Instructor: Yuriy Davydenko
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E-mail: ydavydenko1@gsu.edu

Class Time: M 4:30-7:00pm
Class Location: Aderhold 429
Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisites: Econ 2105 and Econ 2106

NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. If a change does occur, sufficient notice will be given through Desire2Learn and class announcements.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is an introductory course covering basic concepts and principles of policy analysis. The purpose of this course is to provide a foundation in the theory, process, and presentation of policy analysis. The course will familiarize students with 1) policy analysis as a profession 2) the conceptual foundations of the rationales for public policy 3) a systematic approach to addressing policy problems 3) analytical techniques for policy analysis.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
At the end of the course, students should be able to:
- think critically and systematically about public policy
- understand how to identify and frame policy problems
- understand how to organize policy analysis
- understand the characteristics of different policy alternatives
- apply analytical techniques for solving policy problems
- understand limitations of policy analysis
- construct and present a policy memo

This is a rigorous course that requires substantial individual effort outside of class. You are expected to read the assigned chapters and any other materials provided by the instructor each week before coming to class.

TEXTS & TOOLS
1. iCollege (formally called Brightspace and Desire2Learn): 1. iCollege will be used for communication, and to disseminate course content, PowerPoint slides and more. Students are expected to use this resource on a regular basis for course materials and announcements.
2. Required Text
   Patton, Sawicki, and Clark, Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning, 3rd edition (available at amazon.com or other online stores)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT
Class sessions will be a mixture of lectures and class discussions. Grades for this course will be based on:

In-Class Participation (5%)
Participation means that you actively engage in classroom discussions and in-class assignments. Class will be heavily dependent on discussion, so the need to do the reading cannot be stressed enough. Classes may also feature short lectures by me or videos meant to facilitate learning, but class will not be a spectator sport. Sometimes, I will call on students by name to answer questions during lectures.

Online Participation (5%)
Before each class, you should post a meaningful question on iCollege Discussion Board relating to the week’s assigned readings. Your questions should address the ideas and concepts from the readings by clarifying or even challenging them. Questions about concept definitions that are explicitly provided in the assigned readings and indicate your unfamiliarity with them do not count. Statements like “I don’t understand XYZ” do not count either, because they do not serve the purpose of the assignment. In addition to that, students are expected to read, answer, and rate their classmates’ questions and answers. Best questions and answers will earn extra credits. Questions should be posted by noon on Monday.

Reflection Question (15%)
Each week’s readings features a question to be addressed in 1-3 paragraphs in an argumentative essay. The responses are NOT meant to simply summarize the readings but rather to integrate their content with your own ideas/arguments in addressing the question. All responses are due by noon on Monday and submitted to iCollege.

Policy in the News Discussion (10%)
Each student will be responsible for presenting a news item pertaining to a public policy issue during one class period to be determined by the second class of the semester. The news item and presentation should relate to recently discussed concepts in the course. Further details will be provided in the class in and on iCollege.

Quizzes (5%)
There will be several short quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will be conducted at the end of or after class. The quizzes are meant to motivate you to prepare for the week’s lecture, participate in class activities, and prepare you for the midterm exam. They will also help me receive immediate feedback on whether the class has absorbed the concepts we have covered. We will briefly review the answers at the beginning of class the following week. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Exam (20%)
There will be one (1) exam. The exam will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions and will be geared to test your understanding of the key ideas and concepts covered in the course.
Policy Cases (20%)
There will be two (2) short assignments based on specific policy cases (10% each). These assignments will largely require you to write a 2 to 4-page memo that requires the identification and analysis of the policy problem presented. Cases and detailed instructions for the memo will be presented on the dates identified in the Syllabus.

Policy Analysis Project and Presentation (20%)
Each student will be required to complete a policy review and presentation throughout the semester which will include the following components:
- A submission of 3 policy issues that interest you (no more than 1 paragraph each).
- A policy research sketch.
- A research memo on the selected policy issue.
- A 10-minute presentation, formatted for a public official or body, to be conducted during the final exam period of the course.

