for the week will connect to the readings so be sure to get the book and complete the readings.

Reading: Chapter 1. Preview: The Canadian Salmon Fishery

Reading: Chapter 2. What is Policy Analysis? & Chapter 3. Toward Professional Ethics

**Week 3** (Mon. Feb. 1-Sat. Feb. 6): Competitive Model. Reading: Chapter 4. Efficiency and the Idealized Competitive Model


**Week 6** (Mon. Feb. 22-Sat. Feb. 27): Goals. Reading: Chapter 7. Rationales for Public Policy: Distributional and Other Goals


**Week 8** (Mon. March 7-Fri. March 11): Mid-Term Exam

Week 10 (Mon. March 28-Wed. April 2): Adoption. Reading: Chapter 11. Adoption

Week 11 (Mon. April 4-Sat. April 9): Implementation. Reading: Chapter 12. Implementation


*Collaborative Assignment due Saturday April 23rd*


Final Exam: Mon. May 9-Fri. May 13