

Professors: Steven Raphael & Margaret Taylor
Term: Fall 2002

Introduction to Public Policy Analysis PP101

Objectives

The purpose of this course is to present an overview of the role of public policy in modern societies. The course is organized into three sections. The first six weeks will be devoted to studying the role of the state in liberal democratic nations. In this section, we will draw on economic theory, the theory of public choice, and modern political science to study a number of issues regarding the scope and functions of government. Among the questions we will address are the following:

- ☞ What objectives underlie collective action?
- ☞ When should government intervene to either constrain or influence private behavior?
- ☞ What are the shortcomings of decentralized, market-based economies and do these shortcomings always merit public intervention?
- ☞ How do governments fail?

The second six weeks will be devoted to the political context and art of policy analysis. This section of the course will focus on the policy process in the U.S., as well as on a methodology to guide analysts in: assessing whether a public policy response is needed in a situation, evaluating alternative policy instruments, projecting outcomes, and conveying ideas to policy makers in a manner that is both intelligent and intelligible. This methodology will be discussed in the context of real examples of modern societal problems.

The final few weeks of class will be devoted to student presentations and feedback/discussion of these presentations.

Meeting Times

Class will meet Mondays and Wednesday from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. In addition, students will meet in their various sections.

Grades

Grades will be based on a midterm exam (40 percent), problem sets and case responses (10 percent), classroom and section participation (5 percent), a final project in the form of a written paper (40 percent), and a final presentation (5 percent).

The policy analysis paper should be on a topic of your choosing and should involve a current problem that either requires a government intervention, requires government reform (deregulation, privatization etc.), or that, in some tangible manner, involves the public sector. The paper should be written from the point of view of an analyst reporting to a government decision-maker, but we place no prior restriction on topics. Hence, students can work on anything from privatization of prisons, to international trade policy, to how to better collect the garbage. You should identify a topic by the end of September and get approval for the project from the GSI for your discussion section. The topic chosen should be specific. More information on the project requirements and progressive deadlines will be handed out in the third week of class (and discussed in section).

Readings

There are three textbooks and two readers for this course. The textbooks are: (1) Weimer, David L and Aidan R. Vining (1999), *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice* 3rd Edition, New York: Prentice Hall; (2) Birkland, Thomas A. (2001) *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making* New York: M.E. Sharpe; and (3) Bardach, Eugene (2000), *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving* New York: Chatham House. The Weimer and Vining book is available immediately at the campus bookstore, while the other two books will be at the bookstore later in the semester (you'll be alerted in class).

The readers are available at Vick's copy at 1879 Euclid Avenue, just down the street from the policy school. The first reader is tied to the first section of the course and is available immediately. The second reader, which is tied to the second section of the course, will be available later in the semester (again, you'll be alerted). It includes case materials that are required in addition to the other readings in this syllabus, with assignment dates listed in the reader.

Office Hours

Professor Raphael's office is in room 343 in the new building of the policy school. His office hours are on Wednesdays from 10 to 12. He can also be reached by phone at 643-0536 and by email at raphael@socrates.berkeley.edu.

Professor Taylor's office is in room 311 of the main building of the public policy school. Her office hours are on Thursdays from 10 to 12. She can also be reached by phone at 642-1048 and by email at mataylor@uclink.berkeley.edu.

Week 1: Overview and Introduction to Welfare Analysis

August 26 *What is public policy?*

Wednesday 28 *What is policy analysis?*

[1] Weimer and Vining, Chapter 2

[2] Birkland, Thomas A. (2001), *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making* New York: M.E. Sharpe, Chapter 1, "The Study and Practice of Public Policy"

Week 2: Efficiency Criteria for Public Intervention: Public Goods

September 2 **NO CLASS**

September 4 *Efficiency in a Perfectly Competitive Economy*
Weimer and Vining, Chapter 4

Week 3: Market Failures: Public Goods and Externalities

September 9 *Public Goods and Publicly Provided Private Goods*

[1] Weimer and Vining, pages 74-94

[2] Tyler, Patrick E. and Richard W. Stevenson (2002), "Profound Effect on U.S. Economy Seen in a War on Iraq," *New York Times*, July 29