Detailed instructions, including the grading rubric, will be discussed in class and posted on iCollege.

Extra Credit
From time to time, the instructor may offer the students opportunities to earn extra credit points on existing or for additional assignments. In addition, you are also encouraged to bring in newspaper and magazine articles related to current public policy issues up to three (3) times a semester. These articles and presentations can be on issues from anywhere in the world, but it is important that they relate to and demonstrate the ideas, concepts, and techniques covered in the course. Please indicate at the beginning of class your intention to present an article. No more than three (3) articles will be presented in each class, and will be chosen on a first-come first-served basis. Only one (1) article per person per class session. Extra credit points will be granted as following:

1 Article = 2 percentage points toward your final grade
2 Articles = 4 percentage points toward your final grade
3 Articles = 5 percentage points toward your final grade

For example, if your other assignments add up to 88% of 100% of the final grade, and you present 2 articles during the semester, your final grade will be based on 92% of 100%. Extra credit is not guaranteed, however, and will be offered only at the discretion of the instructor.

Final letter-grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

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<td>B-</td>
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Attendance Policy
It will be very difficult for you to succeed in this course if you do not attend lectures. I expect students to attend class sessions and to arrive on time. Three classes can be missed without an excuse, but beyond that, each absence will lower your final grade by three (3) percentage points. Those arriving after the attendance sheet has been signed will be considered absent unless they have notified the instructor ahead of time with the reason for their tardiness.

Class Formative Feedback
Please don't wait until it is too late to tell me important things about this class. I will provide an anonymous survey for you to leave feedback and suggestions on how we can improve learning and make this course more useful and manageable for you. That survey will be active until the last day of this semester so that you could provide your feedback anytime you want.

COURSE POLICIES
Statement on Academic Honesty
You are expected to abide by Georgia State University’s regulations on academic honesty. These regulations may be found in the Georgia State University Undergraduate Catalog 2014-15 (http://catalog.gsu.edu/undergraduate20142015/university-academic-regulations/). Examples of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification and multiple submission. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the University’s Academic Honesty Policy. You are reminded that, for this course, every piece of work submitted must be your own. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” on that piece of work and likely in the course as well. Please be aware that violations of the Academic Honesty Policy may also result in your dismissal from the University.

Incompletes and Withdrawals
A grade of “Incomplete” will only be given in RARE circumstances, namely in the event of a death in the immediate family or your hospitalization.

If you wish to withdraw from the course, you must do so in accordance with the University’s procedures. Students who wish to avoid being given a grade of “WF” must ensure that they officially withdraw from the course before the semester mid-point. Please refer to the Office of the Registrar for further information with respect to voluntary withdrawals and deadlines.

Special Accommodations
If you have a disability and require accommodation, please speak with me on the first day of class. You will need to register with the Office of Disability Services. In order to receive accommodation for your disability, you must also submit to me a signed Accommodation Plan issued by the Office of Disability Services within the first two weeks of class.

Cell Phone Policy
As a courtesy to the instructor and other students, please turn off your cell phones during lectures. Cell phone calculators will not be permitted on quizzes or exams.

Course Evaluation
Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation and provide your constructive feedback.

