

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Course Number: PADM 6161, Section 001

Course Title: Applied Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation

Semester: Spring, 2006; Wednesday 18:30-21:30; BC-104

Course Description: This is the required course on policy analysis and program evaluation. The course develops skills and knowledge of techniques and theories of policy analysis in a public management setting. Although some knowledge of policy processes is assumed, we will attempt to come to an understanding of the nature of public policy problems and the types of analytic techniques that can be used to solve those problems. The focus is on widely used procedures such as cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, budget analysis, etc. and their appropriate use in public administration analysis and research.

Prerequisites: PADM 6160, PADM 6230, and PADM 6260 are very helpful but not required. Students who have not successfully completed PADM 6230 and 6260 will have a more difficult time with the work in this course.

Professor: Carmine Scavo **Phone:** 328.6130 or 353.0873

Office Hours: **Office:** A-124 Brewster **Online Office Hours:**
Wednesday 5:30-6:30 **E-Mail:** ScavoC@mail.ecu.edu Wednesday, 4:30-5:30
Tuesday, 1:30-3:30
or by appointment

Required Textbooks:

Eugene Bardach, *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving* (New York: Chatham House, 2000)

Carl Patton and David Sawicki, *Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning*, 2nd Edition (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1993)

David Weimer and Aidan Vining, *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, 4th Edition (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 2005)

Course Objectives: The primary course objective is a thorough introduction to the applied use of analytical techniques designed to improve decision-making. This will be accomplished through both theory and practice. *This is not a cookbook nor a how to do it course*; additional reading, study, and practice will be needed in order for a person to

become a proficient analyst. You should, however, be able to develop a level of analytical and evaluative skills necessary to conduct the limited analyses assigned in this course.

Method of Instruction: Early class sessions will include both lectures and discussions of applications of problem-solving techniques to typical public management and policy issues. Later classes will provide students opportunities to display their own skills through oral presentations and a final project will require you to identify and analyze a problem of your own choosing.

Assignments: Five problem-solving projects will be assigned through the semester. *These assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date announced.* I will not accept late work since your supervisor or employer would likewise not do so. Even the best solutions to public policy problems are irrelevant if they are developed *after* the decision is already made. You are also expected to keep up to date on the reading assignments and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Since successful completion of the problem-solving assignments is partially dependent on mastering the reading material, you have little incentive to delay reading until near the end of the semester.

The first four cases will be assigned and will focus on parts of the policy analysis process taught in this class—problem definition, goals and objectives, evaluation criteria development, alternative generation, analysis, and presentation. The final (fifth) assignment is one in which you personally develop the problem definition statement and go through all the steps of the policy analysis process. This is an opportunity for each of you to try out ideas for your MPA Professional Paper. You should, of course, be thinking about your final paper early in the semester and not wait until the end of the semester to begin working on it. I am available at any time to discuss your final paper. Notice that I will have an online office hour (meaning I will be in the BlackBoard chat room) each Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30 for those who want to interact virtually.

Evaluation: Each of the first four projects will constitute 15% of your course grade. The final project will count 20% and the final exam will constitute 15% of your grade. Class participation, as measured by attendance, readiness to discuss reading assignments, etc. will constitute 5% of the final grade. *Incomplete (I) grades will only be assigned in the case of emergencies.*

Class Schedule for Spring 2006

- January 11 INTRODUCTION: QUICK ANALYSIS FOR BUSY DECISION MAKERS
- January 18 DOING POLICY ANALYSIS AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 1 & 2 and material on teenage drivers
Weimer and Vining, Chapters 1 – 3, 19
Bardach, pp. xiii - xvi and 1 – 7
[First Case Assignment]
- January 25 DATA GATHERING TECHNIQUES
Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 3
Weimer and Vining, Chapter 18
Bardach, pp. 7 - 12 & 47 – 70
[First Case Assignment Due]
- February 1 STRUCTURING POLICY PROBLEMS
Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 4
Weimer and Vining, Chapter 14
[Second Case Assignment]
- February 8 ESTABLISHING EVALUATION CRITERIA
Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 5
Weimer and Vining, Chapter 15
Bardach, pp. 12 - 19
- February 15 IDENTIFYING ALTERNATIVES
Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 6
Bardach, pp. 19 - 27, 71 - 85, & 87 – 95
Weimer and Vining, Chapter 10
[Second Case Assignment Due]
- February 22 EVALUATING POLICY PERFORMANCE (Part 1)
Weimer and Vining, Chapters 4 – 9; 16 & 17
[Third Case Assignment]
- March 1 EVALUATING POLICY PERFORMANCE (Part 2)
Weimer and Vining, Chapters 16 & 17
- March 8 EVALUATING POLICY PERFORMANCE (Part 3)
Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 7
Bardach, pp. 27 - 41
[Third Case Assignment Due]
[Fourth Case Assignment]
- March 15 SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

- March 22 DISPLAYING ALTERNATIVES AND SELECTING AMONG THEM
 Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 8
 Weimer and Vining, Chapter 15 (review)
- March 29 MONITORING AND EVALUATING POLICY OUTCOMES
 Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 9
 Weimer and Vining, Chapter 11
 Bardach, pp. 41 – 46
 [Fourth Case Assignment Due]
- April 5 FORECASTING
 Patton and Sawicki, Chapter 7 (review)
- April 12 FINAL CASE ASSIGNMENT PRESENTATIONS (Part 1)
- April 19 FINAL CASE ASSIGNMENT PRESENTATIONS (Part 2)
 [Final Case Assignment paper due April 19]
- May 3 FINAL EXAM