

Public Policy 201: Systematic Thinking About Problems of the Day
Fall 2019
MW 11:30-12:50
1120 Weill Hall

<i>Professors:</i>	<i>Contact:</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>
Richard L. Hall	rlhall@umich.edu	4130 Weill	M 3:00-4:00; W 3:00-5:00
Paula Lantz	plantz@umich.edu	4125 Weill	Th 10:00-1:00
Kevin Stange	kstange@umich.edu	5130 Weill	W/Th 4:00-5:00
<i>GSIs:</i>			
Shoshana Shapiro	shoshap@umich.edu	3211 Weill	M 1:00-3:00
Eli Reilly	reillye@umich.edu	3202 Weill	M 10:00-11:00; W 1:00-2:00

Public policy is an imperfect means to improve the world in which we live. The premise of policy research is that we can't improve what we don't understand. How does the part of the world we care about work? What aspects of it can we and should we change? And what is the best way to do that? The premise of this course is that answering those questions is hard. It requires systematic thinking – the application of social science theory, evidence, and methods – focused on concrete policy problems.

This course will include 4-week modules on three different policy topics, each taught by a Ford School professor from a different discipline. *Professor Paula Lantz*, a sociologist, will teach the first module on public health policy, with particular attention to anti-smoking and immunization policies. In the second module, *Professor Kevin Stange*, an economist, will focus on current issues in higher education policy, including student debt and proposals for free college. In the third module, *Professor Rick Hall*, a political scientist, will examine the role of money in elections: the First Amendment issues it raises, the problems it causes, existing policies to mitigate those problems, and proposals for campaign finance reform.

The course will sometimes examine current events to amplify and illustrate its major themes, and it stresses the value of constructive disagreement as a tool to improve the quality of both understanding and policy. Attendance and participation are thus important to your success in the course.

In addition to three hours of lecture each week (which will often be more interactive than the word "lecture" might suggest) there will be a one-hour section taught by one of the GSIs, Shoshanna Shapiro or Eli Riley. Students must register both for the main lecture and for one discussion section.

Course Materials

Materials and information pertinent to each module will be posted on the Canvas site well in advance of their required use, but not all such material will be available at the beginning of the course. *Students should check the Canvas site frequently.*

iClickers: We will be using iclickers quite frequently, so please remember to bring

them to class. Your iClicker must be registered on the Canvas course site.

Assignments

Quizzes (50%): The modules will run for seven lecture classes. A quiz will be given at the beginning of the first lecture after a module is completed. (See schedule below.) The GSIs will participate with the professors in determining the coverage of the quizzes and final exam, which will contain material from the sections as well as readings and lectures.

Op-Ed (15%): Each student will be assigned a brief paper – in the form of an Op-Ed piece of about 800 words -- on one and only one of the topics. The topics will be assigned to students randomly and announced the second week of class. The first meeting of your section, Friday, September 6, will focus on how to write an op-ed.

Attendance & Participation (15%): This portion of the grade will depend primarily but not exclusively on your participation in section. If you are not attending lecture and responding to iclicker prompts, that would be a problem.

Final Exam (20%): The final exam will be given on December 19, 4:00-6:00 p.m. per the time schedule. *Students must take the final exam at the assigned time.*

Policy on Classroom Recording and Use of Laptops

All audio and video recording in the classroom is prohibited in lecture and section unless the instructor for the module waives this restriction. If you need an exception because of a relevant disability, please contact Professor Hall. *By taking this class you are agreeing to abide by this policy.*

Each instructor will set his or her own policy regarding the use of laptops during class, but no one should be on their phones during any of the classes.

Ford School 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 need an accommodation for any other disability, please let Professor Hall know. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make Professor Hall aware of your needs, you and he can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations.

If you need an accommodation for special religious obligations or observances or for absences when representing the University or the military, please let me know as soon as possible, and I will try to accommodate you.

Student Mental Health and Well-Being Resources

The University of Michigan is committed to advancing the mental health and wellbeing of its students. 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)** at (734) 764-8312 and <https://caps.umich.edu/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or through its counselors physically located in schools on both North and Central Campus. You may also consult **University Health Service (UHS)** at (734) 764-8320 and <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/mentalhealthsvcs>, or for alcohol or drug concerns, see www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for knowing the university standards for academic integrity, including but not limited to the prohibition of and penalties for plagiarism. Plagiarism is representing someone else's ideas, words, statements, or other work as one's own without proper acknowledgment or citation. Examples of plagiarism include:

- Copying word for word or lifting phrases or a special term from a source or reference, whether oral, printed, or on the internet, without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing, that is, using another person's written words or ideas, albeit in one's own words, as if they were one's own thought.
- Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, or other illustrative material without proper reference, unless the information is common knowledge or in common public use.

The penalties for plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity will be harsh.

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>

Overview of Course Schedule

Sept. 4:	Introduction
Sept. 9-11:	Systematic Thinking and Evidence-Driven Policy (Hall)
Sept. 16-Oct. 7:	Module 1: Public Health Policy (Lantz)
Oct. 9:	Quiz on Module 1 (Beginning of class)
Oct. 10:	Module 1 op-ed due: 5:00 p.m.
Oct. 16-Nov. 6:	Module 2: Higher Education Policy (Stange)
Nov. 11:	Quiz on Module 2 (Beginning of class)
Nov. 12:	Module 2 op-ed due: 5:00 p.m.
Nov 13-Dec. 4:	Module 3: Campaign Finance Reform (Hall)
Dec. 9:	Quiz on Module 3 (Beginning of class)
Dec. 10:	Module 3 op-ed due: 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 11:	Conclusion (Hall)
Dec. 19:	Final Exam: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
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