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PSC 503.01: Public Policy Analysis

Jeffrey Greene

University of Montana, Missoula, jeffrey.greene@umontana.edu

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**PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS
PSC 503**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science**

Masters of Public Administration Program

LA 334 -- 4:10-6:30 (TUESDAYS)

TEXTS: *Understanding Public Policy*, 8th Edition, by Thomas Dye

The World of the Policy Analyst, by Heineman, Bluhm, Peterson, and Kearny (Referred to as HBPK in the reading assignments)

Program Planning and Evaluation for the Public Manager, by Sylvia, Meier, and Gunn (Referred to as SMG in the reading assignments)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Public policy is one of the most exciting areas in political science and public administration. This course examines the public policy process (i.e. formation, implementation, and evaluation). The course is divided into three parts. **Part 1** is an overview of basic concepts and background information necessary for understanding the public policy process. **Part 2** examines a broad range of public policies and integrate techniques of analysis. **Part 3** focuses on selected evaluation methods and terminology.

PSC 503 is designed to achieve two primary goals. The first is to acquaint students with the complexities of public policy. The second goal is to develop analytical and technical skills. The class will be conducted as a seminar/workshop thus, greater emphasis will be placed on discussions than traditional lectures.

GRADE WEIGHTS: Exam50% April 12 (Tentative)
Paper/Presentation40% Papers due May 3
Participation.....10%

INSTRUCTOR: Jeffrey D. Greene

OFFICE: LA 356 (UM) Telephone: 243-6181 (W) 721-2543 (H)

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

REQUIREMENTS: The exam will be given in class. Students are expected to take the exam during the scheduled time. The exam format will be explained during on the first day of class. The exam date shown on this syllabus is **TENTATIVE**.

Research papers should be approximately 20 pages in length. All topics must be approved. The papers will be presented during the final weeks of class. This project will involve examining a public policy. The details will be described on the first day of class.

ATTENDANCE: Students are encouraged to attend class. Poor attendance may affect one's final grade.

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

PART 1 BACKGROUND

Introduction No Readings

What is Public Policy? What is Policy Analysis?

- Week 2

HBPK, Chapter 1
Dye, Chapters 1,2,13

- Week 3

HBPK, Chapters 2-5
Dye, Chapter 14

PART 2 PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

Civil Rights

Dye, Chapters 3

Criminal Justice

Dye, Chapter 4
HBPK, Chapter 6

Health and Welfare

Dye, Chapters 5

Education

Dye, Chapter 6

The Environment

Dye, Chapters 7

SPRING BREAK March 13-17

Economic Policy

Dye, Chapter 9

Tax Policy

Dye, Chapter 10

PART 3 POLICY ANALYSIS: TECHNIQUES FOR EVALUATION

Policy Evaluation

- **Cost-Benefit Analysis**

SMG, Chapters 1,3

Evaluation Designs

SMG, Chapters 4-7

Exam April 12 (Tentative)

Research Presentations April 19 and April 26

All papers due May 3