Course Objective

This is the first part in a two-course series designed to provide an overview of philosophical and theoretical foundations of academic policy analysis and research. Part I will introduce students to theoretical foundations for social science and policy research. We will focus on broad frameworks for policy research to help students understand modern perspectives on social science research, academic policy research, and the role of policy analysis in a democratic society. This course is designed to serve as a foundation for understanding the broad theories that have influenced academic policy research. It is not an exhaustive review of literature.

Public policy is an interdisciplinary field. Students will explore the influence of a variety of disciplines on an integrated approach to policy research. Public policy is also an applied field. Students will discuss the role of academic policy analysis in a democratic society and the relationship between the researcher and the state and its citizens.

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete all assigned readings, actively participate in and lead class discussions, complete all written assignments, and complete a written in-class final exam. Required readings represent only a sample of the important readings in the field. Students are expected to explore further readings on topics for class presentations and written assignments. In addition to required readings, students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss current policy issues in relationship to classroom topics.

Grading is based on each student’s contribution to the course and quality work in the following areas:

Class Participation
Many classroom discussions will be student-led. Students are expected to provide an accurate and relevant overview of readings, as well as to prepare questions to stimulate discussion. Students are expected to participate in discussions each week and to conduct discussion in a way that is engaged, respectful, and courteous.

Weekly Reflection Papers
1-page (max!) paper reflecting on a philosophical or theoretical tension in the readings for that week. Papers are due at the beginning of each class. No late papers will be accepted. Papers over one page will not be accepted. Use 12-point font and 1” margins.

**Journal Article Review**

2-3 page paper describing the theoretical approach of a published, peer-reviewed policy evaluation.

**Term Paper**

Up to 20-page paper defining a policy problem, discussing the theoretical basis for calling this a public problem, and proposing a theoretical framework for research.

**Final Exam**

In-class, closed book written final exam. The exam is modeled on the written portion of the PhD comprehensive exams at the LBJ School.

**Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to respect the LBJ School's standards regarding academic dishonesty. You owe it to yourself, your fellow students, and the institution to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical behavior. A discussion of academic integrity, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, as well as helpful information on citations, note taking, and paraphrasing, can be found at the Office of the Dean of Students web page (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php) and the Office of Graduate Studies (http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/ethics/transcripts/academic.html). The University has also established disciplinary procedures and penalty guidelines for academic dishonesty, especially Sec. 11.304 in Appendix C of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities section in UT's General Information Catalog.

For further information, please visit the Student Judicial Services website at: www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/

The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.
Schedule of Topics

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE FIELD OF PUBLIC POLICY

Week 1, Aug. 30 The Field of Public Policy

II. THEORIES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND POLICY RESEARCH

Week 2, Sept. 6 Theoretical Foundations of Social Science Research
Week 3, Sept. 13 Pragmatism in Social Science Research

III. FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH AND METHODS

Week 4, Sept. 20 What to Study? Definitions of Public Problems
Week 5, Sept. 27 What to Measure? Foundations of Policy Analytic Methods
Week 6, Oct. 4 What is Good Policy? Conceptions of the Public Good
Week 7, Oct. 11 Science and Pragmatism in Policy Evaluation
Week 8, Oct. 18 Applying Frameworks to Policy Research

IV. FOUNDATIONS OF ETHICAL POLICY ANALYSIS

Week 9, Oct. 25 Classical Theories of Democracy in a Contemporary Policy Setting
Week 10, Nov. 1 Contemporary Theories of Democracy
Week 11, Nov. 8 APPAM Conference – NO CLASS
Week 12, Nov. 15 The Role of the Policy Researcher
Week 13, Nov. 22 Thanksgiving – NO CLASS
Week 14, Nov. 29 The Role of Government in Democratic Policy
Week 15, Dec. 6 The Role of the Individual in Democratic Policy
Books on Reserve at Benson Library (Sid Richardson Hall)


Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince* (any edition is okay)


On Reserve at PCL


Additional readings available on ERES – password “Monday”
Reading Assignments

Week 1 (August 30). The Field of Public Policy

Theory or Lack of Theory in Policy Studies


Perspectives on the Field


Week 2 (September 6). Theoretical Foundations of Social Science Research


Recommended reading:


**Week 3 (September 13). Pragmatism and the Design of Social Science Research**


**Week 4 (September 20). Definitions of Public Problems**


**Week 5 (September 27): Foundations of Policy Analytic Methods**


**Week 6 (October 4). Conceptions of the Public Good**


Week 7 (October 11). Science and Pragmatism in Policy Evaluation

Reviews of Evaluation Theory


Theoretical Perspectives


Week 8 (October 18). Applying Research Frameworks


**Week 9 (October 25). Classical Theories of Democracy Applied to Contemporary Policy Theory**


Recommended:

Full text of readings excerpted in Terchek & Conte.


**Week 10 (November 1). Contemporary Theories of Democracy in Policy Theory**


**Week 11 (November 8). APPAM CONFERENCE - NO CLASS**

**Week 12 (November 15). Ethics of Policy Analysis**

Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince* – any edition or translation


Wildavsky, Aaron (1987). *Speaking Truth to Power*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers. Focus on Chapter 5 (pp. 114-141), Chapter 9 (pp. 212-237), Chapter 11 (pp. 252-280), and Chapter 16 (pp. 385-406).


**Week 13 (November 22) – THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS**

**Week 14 (November 29). Perspectives on the Role of Government in Democratic Policy**


Woodrow Wilson, pp. 16-27
Frank Goodnow, pp. 28-30
Louis Brownlow *et al.*, pp. 88-92
Dwight Waldo, pp. 138-142
Hoover Commission, pp. 150-157
H. George Frederickson, pp. 296-307
Samuel Krislov, pp. 323-329
Camilla Stivers, pp. 470-478
The National Performance Review, pp. 551-559
Donald F. Kettl, pp. 577-588

Recommended


**Week 15 (December 6). Perspectives on the Role of the Individual in Democratic Policy**


**Recommended**
