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PSC 503.01: Public Policy Analysis

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PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS
PSC 503

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

Masters of Public Administration Program

LA 344 -- 4:10-6:30 (TUESDAY)

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)

Evaluating Public Policy, by Frank Fischer

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. This section uses parts of all three books. Part 2 focuses on selected evaluation methods and terminology (the Fischer text). Part 3 examines a broad range of public policies and integrate techniques of analysis (the Dye text).

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. Thus, greater emphasis will be placed on discussions than traditional lectures.

GRADE WEIGHTS: Exam40% April 23
Paper40% Papers due May 14
Participation.....20%

PROFESSOR: Jeff 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.

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 THE BASICS OF PUBLIC POLICY

1. Introduction No Readings

What is Public Policy? What is Policy Analysis?

2. HBPK, Chapter 1
Dye, Chapters 1,2,13
3. HBPK, Chapters 2-5
Dye, Chapter 14

PART 2 POLICY ANALYSIS: TECHNIQUES FOR EVALUATION

Policy Evaluation: Tools and Techniques

4. Fischer, Chapters 1,2
5. Fischer, Chapters 3,6,7

PART 3 PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

6. **Civil Rights**
Dye, Chapter 3
7. **Criminal Justice**
Dye, Chapter 4
HBPK, Chapter 6

SPRING BREAK April 8-12

8. Education

Dye, Chapter 6

9. Economic Policy & Tax Policy

Dye, Chapters 9,10
Fischer, Chapter 10

10. Exam April 23 (Tentative)

11. Research Presentations April 30 and May 7

All papers due May 14
