

PPL 890

POLICY ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

SPRING 2013

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Course Objective

This is the final, required course in the MPP Program. Students who are enrolled in the course must have completed (or be in the process of completing) all of the requirements for the MPP program. The aim of this course is to give you the opportunity to *apply* the knowledge and skills you have acquired in the Master's of Public Policy Program at Michigan State to a real-world policy issue, decision, or program.

Class Requirements and Grades

The main requirement of this course is a policy analysis project. In order to fulfill this requirement, you are expected to conduct a suitable amount of research on an appropriate topic, incorporate ideas presented from your MPP classes, conduct a sound analysis of the topic, prepare a written account of your work, and defend your analysis in an oral presentation. Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance (written and oral) on the policy analysis project.

Class Format

During most of the semester, we will meet (individually) to cover the requirements of the course and to discuss your ideas for the policy analysis project. In these meetings, we will cover important deadlines, the format for both the written and oral presentations of your project, and the role of the faculty committee that will oversee your projects. We will also discuss how you can broaden (or narrow) your topic, locate relevant data sources, select an appropriate methodological approach, and present your findings effectively and clearly.

We will also have several class meetings of all students who are working on their policy analysis projects this semester. These meetings will insure that everyone has the same information about, and understanding of the class requirements, and they will provide a forum for broader, collective input on your individual projects.

You are to choose a committee of three to oversee and review your project. I will serve on each committee, and a second member of the committee must be drawn from the MPP faculty. The third member may be a faculty member in another department or unit on campus or an outside professional with appropriate credentials who has special expertise or interest in your topic. You should identify possible committee members. However, I will approve the final composition of your committee. Prospective committee members must also agree to serve on your committee. You will present your project orally to your committee and to the rest of the class during the last couple of weeks of the Spring semester.

You must turn in a final written version of your policy analysis project to me on or before Friday, May 3, 2012.

Tentative Class Schedule and Deadlines

January 9	Class Meeting Overview of Projects, Requirements and Deadlines
January 14-31	Individual meetings on projects Tentative topics due
February 1-22	Individual meetings on projects Refinement of topics, clarification of specific research questions, approach, and data. Discussion of committee members
February 22	Submission of FIRM topics and specific research questions Tentative research design and methodology Identification of data sources Confirmation of committee members
February 25-March 1	Individual meetings on projects Outline of Project Due Firm research design and methodology; Tentative findings
March 13	Class meeting Short presentation of projects– topic, specific research question, analytic approach, and data sources.
March 18-March 29	Individual meetings on projects Scheduling of practice and final oral presentations
April 1-9	Individual meetings on projects
April 15	Complete drafts of written policy analysis projects due
April 15-26	Final oral presentations of policy analysis projects
May 3, 5:00 p.m.	Final written policy analysis projects due