POLS-Y394 Public Policy Analysis
Noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday, Cavanaugh 227

Instructor: Amanda Friesen, amfriese@iupui.edu, CA417A
Office Hours: 11 to noon Tuesdays/Thursdays or by appointment

Required Textbooks


Course Objectives
The number of problems facing our society can be overwhelming and seemingly intractable. How do our lawmakers attack these issues? How can citizens understand a way forward? The study of public policy analysis breaks down the policy process into carefully defining the nature of a problem by uncovering causes and quantifying effects so that possible solutions may be generated. In this course, students will understand the actors, institutional rules and societal conditions that affect the formation of public policy in the United States as well as completing hands-on exploration and generation of possible solutions to several problems that plague American society. This will involve understanding how to break down the nature of a problem, examining its causes and the extent of its effects; creatively brainstorm possible alternatives to address the problem; and understanding and developing criteria to distinguish between the solution alternatives. Critical thinking, analytical and writing skills will be emphasized in this course.

Course Requirements
Participation (20 points) – The success of this course will depend upon student participation in class discussion and activities so these points will be divided between showing up and speaking up. Students will be allowed two unexcused absences before losing points.

Exam #1 (50 points) – In-class exam will cover material from the first part of the course.

The following written assignments should be submitted on Canvas in 12-point font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Please submit PDFs or Microsoft Word files. These 3-5-page assignments should include a list of references and use in-text citations as well as a bibliography.

Assignment #1: Defining the Problem (50 points) – Select a policy problem from the Social Insurance case study defined in the Marmor book. Identify a major stakeholder in your chosen policy problem and define it from their perspective. Draw on the readings for the class (Kraft & Furlong and Bardach) to determine the policy problem, and, as appropriate, modify the steps provided in one of the readings and explain why you have done so. Due date: Feb. 25; submit online.

Assignment #2: Generating Alternatives (50 points) – Building upon the problem definition in Assignment #1, students will generate a list of policy alternatives to address their public policy problem and write a paper explaining each alternative. Due date: March 8.

Assignment #3: Criteria-Alternative Matrix (50 points) – Students will devise and explain a criteria-alternative matrix for the policy problem they developed in Assignments #1 and #2. They will evaluate the alternatives
and status quo using three aspects of the problem according to the criteria and select which would be the best option for implementation. Due date: March 29.

Final Project (100 points) – The take-home project will combine what you have learned during the semester and completed in assignments 1, 2 and 3. You will select a policy problem (different from the problem chosen for the first three assignments) with which you will define the problem, generate a list of viable alternatives, and complete a criteria-alternative matrix to select a preferred policy option. You must follow the steps and use the analysis frameworks outlined in Kraft & Furlong, Bardach or Behn & Vaupel. Ten percent of this grade will include in-class presentations. Due Date: April 28 by 5 p.m.

Plagiarism/Cheating
Do not copy another student’s homework or neglect to properly cite sources in your written work. Even if you are not using direct quotes, all ideas that are not your own must be cited. Failure to do so will result in failing the assignment, possible failure of the course and a report to university officials for academic discipline. For more information, go to http://www.life.iupui.edu/conduct/. The following tutorial will help you understand when it is necessary to cite information from outside sources. http://ulib.iupui.edu/static/plagiarism_tutorial/. Once in the tutorial choose a character to complete it.

Political Science Librarian Resource:
Sara Lowe is the subject specialist librarian for Political Science. She is an additional resource to support you in your work at IUPUI. You can schedule one-on-one consultations with her for help with any stage of the research process. She can help you learn research techniques and work with you to investigate resources for your topic. You can contact Sara at mlowe@iupui.edu or 274-0349. For political science research resources, check out the Political Science research guide: http://iupui.campusguides.com/polsci.

