

Syllabus
Public Policy Analysis
Leadership of the public sector
Spring 2019

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Course description

This course introduces the students to the knowledge and skills of policy analysis in order to learn how to counsel or advise a client (a public institution) in choosing a preferred course of action.

The course aims to introduce students with analytical approaches and methods that a policy analyst can use to guide and structure the policy choice. Throughout the course, we will analyze different forms of policy analyses that can be conducted and different types of policy papers that analysts can write in order to inform the clients about available courses of action and potential costs and benefits and risks and availabilities. We will discuss how to analyze the needs of clients and understand their specific characteristics. Throughout the course, an important emphasis will be placed on discussing case studies based on real statistical data that will encourage students to think critically about how to counsel a client in a given situation. In addition, we will discuss how to communicate the outcome of the analysis to the client.

General objective: Develop knowledge and skills to analyze policies, think creatively and critically about public policy issues in order to advise clients on choosing the best course of action given the existing constraints, or for continuation or termination of similar courses of action

Specific objectives

- analyze and understand the implications of public policy for different pursuits
- analyze different forms of policy analyses that can be conducted
- discuss about the skills of a good policy advisor
- critically analyze case studies that help you develop skills for conducting a policy analysis
- learn how to communicate efficiently with the client for which a policy analyst works

Readings:

1. Clemons, R.S. and McBet, M.K., *Public Policy Praxis. A Case Approach for Understanding Policy and Analysis*, 3rd edition, New York: Routledge, 2009.
2. Dunn, W.N., *Public Policy Analysis. An Introduction*, 4th edition, Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2008.
3. Grochowski, M. and Ben-Gera, M., *How to Be a Better Policy Advisor?*, Bratislava: NISPAcee Press, 2002.
4. Gupta, D.K., *Analyzing Public Policy*, 2nd edition, Washington: CQ Press, 2011.
5. Lazareviciute, I. (ed.), *How to Be a Better Policy Advisor? Manual for Trainers*, Bratislava: NISPAcee Press, 2003.
6. Patton, C.V., Sawicki, D.S. and Clark, J.J., *Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning*, 3rd edition, Boston: Pearson, 2013.
7. Shafritz, J.M. and Borick, C.P., *Cases in Public Policy and Administration*, Boston: Longman, 2011.
8. Weimer, D.L. and Vining, A.R., *Policy Analysis*, 5th edition, Boston: Longman, 2011.

9. Young, E. and Quinn, L., 'Writing Effective Public Policy Papers. A Guide for Policy Advisers in Central and Eastern Europe', Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, Open Society Institute, 2002, [Online] available at http://www.icpolicyadvocacy.org/sites/icpa/files/downloads/writing_effective_public_policy_papers_young_quinn.pdf, accessed on February 25, 2019.

Topics and course schedule

	Topics
Week 1	Introduction to the course
Week 2	Defining policy analysis, Forms of policy analysis, Potential uses of policy analysis Dunn, W.N., <i>Public Policy Analysis. An Introduction</i> , 4 th edition, Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2008, pp. 1-15.
Week 3	Practice of policy analysis. Critical Thinking and Public Policy Dunn, W.N., <i>Public Policy Analysis. An Introduction</i> , 4 th edition, Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2008, pp. 15-23. Weimer, D.L. and Vining, A.R., <i>Policy Analysis</i> , 5 th edition, Boston: Longman, 2011, pp. 23-38. Assignment 1 is due – Short presentation of a policy advice
Week 4	Organizing Policy Analysis Weimer, D.L. and Vining, A.R., <i>Policy Analysis</i> , 5 th edition, Boston: Longman, 2011, pp. 340-383.
Week 5	Writing Policy paper: Different types of policy papers. What is a good policy paper? Difference between academic work and advise Young, E. and Quinn, L., 'Writing Effective Public Policy Papers. A Guide for Policy Advisers in Central and Eastern Europe', pp. 18-21. Grochowski, M. and Ben-Gera, M., <i>How to Be a Better Policy Advisor?</i> , Bratislava: NISPAcee Press, 2002, pp. 17-23. Lazareviciute, I. (ed.), <i>How to Be a Better Policy Advisor? Manual for Trainers</i> , Bratislava: NISPAcee Press, 2003, pp. 19-42.
Week 6	Presentations of the case studies
Week 7	Clients recipients of the advice (types of clients, types of advises) Grochowski, M. and Ben-Gera, M., <i>How to Be a Better Policy Advisor?</i> , Bratislava: NISPAcee Press, 2002, pp. 47-50. Lazareviciute, I. (ed.), <i>How to Be a Better Policy Advisor? Manual for Trainers</i> , Bratislava: NISPAcee Press, 2003, pp. 43-62.
Week 8	Characteristics of a good advisor Grochowski, M. and Ben-Gera, M., <i>How to Be a Better Policy Advisor?</i> , Bratislava: NISPAcee Press, 2002, pp. 79-90. Lazareviciute, I. (ed.), <i>How to Be a Better Policy Advisor? Manual for Trainers</i> , Bratislava: NISPAcee Press, 2003, pp. 63-84. Assignment 2 is due – Short presentation of a policy analysis document
Week 9	Communicating policy analysis

	Dunn, W.N., <i>Public Policy Analysis. An Introduction</i> , 4 th edition, Upper Saddle, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2008, pp.421-437. Gupta, D.K., <i>Analyzing Public Policy</i> , 2 nd edition, Washington: CQ Press, 2011, pp. 383-388.
Week 10	Ethics. Value conflicts. Examples of value conflicts Weimer, D.L. and Vining, A.R., <i>Policy Analysis</i> , 5 th edition, Boston: Longman, 2011, pp. 39-53. Gupta, D.K., <i>Analyzing Public Policy</i> , 2 nd edition, Washington: CQ Press, 2011, pp. 27-44.
Week 11	The Practice of Public Policy Analysis in Political Arena Clemons, R.S. and McBet, M.K., <i>Public Policy Praxis. A Case Approach for Understanding Policy and Analysis</i> , 3 rd edition, New York: Routledge, 2009, pp.166-182.
Week 12	Course review. Discussions with students about final papers

Evaluation:

- **Short presentation of a policy advice (10%).** Students have to find examples that illustrate how a public institution was advised by outside (the institution) experts on how to solve a problem, improve the use of an abandoned space or implement innovative ideas/practices. The presentation can be documented based on newspaper articles, but it has to highlight also who was the adviser, his/her expertise on the topic, a short description of the problem, and the advice that was provided.
- **Short presentation of a policy analysis document (10%).** Students have to find and present a policy analysis document that was issued by either a public institution or a private adviser. Students have to highlight the structure of the document, the methods that were used for making the recommendation(s), as well as the outcome of the analysis.
- **Presentation of a case study (30%).** Each student will have to prepare a presentation of a case study from the book: Patton, C.V., Sawicki, D.S. and Clark, J.J., *Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning*, 3rd edition, Boston: Pearson, 2013, pp. 376-437. There are 7 case studies in the book, and each student has to choose a distinct one, and solve the requirements for each case study as they are presented in the book using the information provided by the authors.
- **Final paper (50%).** For this paper, students have to form groups of two, maximum three students. The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate how much you have become the master of applying the frameworks and concepts and ideas provided by this course as analytical tools. Students are required to analyze a policy that is already implemented for couple of years, and to analyze how the policy contributed over the years toward solving the problem, as well as its advantages and disadvantages, problems that occurred over time and how they were addressed, as well as highlighting the incremental changes that were brought for improving the policy over time.

Attendance to 75% of classes is mandatory to enter the final exam