

## **The School of Public Policy at UMBC - Special Topics Courses for Fall 2018**

### **PUBL 610 -01 Social Context of Education**

Instructor: Dr. Pamela Bennett, Assoc. Professor, School of Public Policy

Tuesdays, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Schools, both those at the K-12 and higher education level, purport to be sources of social mobility yet are also criticized for reproducing inequality. This course explores schooling within a broader social context, examining the intersection of schools as organizations with issues of race, gender, class, and social stratification. Topics include racial and income-based achievement gaps, the impact of housing policy on education, diversity efforts and representative bureaucracies, and the debate over educational meritocracy.

### **PUBL 610-02 Issues in Higher Education Policy**

Instructor: Dr. Pamela Bennett, Assoc. Professor, School of Public Policy

Thursdays, 7:10-9:40 p.m.

This course examines higher education in the United States. Students will become familiar with the structure and institutional diversity of the higher education sector, as well as the public debates and policies that shape it. Topics to be explored are community and for-profit colleges, historically black colleges and universities, universal access to a college education, federal and state financing of higher education and college affordability, affirmative action, and crime on college campuses, and others.

### **PUBL 610-03 Cost Benefit Cost Effectiveness Analysis in Health**

(online listing = Cost/Benefit/Health Policies)

Instructor: Dr. David Salkever, Professor, School of Public Policy

Mondays, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Prerequisite: ECON 600 or any equivalent basic microeconomics course.

This course will cover the following topics: (1) Basic economic concepts that are the foundation of benefit cost analysis (willingness to pay, consumer surplus, potential and actual Pareto improvements, compensation, discounting). (2) Applying these concepts to benefit-cost analysis of health programs (via examples from the literature and homework exercises). (3) Valuing risk reductions (i.e., "statistical" lives). (4) Using health status indexes and scales (e.g., QALY's) in benefit-cost evaluations of health programs. (5) Using cost-effectiveness methods to evaluate health programs. (6) Reviewing cost-effectiveness examples from the literature. The course provides students with background to be an informed "consumer" (i.e., reader and user) of CBA and CEA evaluations of health programs. It also provides basic preparation for students to conduct their own CBA or CEA studies. The course content has only minimal overlap with related courses (ECON 605 and ECON 652).

### **PUBL 610- 04 Ethics and Public Policy**

Instructor: Dr. Susan Sterett, Director and Professor, School of Public Policy

This course will address ethical questions concerning public policy decision making. It will address both the ethics of research practice, and questions about ethics as a social good, a framework drawn from a recognition that teaching about bad practices only does not contribute to developing good practices. The course will include questions about privacy and equality as public policy increasingly makes data publicly available, and as public policy is asked to govern use of data in private businesses. It will also address questions of assessing model validity as ethical questions, as public policy relies on model building, and the new scholarship on algorithms and algorithmic bias on model building, and the new scholarship on algorithms and algorithmic bias.