

Syllabus, Version 1.0
01/07/2015

PUBPOL686: State and Local Policy Analysis
Monday, Wednesday 1:00-2:30 pm, 1230 Weill Hall
Professor Elisabeth Gerber

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to provide students with: analytical tools to evaluate policy; background on state, local and regional policy processes and outcomes; and detailed information about selected state and local public policies. The course will combine reading, classroom discussions, independent research, and role-playing simulations. Students will write a take-home midterm exam, one short discussion paper, and an independent research paper.

Syllabus: This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Changes in reading assignments and discussion topics may be announced in class. Students are responsible for all materials on this syllabus unless instructed otherwise by the professor, plus any additional materials assigned in class.

Readings: Readings will be available on the course CTools site. Full citations are provided in the bibliography section of this syllabus. As you will notice, we are covering a lot of material, and I will only have time to touch on key points in class. **Please do all assigned readings before class.** Come prepared to discuss them and provide examples that illustrate points raised in the readings. You will be responsible for all assigned materials, whether or not they are discussed in class.

Assignments: Grades will be based on a take-home midterm exam (25%), a short paper that discusses one or more of the assigned readings (15%), a 10-page paper based on a stakeholder analysis of a public policy issue (40%), and class participation (20%).

Midterm: Students will write one or more essays applying course materials to hypothetical policy-making problems. Exams will be graded on organization, content, and understanding of the course materials.

Discussion paper: Students will be assigned one or more class readings and will be asked to summarize and critically evaluate the reading.

Research paper: Each student will be assigned a specific public policy and will conduct an analysis of that policy's local, state and federal stakeholders. Papers will be based on independent research and should evaluate the policy from the perspectives of these diverse stakeholders, drawing on the course materials. Papers should be 10-15 pages in length. Papers must be submitted via CTools by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, 2013.

Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend class, complete all assigned readings before class, and participate actively and intelligently in all class discussions. All students will also participate in three in-class role-playing simulations. If you know you are going to have to miss a class, please let me know beforehand.

Office Hours: Weekly office hours will be held Tuesdays from 10:00 am - 11:30 pm in 5228 Weill Hall or by appointment. The best way to contact me is via email at ergerber@umich.edu.

Outline of topics

Date	Topic	Assignment
1/07	Introduction: why study state and local policy	No assignment
1/12	Criteria for evaluating policy: equity	Stone, 39-60
1/14	Criteria for evaluating policy: efficiency	Stone, 61-85
1/19	No class – MLK Day	
1/21	No class	
1/26	Criteria for evaluating policy: security	Stone, 86-107
1/28	Criteria for evaluating policy: liberty	Stone, 108-130
2/2	Federalism and intergovernmental relations	O'Toole, 55-64 (Grodzins); O'Toole, 74-88 (Wright); GAO, 1-36
2/4	What the federal government does and why	OMB 1-64
2/9	State political institutions: what makes states unique; what do states do and why	Saffell & Basehart, 121-129, 142-149, 166-190; SOM, Exec Budget FY13-14, A1-13
2/11	Local political institutions: what makes cities unique	CRC, 1-42; Saffell & Basehart, 154-160, 190-201; Tiebout, 416-424; Peterson, 3-38
2/16	What do local governments do and why	AA, Adopted Budget FY13, 71-83
2/18	Regionalism	Foster, 1-42; Brookings, 13-34
2/23	Review session	No assignment
2/25	Midterm exam	No assignment
3/2	Spring break	No assignment
3/4	Spring break	No Assignment
3/9	State policy:	
3/11	State policy simulation – preliminaries	
3/16	State policy simulation – role playing	
3/18	State policy simulation – debrief	
3/23	Regional policy:	
3/25	Regional policy simulation – preliminaries	
3/30	Regional policy simulation – role playing	
4/1	Regional policy simulation – debrief	
4/6	Local policy:	
4/8	Local policy simulation – preliminaries	
4/13	Local policy simulation – role playing	
4/15	Local policy simulation – debrief	
4/20	Summary and wrap-up	
4/26	Final papers due 5:00 pm via CTools	

Bibliography

Stone, Deborah. 2002. *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*, revised edition. New York: Norton, pp. 30-130.

O'Toole, Laurence J., Jr., ed. 2000. *American Intergovernmental Relations*, 3rd edition. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, pp. 55-64, 74-88.

Government Accountability Office. 2010. "State and Local Governments: Fiscal Pressures Could Have Implications for Future Delivery of Intergovernmental Programs." GAO-10-899.

Office of Management and Budget. 2013. *Fiscal Year 2013 Budget of the U.S. Government*.

Saffell, David C., and Harry Basehart. 1998. *State and Local Government*, 6th edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill, pp. 121-129, 142-149, 154-160, 166-201.

Stinebrickner, Bruce, ed. 2003. *Annual Editions: State and Local Government*, 11th edition. Guilford, CT.: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, pp. 84-107, 198-217.

State of Michigan. *Executive Budget*. FY2013-2014.

Citizen's Research Council of Michigan. 1999. "A Bird's Eye View of Michigan Local Government at the End of the Twentieth Century." Report No. 326, pp. 1-42.

Tiebout, Charles M. 1956. "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures." *Journal of Political Economy* 64(5): 416-424.

Peterson, Paul E. 1981. *City Limits*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 3-38.

City of Ann Arbor, MI. *Adopted FY 2013 Budget*.

Foster, Kathryn A. 2001. "Regionalism on Purpose." Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Policy Report, pp. 1-42.

Brookings Institution. 2010. "State of Metropolitan America: On the Front Lines of Demographic Change."