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS (TENTATIVE)**

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic, Readings, Questions, Assignments</th>
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| 1    | 9-Jan | **Introduction to the Class. Defining Public Policy**  
**Readings:**  
- Birkland, p.3-23  
- Smith& Larimer: Ch.1 Public Policy as a Concept and a Field (or Fields) of Study |
| -    | 16-Jan | **University Official Holiday (MLK). No Classes.** |
| 2    | Jan 23 | **Policy Analysis as a Profession and a Process. Role of an Analysts. The Steps of Policy Analysis.**  
- Patton et al., Ch 1: The Need for Simple Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning  
- Weimer and Vining, Ch. 2: What is Policy Analysis?  
- Weimer and Vining, Ch.3: Toward Professional Ethics  
- Patton et al., Ch. 2: The Policy Analysis Process  
- Munger, Analyzing Policy, Ch. 1: An Overview of Policy Analysis as a Profession and a Process  
- Bardach: Introduction  
**ASSIGNMENT:**  
- Come to class with 3-4 policy areas you are interested in exploring further.  
- Reflection Question 1 due |
| 3    | Jan 30 | **Rationales for Public Policy I: Market Failures**  
- Weimer and Vining, Chapter 4-6  
**ASSIGNMENT:**  
- Case 1 posted online  
- Reflection Question 2 due |
| 4    | Feb 6  | **Rationales for Public Policy II: Non-Market Failures**  
- Weimer and Vining, Chapter 7 and 8  
- Sandel, What Money can’t Buy  
- Bozeman, “Public-Value Failure: When Efficient Markets May Not Do”  
**ASSIGNMENT:**  
- Submit Policy Question for Research Paper  
- Reflection Question 3 due |
| 5    | Feb 13 | **Types of Policy Solutions and Policy Design**  
- Weimer and Vining, Chapter 9 - 10  
- Bardach APPENDIX B – Things Governments Do  
- Chapter from Thaler and Sunstein, Nudge  
**ASSIGNMENT:**  
- Reflection Question 4 due |
| 6    | Feb 20 | **Midterm exam**  
**ASSIGNMENT:**  
- Case 1 Due |
| 7    | Feb 27 | **Organizing your Policy Analysis. Methods of Analysis**  
- Weimer and Vining, Ch.14-15  
- Patton et al, Chapter 3  
- Stone, Policy Paradox, Chapter: Numbers |
**ASSIGNMENT:**
- Case 2 posted online
- Reflection Question 5 due

**Feb 28**
- Midpoint
- Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal

### 8 Mar 6
**Problem Identification**
- Kingdon, Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies, Ch. 5 - Problems
- Patton et al, Ch. 4 – Verifying, Defining, and Detailing the Problem
- Bardach, pages 1-16, Step One: Define the Problem pages & Step Two: Assemble Some Evidence

**ASSIGNMENT:**
- Policy Research Sketch Due
- Reflection Question 6 Due

**Mar 13**
- Spring break
- Mar 13-19, No Classes

### 9 Mar 20
**Establishing Evaluation Criteria and Identifying Alternatives**
- Patton et al, Chapter 5 and 6
- Bardach, pages 16-47 Step 3: Construct the Alternative & Step 4: Select the Criteria
- Smith and Larimer: Ch.5 What should we do? The field of policy analysis and Ch. 8 Whose Values? Policy Design

**ASSIGNMENT:**
- Case 2 due
- Reflection Question 7 due

### 10 Mar 27
**Evaluating & Displaying Alternative Policies**
- Patton et al, Chapter 7-8
- Bardach: 47-70 Step Five: Project the Outcomes, Step Six: Confront the Trade-Offs, Step Seven: Decide, Step Eight: Tell Your Story

**ASSIGNMENT:**
- Reflection Question 8 due

### 11 Apr 3
**Adoption, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation**
- Weimer and Vining: Ch. 11-12
- Patton et al, Ch. 9

**ASSIGNMENT:**
- Reflection Question 9 due

### 12 Apr 10
- Bardach, Part III
- Walker: Uncertainty
- Hayek: The Pretense of Knowledge

**ASSIGNMENT:**
- Reflection Question 10 due

### 13 Apr 17
- Presentations

### 14 Apr 24
- Presentations
- Classes End

**ASSIGNMENT:**
- Policy Analysis Memo Due by 7 pm

### May 1
- 4:15-6:45 Final Exam Period (Possibly for presentations)

### May 4
- Grades Due