

**PUBA 609: Policy Analysis and Implementation**  
**Fall 2015**  
**Syllabus**

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**Office Hours: Th. 5:00-5:50 and by appt.**

The Mission of the Public Administration Program is to energize public institutions and organizations doing public work, enrich and deepen civic culture, and increase leadership capacity for those with public and community responsibilities in Hawai‘i, the rest of the US, and the Asia- Pacific Region. We do this through teaching, research, and service activities that give current and future public service professionals the knowledge and skills they need to be more effective in their work and to improve our communities.

**Program Learning Outcomes related to PUBA 609:**

PLO7: Students will Evaluate public policy using policy analysis tools and skills, and applying public service values (PP, PSP, CT)

PLO9: Students will Regularly employ a coherent framework to think critically about an issue (e.g. policy, ethical, HRM, etc.) in order to decide what, if any, action to take (CT)

PLO10: Students will Frame research questions, identify and gather appropriate information, and recognize applicable statistical techniques for systematically analyzing evidence, in order to answer the research questions. (CT)

**Key for NASPAA\* Universal Competencies:**

LM: The lead and manage in public governance

PP: To participate in and contribute to the public policy process

PSP: To articulate and apply a public service perspective

CT: To analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions

DC: To communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry

\*Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration

Course Purpose: This course will introduce you to the process and issues of public policy analysis and implementation. It explores current understandings of the motivation for public policy, describes the tools and concepts that policy analysts frequently use, and illustrates, through application, the policy analysis cycle.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Identify and utilize the major "market failure" justifications for economic policy in a particular context.
2. Identify and discuss the major "government failures" involved in economic public policy.
3. Identify and utilize major elements of cost-benefit analysis to conduct public policy analysis.
4. Use the course's analytical concepts to structure public policy analysis of a particular issue of your choice.

**Readings:**

Book:

(WV) Weimer, David L. and Aidan R. Vining. 2011. Policy Analysis. 5th Ed., Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

This book is available for rental or purchase as an e-textbook from:  
<<http://www.chegg.com/textbooks/policy-analysis-5th-edition-9780205781300-0205781306>>  
and  
<<http://www.campusbookrentals.com/textbook/policy-analysis--concepts-and-practice/weimer-david-l-and-vining-aidan-r/routledge/9780205781300>>

The book is also available from Amazon or other sellers.

Articles:

Adams, Scott, Chad Cotti, Daniel Fuhrmann. 2013. "The short-term impact of smoke-free workplace laws on fatal heart attacks." *Applied Economics* 45: 1381-1393.

Arrow, Kenneth J., Maureen L. Cropper, Christian Gollier, Ben Groom, Geoffrey M. Heal, Richard G. Newell, William D. Nordhaus, Robert S. Pindyck, William A. Pizer, Paul R. Portney, Thomas Sterner, Richard S.J. Toll, Martin L. Weitzman. 2014. "Should Governments Use a Declining Discount Rate in Project Analysis?" *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 8(2): 145-163.

Ault, Joshua K. and Andrew Spicer. 2014. "The Institutional Context of Poverty: State Fragility As a Predictor of Cross-National Variation in Commercial Microfinance Lending." *Strategic Management Journal* 35: 1818-1835.

Clark, Benjamin Y. and Andrew B. Whitford. 2011. "Does More Federal Environmental Funding Increase or Decrease States' Efforts?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 30(1): 136-152.

Coase, Ronald H. 1960. "The Problem of Social Cost." *Journal of Law and Economics*. 3: 1-44. [NB: Only pages 1-8 assigned.]

Goulder, Lawrence H. and Andrew R. Schein. 2013. "Carbon Taxes vs. Cap and Trade: A Critical Review." *Climate Change Economics* 4(3): (28 Pages).

Grandy, Christopher. 2009. "The 'Efficient' Public Administrator: Pareto and a Well-Rounded Approach to Public Administration." *Public Administration Review* 69(6): 1115-1123.

Mariano, Beatriz. 2012. "Market power and reputational concerns in the rating industry." *Journal of Banking and Finance* 36: 1616-1626.

Robert, Christopher and Richard Zeckhauser. 2011. "The Methodology of Normative Policy Analysis." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 30(3): 613-643.

Shapiro, Stuart. 2010. "The Evolution of Cost-Benefit Analysis in U.S. Regulatory Decisionmaking." *Jerusalem Papers in Regulation & Governance*. Working Paper No. 5.

Tummers, Lars and Victor Bekkers. 2014. "Policy Implementation, Street-Level Bureaucracy and the Importance of Discretion." *Public Management Review* 16(4): 527-547.

Warner, Mildred E. and Germa Bel. 2008. "Competition or Monopoly? Comparing Privatization of Local Public Services in the US and Spain." *Public Administration* 86(3): 723-735.

**Required work:**

Project: You will develop a detailed outline or discussion of a policy analysis on a particular issue. You may work on any issue that interests you, but the topic must be approved by me. Please submit the written portions of this project to me electronically via Laulima. There will be five elements to this project which will contribute to your grade in the course:

On September 24, you will submit your First Project Report, an Issue Description and Literature Review. This is a short, written report that describes the issue and its context and explains why you believe it is interesting and/or significant. The report will also contain an initial "literature review." In this section, your purpose is to find out what is known about the issue you chose. For most issues, you will not be able to read everything (or even most things) that seem relevant. So the goal is to identify the "major" or "most significant" items. Your literature review should identify the purpose of each of the studies/reports/articles, the themes raised, and the major findings. Resist the temptation to simply provide an item-by-item treatment of the pieces of literature. Instead, write the literature review around the themes that appear most relevant to your project--this may lead you to discuss one piece of literature more than once (if it touches on more than one theme). The report should not exceed 6 pages.

