Course Description
Public policy analysis involves the systematic examination of public policies and the potential effects of policies. One component of the course deals with understanding how policy is made - the process and values of policymaking. The other component of the course focuses on the microeconomic analysis of public policies. Most public policies involve economic concepts, and it is imperative for students to learn these skills to understand the potential effects of policies. We will cover supply and demand, market failures, government failures, and the policy mechanisms to overcome these failures. Finally, we will also discuss cost-benefit analysis and program evaluation along with basic statistics. The course is heavily analytical, as these are the skills public sector departments and consulting firms seek in employees.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Understand how public policy is made.
- Understand policy solutions as either problems for government or problems for markets.
- Understand microeconomic theories of public policy.
- Be able to critique current public policies using microeconomic theory.

Required Texts

Course Requirements
1. Quizzes (100 pts.): Five 20 point quizzes over the day’s readings and previous lectures/readings since the last quiz will take place over the 2-week semester. Quizzes may be multiple choice, short-answer, or problems. They are meant as an incentive to do the readings and come prepared for class, along with paying attention in class. Quizzes will be given during the last 20-30 minutes of class.
2. Participation (50 pts.): Given that class sessions are long over 10 days, participation is necessary. I can’t, and you wouldn’t want me to lecture for 4+ hours. The participation grade will be based upon coming to class on time and not leaving early, and providing quality discussion to the class.

3. Term Paper (100 pts.): You have two options for the term paper: a) you may write a research paper that tests a hypothesis. It should look like a policy white paper, and contain a literature review, research question, hypothesis, and appropriate statistical test of it using data; or b) you may conduct an economic analysis of a proposed or existing public policy. The expectations for both papers are roughly the same: 6-8 pages double-spaced with appropriate documentation and analysis. I would only opt for option A if you already have readily-accessible data and/or have been working on a similar paper throughout your time as an MPA student. Most students will benefit from option B. You may do the paper on your own, or in groups of 2 or 3, but no more than 3 per group. Choose your group-mates wisely as each of you in your group will receive the same grade on the paper.

4. Reaction Essays (50 pts.): Twice during the semester, on dates that we do not have an in-person meeting, I will post an essay to Blackboard on a current topic that pertains to readings from class. You should write a 1.5-3 page, double-spaced policy memo and turn it in through Blackboard. Please use appropriate citations when necessary.

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<th>Grade Components</th>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Term Paper</td>
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Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100% (270-300)
B = 80% - 89.99% (240-269)
C = 70% - 79.99% (210-239)
D = 60% - 69.99% (180-209)
F = <60% (<180)

Course Expectations & Policies

Courtey
Comments and language in class should be professional and courteous. Cell phones are annoying and distracting. Please put them away or have them on vibrate for emergencies. Please arrive on time and refrain from leaving class early. These actions are distracting to the instructor.
Late Work Policy & Make-Up Quizzes and Assignments

Since you have ample notice of the due dates of the assignments and their requirements, no extensions will be given for assignments, regardless of excuse. Materials turned in after the indicated due date and time will automatically receive a 20% deduction. Late work will receive an additional 20% deduction for each additional 24 hours that pass in which the assignment is not turned in. I make no guarantees that late work submitted to my office mailbox or assignments slid under my door are actually delivered to me. It is your responsibility to ensure that I receive your materials.

If you must miss a quiz, you will need to take a make up quiz within 24 hours or one business day of the quiz date/time. Only documented medical, family, and university issues are acceptable reasons for missing a quiz. You also should attempt to speak with me before the quiz day, an important factor in considering your request. Make-up quizzes will be administered at the convenience of the instructor and should be scheduled within a timely manner (within 24 hours or one business day).

Extra Credit
No extra credit will be offered in this course.

Incompletes
Incompletes will only be given in the most extreme and extenuating circumstances.

Student Privacy
Per regulations outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), I will not discuss your grades, class performance, or any issues dealing with your personal circumstances as they relate to this course with another party that cannot legally access your your collegiate records or legally obtain such information. I will not field phone calls from your parents concerning your performance or circumstances related to this course. Your performance may be discussed with other members of the faculty as it pertains to your progress in the program, consideration for awards/funding, and as it is relevant to other university and department-related considerations.

Student Disability Services
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the university regarding services for students with disabilities.

Academic Misconduct
Any student found guilty of academic misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

1. Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other forms of academic dishonesty.
2. Plagiarism is using another person’s work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one’s own. Any ideas, words, pictures, or other source must be acknowledged in a citation that gives credit to the source. This is true no matter where the material comes from, including the internet, other student’s work, unpublished materials, or oral sources. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct. It is the responsibility of the student submitting the work in question to know, understand, and comply with this policy. If no citation is given, then borrowing any of the following would be an example of plagiarism: a) An idea or opinion, even when put into one’s own words (paraphrase); b) A few well-said words, if these are a unique insight; c) Many words, even if one changes most of them; d) Materials assembled by others, for instance quotes or a bibliography; e) An argument; f) A pattern of idea; g) Graphs, pictures, or other illustrations; h) Facts; i) All or part of an existing paper or other resource.

3. Unauthorized possession of examinations, reserve library materials, laboratory materials, or other course-related materials.
4. Unauthorized changing of grades on an examination, in an instructor’s grade book, or on a grade report; or unauthorized access to academic computer records.
5. Nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records in, or for, academic departments or colleges.

The current Student Code of Conduct definition of plagiarism can be found at: http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386

Syllabus Change Policy
The contents of this course syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.
Course Schedule

May 18: Introduction & What is Policy Analysis - In Class Meeting
   - Wheelan, Ch. 1, pp. 3-31.

May 19: Evaluating Social Welfare - In Class Meeting
   - Wheelan, Ch. 2, pp. 32-66.
   - Wheelan, Ch. 5, pp. 139-174.
   - Quiz 1.

May 20: Data and Regression Review - No Class Meeting
   - Wheelan, Ch. 9, pp. 310-311; 313-319.
   - Wheelan, Ch. 10, pp. 328-338.
   - Wheelan, Ch. 11, pp. 364-396.
   - Essay 1 due by 11:59 PM.

May 21: How Policies are Made: Process & Institutions - In Class Meeting
   - Wheelan, Ch. 6, pp. 177-213.
   - Wheelan, Ch. 14, pp. 479-510.
   - Quiz 2.

May 22: Market Models - Supply & Demand - In Class Meeting
   - Wheelan, Ch. 3, pp. 69-85.
   - Wheelan, Ch. 7, pp. 214-234.
   - Quiz 3.

May 25: No Class - Memorial Day
   - Essay 2 Due by 11:59 PM.

May 26: Market Failures - In Class Meeting
   - Wheelan, Ch. 3, pp. 85-93.
   - Wheelan, Ch. 4, pp. 106-138.
   - Quiz 4.

May 27: Overcoming Market Failures - In Class Meeting
   - Wheelan, Ch. 3, pp. 92-95.
   - Wheelan, Ch. 8, pp. 250-287.
   - Quiz 5.
May 28: Cost Benefit Analysis and Program Evaluation - No Class Meeting
   -Wheelan, Ch. 12, pp. 405-443.
   -Wheelan, Ch. 13, pp. 444-475.

May 29: Summing Up - No Class Meeting
   -Wheelan, Ch. 15, pp. 511-547.

June 3: Final Papers Due by 11:59 PM

Important Dates

   -May 18: First Class.
   -May 18: Census Day.
   -May 21: Last day to select P/F option.
   -May 22: Last day to drop class.
   -May 29: Last day to withdraw from university.
   -June 3: Final Paper Due.
   -June 4: Grades Posted to Blackboard.