Day 1: Introductions

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PUBPL 304

Road map

- Introductions
- Syllabus
- Why study public policy?

Introductions – Me

Introductions — Your Turn

Purpose of the Course

To develop tools for evaluating public policies, new proposals, and the claims of both supporters and proponents. Gain the ability to see the bigger picture, not just evaluate effectiveness, efficiency, etc, of a policy.

Basics

- TTh 3:05 – 4:20 pm
- Olmsted W-209
- Prerequisites: None
- Course Website:
  sites.psu.edu/djmallinson/pubpl-304/
- #pubpl304 (@djmallinson)
- Canvas

Contact Me

- mallinson@psu.edu
- Office: W-160K
- Office Hours: TTh 1:30-3pm, T 4:30-5:30 pm, By appointment

Learning Objectives

Goal 1: Students will gain factual knowledge about contemporary policy debates

- Objective 1a: Students will learn the background of current policy problems facing federal, state, and local governments
- Objective 1b: Students will learn about the competing proposals for solving these problems

Learning Objectives

Goal 2: Students will understand the policy process

- Objective 2a: Students will learn key policy theories: the policy cycle, Multiple Streams Approach, Advocacy Coalition Framework, and Punctuated Equilibrium
- Objective 2b: Students will learn the role of formal and informal actors in the identification of problems, development of alternative, decision-making, and implementation of policy

Learning Objectives

Goal 3: Students will analyze and critically evaluate competing policy ideas

- Objective 3a: Students will identify competing values and goals in proposed public policies
- Objective 3b: Students will evaluate the logic of a policy proposal; including the facts, assumptions, and inferences being presented (and ignored) by the proposer
- Objective 3c: Students will develop analytical skills including identifying primary sources, creating and evaluating arguments, evaluating the graphical presentation of data, and more
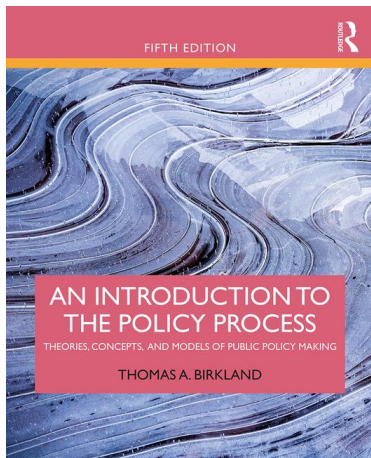
Learning Objectives

Goal 4: Students will develop their oral and written communication skills

- Objective 4a: Students will contribute to class discussion and debates, as well as present research findings as a team

- Objective 4b: Students will learn how to write in multiple forms, including a longer policy paper and shorter executive summary

- Objective 4c: Students will learn how to evaluate the writing of others and how to reflect on their own writing

Expectations

- Attend class
- Read and prepare
- Ground Rule # 1: Respect
- Do not suffer in silence
- **Be flexible**
- Current events
- E-mail policy

Required Book

Methods of Evaluation

- Policy Paper
- Executive Summary
- Peer Review
- Reflection Essay
- Participation
- Make-Up Grades

Big Project

https://sites.psu.edu/djmallinson/research/

What is public policy?

Why study public policy?

Why are you taking this class?

Assignment for Thursday

Write two short paragraphs on the following:

- What is public policy?
- Why are you studying it?
- What do you want to get out of this class?