On October 29, you will make a brief (5 minute) in-class report on your project. Please state the nature of the problem, two or three of the issues you find most interesting,

and a few (two or three) possible policy alternatives that might address the problem. The report should only be oral (no PowerPoint slides, etc.).

Also on October 29, you will submit the Second Project Report, a Preliminary Analysis of the Issue. This will lay out the question or questions that your analysis hopes to answer. It will describe the nature of the problem, the policy goals that seem relevant from this description, and possible policy alternatives for addressing the problem. This document should also contain preliminary analysis of some (but perhaps not all) of the alternatives, with the ultimate goal of recommending a specific course of action. Do not make a specific recommendation at this stage.

On December 10, you will make a short in-class presentation on your project. You may use PowerPoint, or other presentation aids. Your goal is to convey to us the nature of the issue, some of the most relevant/interesting considerations, and an explanation/justification for your final recommendation.

On December 14, you will turn in (electronically) the Third and Final Project Report, a Final Analysis and Recommendation. This document should summarize or re-work the material submitted in the two previous reports, bringing the material up to date (for example, you may have come across additional literature that should be added to the literature review and you will have completed the elements of your analysis). The document should include a goals/alternatives matrix, your final analysis of the alternative solutions to the problem, and it should make a recommendation on a course of action with explanation and justification.

Attendance, Participation: This course is most rewarding if you engage and participate. Not only does this make your experience richer, it adds to the learning of your peers. Each week, participants will be expected to attend class AND to make a posting on the discussion section of our course in Laulima. The weekly contribution must be posted BEFORE class each week, and may comment on the readings for the class, pick up an issue raised in a previous class, or discuss related issues found in newspapers or other periodicals. Commenting on each others' postings is especially encouraged, as this promotes dialogue and mutual understanding. The purpose of the postings is to encourage you to actively think about, and apply, the ideas and concepts that we discuss; and to encourage others to engage your observations and ideas. The postings need not be long, but they should be substantive in terms of content.

On occasion, I may post something, but I will typically not participate in these postings. I will, of course, monitor them.

Because unexpected events happen to all of us, up to two missed classes may be made up by a substantial posting in the week of the absence. A third missed class will negatively affect the final grade in the course. A fourth missed class will result in a failing grade or, at my discretion, an Incomplete.

**Course Grade:** Your grade in this course will be assigned as follows:

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| First Project Report (Sep. 24)  | 10% |
| Brief Oral Report (Oct. 29)     | 10% |
| Second Project Report (Oct. 29) | 20% |

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Short Presentation (Dec. 10)   | 15% |
| Third Project Report (Dec. 14) | 30% |
| Overall participation          | 15% |

**Outline/Calendar:**

| Session | Date  | Topic   | Readings  |
|---------|-------|---|---|
| 1       | 8/27  | Introduction  | WV: Ch. 1 & 2   |
| 2       | 9/3   | Competition & Efficiency<br>Gathering Information   | WV: Ch. 4, Ch. 14<br><a href="#">Ault and Spicer</a>                        |
| 3       | 9/10  | Market Failures I   | WV: Ch. 5 through<br>p. 97<br><a href="#">Coase</a> : pp. 1-8               |
| 4       | 9/17  | Market Failures II  | WV: Ch. 5 pp. 97-<br>112; Ch. 6.<br><a href="#">Mariano</a>                 |
| 5       | 9/24  | Distributional Goals & Equity<br>Methods of Analysis<br><br><b>First Project Report Due</b>             | WV: Ch. 7, Ch. 15<br>to p. 359.<br><a href="#">Grandy</a>                   |
| 6       | 10/1  | Government Failures   | WV: Ch. 8 & 9<br>(skim)<br><a href="#">Clark and Whitford</a>               |
| 7       | 10/8  | Generic Policies I  | WV: Ch. 10 to pp.<br>235<br><a href="#">Goulder and Schein</a>              |
| 8       | 10/15 | Generic Policies II   | WV: Ch. 10, pp.<br>235 to 261<br><a href="#">Adams, Cotti,<br/>Fuhrmann</a> |
| 9       | 10/22 | Goals-Alternatives  | WV: Ch. 15 pp.<br>359-382.  |
| 10      | 10/29 | Policy Adoption & Implementation<br><br><b>Brief Oral Report (5 min.)<br/>Second Project Report Due</b> | WV: Ch. 11 & 12<br><a href="#">Tummers and<br/>Bekkers</a>                  |
| 11      | 11/5  | Government Supply   | WV: Ch. 13<br><a href="#">Warner and Bel</a>                                |
| 12      | 11/12 | Cost-Benefit I  | WV: Ch. 16 to pp.<br>399<br><a href="#">Shapiro</a>                         |
| 13      | 11/19 | Cost-Benefit II   | WV: Ch. 16 pp.<br>399-423<br><a href="#">Arrow et al.</a>                   |

|    |       |                                       |   |
|----|-------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 14 | 12/3  | Policy Analysis & Ethics              | WV: Ch. 3 & 18<br><a href="#">Robert and Zeckhauser</a> |
| 15 | 12/10 | Short Project Presentations (10 min.) |   |
|    | 12/14 | No Class<br>Final Project Report Due  |   |

Date Modified: 8/11/2015