PAI 805: Foundations of Policy Analysis and Management

Spring 2018
Section 1: T/Th 2:00-3:20 p.m., Eggers 209

Instructor: Leonard M. Lopoo, PhD
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Office hours: by appointment

Class materials are located on Blackboard: http://blackboard.syr.edu.

Course Objective
This course exposes students to the foundational literature in public policy analysis and public management. The primary goal of the course is to prepare doctoral students in the Department of Public Administration and International Affairs for the qualifying exam in “Foundations in Policy Analysis and Management.” The course has three distinct sections. First, the course covers consumer theory (microeconomics) which serves as a starting point for inquiries into market failures, government failures, and cost benefit analysis. In the second section of the course, students will read criticisms of this “rational” approach to decision making, which includes findings from behavioral economics. In the third portion of the course, students turn their focus to the policy process, which includes readings on agenda setting, policy diffusion, and policy implementation. Theoretical work from microeconomics, political science, psychology, and public administration serve as the source material.

Prerequisites: Admission to the PAIA doctoral program or instructor’s permission

Academic Integrity Policy
Syracuse University’s Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are required to read an online summary of the University’s academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. For more information about the policy, see http://academicintegrity.syr.edu.
The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

**Disability Statement**
If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), [http://disabilityservices.syr.edu](http://disabilityservices.syr.edu), located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities “Accommodation Authorization Letters,” as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

**Religious Observance**
SU’s religious observances policy, found at [http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm](http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm), recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice/Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.

Any student who plans to miss an assignment due to a religious observance and has made the appropriate notifications should see me within the first two weeks of class to make arrangements for making up this missed work.

**Required Books**
Grading

Problem sets (3 @ 5% each) 15%
Cost-Benefit Analysis 15%
Critical analysis (5 @ 4% each) 20%
Book club (2 @ 15% each) 30%
Participation 20%

Problem sets: I will assign three problem sets covering the material on the first topic of the course, neoclassical microeconomic theory. Completed assignments should be submitted at the Center for Policy Research Front Desk (426 Eggers Hall) and signed in before the deadline. Students are allowed to work in small groups to discuss the problems and develop solutions together. However, each student must write-up the solutions that he/she submits independently.

Cost Benefit Analysis: Students should conduct a CBA on a project of their choice, preferably on a program/project in their field of interest. Students should obtain data for their CBA. The final product should be no more than 10 pages, single spaced (12-point font, 1 inch margins) with the appropriate tables included in this page limit. Please include all assumptions and relevant data, notable limitations, and your final assessment of the financial strength of the program/project.

Critical analysis: For five sections of the course, please submit no more than a two-page, single-spaced (12-point font, 1 inch margins) critical analysis of a single reading or group of readings for that section. The analysis should include a summary of the material that is no more than one page. For the remainder of the critical analysis, please critique the content. If you are uncertain what to write in your critique, here is non-exhaustive list of questions you might address (although not all of them in one critique!).

- How does this material correspond with the earlier content in the course?
- What types of assumptions are made, and are they reasonable?
- Is there content here that informs your research area? How?
- Are there claims made that are logically inconsistent?
- Are the readings inconsistent?
- Can you synthesize this material with either earlier content or other research to advance a theory or explanation for a current public affairs issue?

For the critical analysis sections, please do not work with others. I want to discourage “group think.” However, once you have turned in your critical analysis, you should definitely distribute your ideas to others in the class.

Book club: Twice during the semester, you will be asked to run a book club (but not alone). We will randomly (or attempt to randomly) assign each of you two different books. The dates for the book clubs will not change. You and your team should plan to summarize the main contributions of the book (~ first 20 minutes) and then lead a discussion of the book for the remainder of the class (~60 minutes). Please develop a number of discussion questions and be prepared to foster
Participation: Given that this is a seminar, students are expected to attend each class; attendance is vital to the success of the course. Understandably, students will fall ill or have a conference or other matter to attend to; therefore, missing a class throughout the semester is understandable and will not be penalized. The second absence during the semester will result in a minimal penalty: a student who is absent twice during the semester will receive a zero for 4% of his/her grade in the course (i.e., at best will earn an 80% for the participation grade). For the third absence, the student will receive a zero for participation. For a fourth absence, the student will not pass the course. I do not make distinctions between excused and unexcused absences.

Late Assignments
I do not anticipate anyone turning in anything late. Please don’t. As an incentive to turn in the work on time, you will be penalized a grade for every hour it is late. An assignment due at noon that would have received an A-, will receive a B+ if turned in anytime between 12:01 pm and 1:00 pm, a B if turned in between 1:01 pm and 2:00 pm, etc.

Tentative Schedule

I. Background & Rational Choice Theory
   Dates: January 16, 18, and 23

Assignment 1 - due January 26, 2018 at noon in CPR.

II. Microeconomics Review & Social Welfare
   Dates: January 25, 30, and February 1

Recommended:

Assignment 2 – due February 9, 2018 at noon in CPR.
Problems 3-1 and 3-2 in Friedman

*February 6 Book Club:* Schelling *Micromotives and Macrobehavior*

### III. Market Failures: Public Goods, Externalities, and Asymmetric Information

**Dates:** February 8, 13, 15, 20


**Recommended:**


**Assignment 3** – due February 23 at noon in CPR.

Gruber Chapter 5: Problems 11, 12, 13, 16, 17

Gruber Chapter 7: Problems 11, 12, 15

*February 22 Book Club:* Hirschman *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*

### IV. Cost-Benefit Analysis

**Dates:** February 27, March 1, and 6


**Case study in class (tentative date: March 1)**

**Case study in class (tentative date: March 6)**

**Recommended:**

Assignment: CBA due May 4 at noon in CPR.

**V. Criticisms of Rational Policy Analysis: Behavioral Economics**

**Dates:** March 8 and 20

Critical review: March 8, start of class.

**Recommended:**
VI. More Criticisms of Rational Policy Analysis

Note: No class on March 27: Students are required to attend Volcker Lecture 4:00-5:30 on March 26.

Dates: March 22 and 29

Critical review: March 22, start of class.

April 3 Book Club: Stone Policy Paradox

VII. Agenda Setting and Problem Definition

Dates: April 5 and 10

Critical review: April 5, start of class.

VIII. Policy Diffusion and Learning

Dates: April 12 and 17

Critical review: April 12, start of class.

Recommended:


**April 19 Book Club:** Greene, *Moral Tribes*

**IX. Policy Implementation**

**Dates:** April 24 and 26


Critical review: April 24, start of class.

**May 1 Book Club:** Pressman & Wildavsky. 1984. *Implementation*

**Resources**


