This course is designed as a survey of public policy research and theory for doctoral students. As such, we will be pursuing three goals. First, we will be examining the public policy research literature, exploring both the intellectual foundations and current developments. Second, we will be examining the craft of conducting policy research. In particular, you will be learning how to read and use the literature as a resource for your research efforts. Third, we will explore how you as scholars can and should participate in the policy-related scholarly community. In doing so, we will assist you in identifying your own interests and voice as a policy scholar. Your goals should be to improve your understanding and capabilities in all three areas.

A. Required Class Readings:


Additional required readings, as detailed below, will be available either online through the library or in iCollege.

B. Works not required but which your professors feel are good for your immortal soul and, more importantly, which we will refer to from time to time in class:

Here is a list of books that we will draw from during the course. You will note that we are reading portions of some of these works. Others are books that we will refer to during our discussions. Any required readings from these books are available on-line. But at some point you should get around to reading them in their entirety.

C. Reading List

There is a quasi-official reading list maintained that Ph.D. students should acquire and use in their preparations for their comprehensive examinations.

Assignments:

Students are responsible for performing several activities during this course. Each activity carries the following weight in determining the final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Sketch</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review/Research Proposal</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</table>

Class Participation. Since this class is a doctoral seminar, students are expected to come to class each week having completed the assigned readings and prepared to discuss the relevant topics. You should take time in advance of class to think about the arguments being made and whether you agree or disagree with the author’s point of view—and why. You should also develop the ability to be critical of each other’s thinking.

I will not be providing many lectures during the class. Rather each topic will be explored through a discussion format. That means you will be called upon in class by your instructor and expected to contribute to the discussion. It is unacceptable for you to have come to class having not read the material.

Article Presentation. I will also ask you (and perhaps with a partner) to present an article during the semester. The team will provide an overview of the article - providing copies of a summary of key points to the class, will ask some questions seeking to stimulate a discussion about the article, and will link the reading to the other articles read for that class.

Homework. I will provide 1 short paper assignment. This “thought paper” will be based on a question similar to those that you will see in the course’s final exam and in your future comprehensive exams. You will have 2 weeks this assignment, and the paper will be between 4-5 pages long.

Research Paper. You will need to prepare a research paper over the period of semester, first as a preliminary research sketch, then as a research proposal with a literature review.

The topics that you choose must be in the form of a research question. You must frame your question in such a way that it is amenable for hypothesis testing - there must be a relationship between an independent and dependent variable. Your literature review will be developed through the following assignments:

- Assignment 1 - Topics due for approval (Sept. 5). Provide a paragraph describing your topic.
- Assignment 2 - Provide a research sketch and an attached list of key articles that you believe are most relevant to your topic. (Oct. 10)
- Assignment 3 - Final version of your literature review. (Nov. 28)

The research sketch, due at or before the beginning of the Oct. 10 class session, should provide a rough outline of a possible research project. This sketch should be about 4-6 double-spaced pages in length, and should include the following:

- Identification of your research question
- Description of the relevant literatures
- Specification of a conceptual model and hypothesis/ hypotheses
• Identification of the unit of analysis.
• Specification of possible methods for conducting the study.
• A list of at least 10 key references

The topics that you choose must be in the form of a research question. You must frame your question in such a way that it is amenable for hypothesis testing in support of a theory. That means there must be a relationship between an independent and dependent variable. The research paper itself should expand on the elements of the research sketch and provide a review of the relevant literature on the substantive issues. Under the best circumstances, this would be a topic that will link to your eventual dissertation research. This literature review should be roughly 15 pages long – it should be similar to the literature review present in a research article. In addition, at the end of the paper, you should briefly summarize how you would approach testing these hypotheses empirically – are there data that are available? Would the data allow you to identify your dependent and independent variables? Briefly, if you can, describe the empirical methods that you might use when analyzing this data.

Throughout the term we will take time in class to discuss the art of doing a literature review in the policy sciences. The final literature review will be due at the beginning of class Nov. 28th.

Class Presentations. Students make presentations on their completed research paper on November 28th. Students should also anticipate taking questions from your colleagues and your instructor at the end of each presentation.

Final Examination. There will be a final examination consisting of two essay questions (with some choice of questions). The date of the final is Dec. 5th.

Caution: Plagiarism on a paper—that is, using the writing of others without proper citation—is grounds for a failing grade on the work in question and for the course overall.
Tentative Class Schedule & Reading Assignments

S & W: Indicates a reading from the Sabatier and Weible text
* Indicates a reading that is available on line or through archives

1. Aug. 22: Introductions

2. Aug. 29: Theory and Public Policy


S&W: Weible, Chapter 1


3. Sept. 5: Policy Rationales and Typologies, Policy Design

TOPICS DUE

Rationales for Public Policy:


Policy Typologies:


4. Sept. 12 Policy Design and Policy Tools

S and W: Ingram, Schneider, and DeLeon: Democratic Policy Design

5. Sept. 19: Information, Decision Making, and Multiple Streams


Recommended Readings:

SW: Zahariadis, N. “Ambiguity and Multiple Streams


*TC: Heclo, Hugh. “Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment.”


Recommended Reading
*TC: Schulman, Paul. “Nonincremental Policy Making.”


**Recommended Readings:**


**SKETCHES DUE**


**Recommended Readings**


**SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT**


Recommended


SHORT PAPER DUE


*Francis Fukuyama (2001) Social capital, civil society and development, Third World Quarterly, 22:1, 7-20, DOI: 10.1080/713701144


12. Nov. 7: Implementation


Recommended Readings:


*A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Supermax Prisons

*Schlager: A Comparison of Theories

Recommended
S and W: Carney and Heikkila

14. Nov. 28: Presentations – May Require an Extended Class Session

PRESENTATIONS --- LITERATURE REVIEWS DUE

15. Dec. 5: Final Exam