- September 11 *Externalities*
Weimer and Vining, pages 94-100
HAND OUT FIRST PROBLEM SET
- Week 4: Congested Freeways and Market Power**
- September 16 *Congestion Externalities and the Optimal Level of Traffic*
[1] O’Sullivan, Arthur (2000), *Urban Economics*, Irwin McGraw-Hill: New York, Chapter 19, “Autos and Highways.”
[2] Morgan, David “The Rotten Roads Go Ever On: Money is Finally Being Spent on Our Highways–But There is a Lot to Fix,” abcnews.com,
<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/DailyNews/rottenroads010215.html>, accessed on August 2, 2002.
- September 18 *Theory of the Firm Under Alternative Market Structure*
Weimer and Vining, pp 100 - 107
FIRST PROBLEM SET DUE IN CLASS
- Week 5: Wrapping-up Market Failures and Public Policy Equity Goals**
- September 23 *Monopoly Power and Other Sources of Market Failure*
Weimer and Vining, pp 100-107 and Chapter 6.
- September 25 *Equity and Public Policy: Intergovernmental Grants and Equity in Public School Expenditures per Pupil*
Weimer and Vining, Chapter 7
HAND OUT SECOND PROBLEM SET
- Week 6: Government Failures and Review for Midterm**
- September 30 *Government Failures*
Weimer and Vining, Chapter 8
- October 2 *Review for Midterm Exam*
SECOND PROBLEM SET DUE IN CLASS
- Week 7: Midterm and the Policy Process in U.S. Context**
- October 7 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- October 9
Class 12 *The Historical and Structural Context of Policy Making*
[1] Birkland, Chapter 2
[2] Reader: Articles of Confederation
Federalist Paper 1
Federalist Paper 10
Plot with Quotations
Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896
Lochner v. New York, 1905
Brown v. Board of Education, 1954
Photographs from Strike!
- Week 8: The Policy Process**

October 14
Class 13
Official Actors
[1] Birkland, Chapter 3
[2] Reader: *The Power Game*, Chapter 2
The Power Game, Chapter 10
Federalist Paper 78
Marbury v. Madison, 1803

October 16
Class 14
Unofficial Actors
[1] Birkland, Chapters 4, 5
[2] Reader: *The Power Game*, Chapter 3
The Power Game, Chapter 9
New York Times article on Torricelli

Week 9: A Policy Analysis Method: Part 1

October 21
Class 15
Define the Problem and Assemble Evidence
[1] Bardach, pp. 1-12
[2] Weimar and Vining, Chapter 10
[3] Reader: Health excerpt from *Public Policy in the United States*
Crime excerpt from *Public Policy in the United States*

October 23
Class 16
Define the Problem and Assemble Evidence (cont.)
[1] Bardach, pp. 47-70
[2] Weimar and Vining, pp. 296-310
[3] Birkland, pp. 231-48
[4] Reader: Continue with readings from last class

Week 10: A Policy Analysis Method: Part 2

October 28
Class 17
Construct Policy Alternatives and Select Evaluative Criteria
[1] Bardach, pp. 12-27, 87-95
[2] Birkland, Chapter 7
[3] Reader: Poverty excerpt from *Public Policy in the United States*
Climate change excerpt from *Public Policy in the United States*

October 30
Class 18
Construct Policy Alternatives and Select Evaluative Criteria (cont.)
[1] Reader: Education excerpt from *Public Policy in the United States*

Week 11: A Policy Analysis Method: Part 3

November 4
Class 19
Project the Policy Outcomes & Confront the Tradeoffs involved in Deciding the "Best" Alternative
[1] Bardach, pp. 27-40
[2] Reader: Disaster by Design: California's Experience with Electricity Restructuring – The Origins (A)

November 6
Class 20
Decide and Tell a Story
[1] Bardach, pp. 40-47
[2] Reader: Cable Wars

Week 12: After the Analysis

November 11	<i>NO CLASS</i>
November 13 Class 21	<i>Implementation</i> [1] <i>Birkland, Chapter 8</i> [2] Reader: Environment excerpt from <i>Public Policy in the United States</i> War on drugs excerpt from <i>Public Policy in the United States</i>
Week 13:	Class Presentations
November 18	<i>Individual Presentations & Feedback</i>
November 20	<i>Individual Presentations & Feedback</i>
Week 14:	Class Presentations
November 25	<i>Individual Presentations & Feedback</i>
November 27	<i>Individual Presentations & Feedback</i>
Week 15:	Class Presentations
December 2	<i>Individual Presentations & Feedback</i>
December 4	<i>Individual Presentations & Feedback</i>