

Department.: Department of public policy

Course number: PP 223W

Course title: Cases in Public Policy

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Mark Robbins

Content Area: CA 2 Social Sciences

Catalog Copy: PP 223W, Cases in Public Policy

Either semester. Three credits. Exploration of policy analysis using case studies on various contemporary policy topics.

Course Information: This courses explores the structure, nature and resolution of public policy problems in the United States through the reading, review and discussion of a series of case studies. Students will prepare cases for discussion each day. They will present, analyze and defend the policy proposals assigned in the class, and prepare written materials based on the cases. Students write up and present their own case studies as the final assignment for the class.

#### COURSE EVALUATION

Grades are based upon the quality of student work on the following items:

-Written memoranda 60%

-Case Presentation 10%

-Written Cases 20%

-Final Exam 10%

#### WEEK TOPIC CASE #

1 POLICY ANALYTIC FRAMEWORKS

2 MARKET FAILURE 1

3 PUBLIC GOODS 2

4 POLICY MAKING PROCESS 3

5 ANALYTIC TECHNIQUES 4

6 TAXATION 5

7 EFFICIENCY & PRIVATIZATION 6

8 INTERGOVERNMENTAL GRANTS 7

9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 8

10 POLICY EVALUATION 9

11 IMPLEMENTATION 10

12 PUBLIC MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

13 GROUP A PRESENTATIONS

14 GROUP B PRESENTATIONS

15 FINAL EXAM

#### CASE LISTING

Case # Case Title

1 Mayor Evan Sweeny's Budget Cutbacks

- 2 Cable Wars
- 3 Citizen Participation in Monroe
- 4 New York City 's Policies for the Homeless
- 5 California Water Pricing
- 6 Homestead Option in Syracuse
- 7 Contracting Out for Prisons in Texas
- 8 Funding Schools in Washington State
- 9 Alabama and the Mercedes Benz Plant
- 10 Implementing Welfare Reform

## WRITING REQUIREMENT

Students will complete three analytical case memoranda and one case. The total writing will be at least 20 - 25 pages. **CREDIT FOR THIS CLASS CANNOT BE EARNED WITHOUT SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE WRITING COMPONENT.**

**Case Memoranda:** Written assignments will be in the form of case memoranda and cases. Case memoranda must be submitted as high quality printer output (laser print or equivalent) double spaced and be about 4 pages in length. The memoranda must be between 750 1,000 words. Style and format requirements of memoranda are specified in Guide for writing case memoranda in the course packet. Because of the novel writing style and the demand for precision and clarity students often receive poor grades for their initial memorandum efforts. Re-writing these memoranda is an important part of the learning process. Consequently, case memoranda may be revised and resubmitted as many times as the student wishes through the 10th week. The recorded grade for each memo will be that received on the last version submitted.

**Student Case Assignment:** In addition to preparing case memoranda about existing cases, students are required to compose a case of their own. The assignment will be broken into separate sections. Each section must be about 4 pages in length ( between 750 1,000 words).

I. Background: In this section, the context and essential elements of the case are presented. Students should compile this information from news accounts, published sources, and interviews (where necessary).

II. Decision Need: This section lays out the dynamics of the problems facing decision makers.

III. Analysis: Evidence which facilitates the evaluation of possible policy alternatives is provided. The analysis may include supporting attachments where needed.

IV. Conclusion: If the outcome of the case is known, report it here. If it is not known, identify the possible scenarios if the case decision is made in different ways.

W Criteria:

The writing assignments are focused on applying the analytic skills developed in the lecture to case topics discussed in class. In this manner the course content is reinforced through evaluation and revision of student writing in the content area. The student will write analytical case memoranda and prepare a written case. These assignments require 20 - 25 pages of completed and revised writing. 80% of the course grade is based upon performance on the written portion of the course.

Writing instruction in the course consists of written commentary on student work and individual (one on one) conferences with the instructor. The written work will be composed of analytic case memoranda and the creation of an actual case. Both sets of assignments will be reviewed by the instructor and returned to students who will be required to resubmit the work with revisions. Instructor conferences are structured to support the development of student written cases.

Revision of written materials is an integral part of the course. Students must revise what they submit based on the instructor comments as part of each written assignment. Additional incentives for revision are created by allowing students to revise their work multiple times and have it re-evaluated. The following statement is included in the syllabus: "...case memoranda may be revised and resubmitted as many times as the student wishes through the 10th week. Each assignment must be revised and resubmitted at least once."

CREDIT FOR THIS CLASS CANNOT BE EARNED WITHOUT SATSIFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE WRITING COMPONENT.

Role of Grad Students: -NOT APPLICABLE