

Applied Policy Seminar (PUB POL 478 / 578)
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
University of Michigan

Winter Semester 2019
Professor Brian Jacob

Class Meeting Times/Locations

PubPol 478 / 578: M/W, 2:30-4pm, Betty Ford Classroom (Weill Hall 1120)

PubPol 488 / 778 (Project Skills Workshop): Fridays, 10-11:30am (Weill Hall 1120)

Overview

The Ford School of Public Policy's Applied Policy Seminar (APS) is a semester-long Master's level course. The course provides an opportunity for students to conduct a supervised consulting project for a real policy organization. Each year, topics for student projects are jointly developed by the course's faculty director and staff at the client organization. Projects range widely in policy area, methodology, size, and complexity. All projects culminate in the production of a final report and an oral presentation to the client. Student teams will also benefit from the guidance of project mentors - policy professionals assigned to each team to provide high-level insight and advice.

Students enrolled in the Applied Policy Seminar will choose on one of several pre-arranged projects on which to work during the semester. The instructor will provide details of the projects at the beginning of the semester.

Registration: Each student should register for a 3-credit course (478 or 578) and should plan to devote approximately 10 hours per week to the project, on average, over the course of the semester. Each student is also required to register for PP 488 or 778, a one-credit professional skills component. PP 488 and 778 meet from 10:00-11:30 on selected Fridays throughout the semester. PP 488/778 will cover topics such as project management, group dynamics/ collaboration, and research tools - skills that are essential to the APS and are among those most strongly recommended by students and alumni in the curriculum surveys.

Group Assignments: On the first day of class, the instructor will assign each student to one project for the entire semester. Students will be asked to rank their project preferences, and every attempt will be made to honor each student's wishes, subject to the requirements of the projects and the need to construct well-balanced project teams.

Methodology: Decisions about specific research questions, to be made jointly between the instructor, the students, and the client, will determine the scope of each project. Methodologies will depend on the specific questions studied. They may include literature reviews, archival research, legal analysis, case studies, email/ telephone/ face-to-face interviews, analysis of census data, budget modeling, or GIS analysis.

Timeframe: The project timeframe will coincide with the University of Michigan's Winter Semester, beginning Wed, January 9, 2019 and ending roughly Mon, April 22, 2019.

Products: Student teams will produce a written project plan, to be approved by the instructor and the client, and a team charter. By the end of the semester, each team will complete a report that documents their research methods, findings and recommendations. Length and complexity will be largely determined by the specific research questions asked. Preliminary reports may also be requested as appropriate. Students will also make at least one final oral presentation to their client representatives, and perhaps additional presentations to relevant parties and stakeholders.

FORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Members of the Ford School community represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. We are committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- share their unique experiences, values and beliefs
- be open to the views of others
- honor the uniqueness of their colleagues
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community
- value one another's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in Ford classes and across the UM community

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you believe you need an accommodation for a disability, please let your instructor know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of courses may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make your instructor aware of your needs, they can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to help determine appropriate academic accommodations. Any information you provide will be treated as private and confidential.

Student Mental Health and Well-Being Resources: The University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. We acknowledge that a variety of issues, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, and depression, directly impacts students' academic performance. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) and/or [University Health Service](#) (UHS). For a listing of other mental health resources available on and off campus, visit: <http://umich.edu/~mhealth/>

Please review additional information and policies regarding academic expectations and resources at the Ford School of Public Policy at this link:

<http://fordschool.umich.edu/academics/expectations>