Students with Disabilities or Special Needs:
Every attempt will be made to accommodate students with disabilities (e.g. mental health, learning, chronic health, physical, hearing, vision, neurological, etc.). You must have established your eligibility for support services through the Adaptive Educational Services office that serves students with disabilities. Note that services are confidential, may take time to put into place and are not retroactive; Captions and alternate media for print materials may take three or more weeks to get produced. Please contact AES office as soon as possible if accommodations are needed. AES is located in room 100 Taylor Hall, 317-274-3241.

During the semester, if you find that life stressors are interfering with your academic or personal success, consider contacting Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). All IUPUI students are eligible for individual counseling services at minimal fees. Group counseling services are free of charge. CAPS also performs evaluations for learning disorders and ADHD; fees are charged for testing. CAPS is located in Walker Plaza, Room 220 (719 Indiana Avenue) and can be contacted by phone (317-274-2548). For more information, see the CAPS web-site at: http://life.iupui.edu/caps/.

Policies and Procedures:
The Administrative Withdrawal Policy is effective for all students enrolled in undergraduate level courses that are at least 6 weeks in duration. Students who miss more than 50% of an undergraduate course meetings and/or required activities during the first 25% of the course duration may be administratively withdrawn from that course unless documentation of contact with their course instructor, academic unit or academic advisor is provided. Students enrolled in Undergraduate courses may be administratively withdrawn regardless of their class standing. Additional information on course policies can be found at: http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html.
Course Schedule
Students will be expected to have read the assigned text by the first date listed for each topic. The instructor may assign additional reading for the subsequent class periods under each topic area.

The Policy Process
Jan. 12 – Course Introduction
Jan. 14 – Public Policy and Politics: Kraft and Furlong Chapter 1
Jan. 26 – Understanding Public Policymaking: Kraft and Furlong Chapter 3
Jan. 28 – Exam: Policy Process

Case Study: Social Insurance
Feb. 2/4 -- Case study overview: Marmor et al.’s Part I American Social Insurance, pg. 1-68
Feb. 9 – Marmor et al.’s Part II Threats and Protections, pg. 69-202
Feb. 11 -- Marmor et al.’s Part III: Thinking about Policy Design

The deservingness heuristic and the politics of health care

Problem Definition
Feb. 16/18 – Intro to Policy Analysis: Kraft and Furlong Chapter 4, Bardach Introduction
Feb. 23 – Problem Definition: Kraft and Furlong 140-156, Bardach pg. 1-18;
Feb. 25 – Applied Problem Definition: Assignment #1 due

Generation of Policy Alternatives
March 1 – Public Problems and Policy Alternatives, Kraft and Furlong pg. 157-167, Bardach Appendix B
March 3 – Constructing Alternatives, Bardach pg. 18-27
March 8 -- Applied Generation of Policy Alternatives: Assignment #2 due

Selection from Policy Alternatives
March 10 – Assessing Policy Alternatives, Kraft and Furlong Ch. 6
March 15/17 - No Class, Spring Break
March 22 – Cost-Benefit Analysis, “Bickers and Williams CBA” reading on Canvas
March 24 - Developing criteria/confronting trade-offs, Bardach pg. 27-82; Criteria-Alternatives Matrix, reading TBD
March 29 – Applied Selection from Policy Alternatives: Assignment #3 due

Policy Problems
March 31 – Economic and Budgetary Policy/Education Policy: Kraft and Furlong Chapters 7 and 10
April 5 – Environmental and Energy Policy: Kraft and Furlong Chapter 11
April 7 – No class, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting
April 12 – Foreign Policy and Homeland Security: Kraft and Furlong Chapter 12

The Field of Policy Analysis
April 14 – Politics, Analysis and Policy Choice, Kraft and Furlong Ch. 13
April 19 -- Policy Analysis in the Real World, Bardach Parts II, III and IV (pg. 83-139)
April 21 – Final Project Workshop
April 26 – Class Presentations
April 28 – Class Presentations; Final Projects due online by 5 p.m.