

PUBLIC POLICY COURSE SCHEDULE FALL 2021

COURSE FORMATS

UMBC is transitioning back to in-person instruction. Courses are listed below by planned format. If a course is not listed, contact the instructor.

In-person courses: PUBL 600, PUBL 601, PUBL 602, PUBL 610 - Lincove, PUBL 611, PUBL 698, HIST 701, HIST 712

Virtual courses with live instruction: PUBL 613, PUBL 627

Courses with some in-person & some virtual instruction: PUBL 604, ECON 605, PUBL 610 - Bennett, PUBL 610 - Short, PUBL 644, PUBL 652

Virtual courses with asynchronous instruction: PUBL 610 - Tormos-Aponte

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PUBLIC POLICY CORE COURSES

PUBL 600: Research Methodology

Monday 7:10-9:40 pm

Zoë McLaren

Research provides the foundation for informed public policy making. This class is designed to provide you with an introduction to research methodology, from the basics of research design to advanced methods for causal inference. This course provides a foundation for further study of research methodology. It prepares students for future courses including PUBL 604, 607, 608, and 611. By design, many topics will be covered at a foundational level; however, by the end of the course you will be prepared to evaluate the quality of existing research and propose studies of your own to address questions of interest. This course is designed to allow you to both understand and perform important research techniques. For instance, we will not only study sampling and understand the value of different types of sampling, but we will also learn how to implement sampling techniques through statistical software.

PUBL 601: The Political and Social Context of the Policy Process

Wednesday 4:30-7:00 pm

Roy Meyers

This course is designed to introduce students to the processes by which policy is made in the United States. It introduces students to the policy-making system, including the institutional,

structural and political contexts, as well as the policy-making environment. The various stages of the policy-making process from problem definition and agenda-setting to implementation are examined and discussed, and important theories and models of policy-making are presented. Significant concepts relating to the political analysis of public policy are discussed, such as the social construction of problems, group demands, political influence and resources, motivations and incentives for political behavior, and political feasibility.

PUBL 602: Microeconomics for Public Policy (formerly ECON 600)

Tuesday 4:30-7:00 pm

Zoë McLaren

This course will provide an analytic framework for policy analysis and public management with a focus on understanding economic markets, mitigating market failures, and avoiding government failures through effective public policies. Through problem sets, cases, and projects, students will: apply economic models to policy problems; use economic definitions of efficiency and equity as criteria for policy evaluation; identify sources of market failure, economic justifications for policy intervention, and appropriate remedies; and identify government failures and appropriate remedies.

PUBL 603: Theory and Practice of Policymaking

Tuesday 7:10-9:40 pm

TBD

This course focuses on the basic principles and techniques of policy analysis. Most of the course attends to activities involved in policy analysis. In addition, the relationship between policy analysis and policy making, along with emerging professional and ethical issues, will be addressed.

PUBL 604: Statistical Analysis

Wednesday 7:10-9:40 pm

Yusuke Kuwayama

This course provides an introduction to statistical analysis in the social sciences, ranging from simple descriptive statistics to multiple regression analysis, with a focus on use in applied policy research. Students will learn to frame quantitative research questions, organize and analyze data, apply statistical analysis to policy questions, and coherently report and display results.

PUBL 610-01: Race, Segregation, and Social Inequality

Thursday 4:30-7:00 pm

Pamela R. Bennett

This course provides an in-depth study of racial and ethnic residential segregation and its role in the production and perpetuation of social inequality. Through various theoretical perspectives, students will explore the history of segregation in the United States, as well as its patterns, causes and consequences. In doing so, students will gain insight into racial and ethnic inequality across several social, economic, and demographic domains, and come to understand why segregation is

described as the “structural linchpin of racial stratification.”

PUBL 613: Managing Public Organizations

Monday 4:30-7 pm

Mir Usman Ali

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the world of public management. More specifically, it focuses on who public managers are, what they do, the environments within which they operate, the tasks they perform and the roles they play in their organizations. In addition to the assigned textbook and readings, the course is case-based. That is, principles elucidated in readings are expanded from the 'real world' of public management.

ADVANCED METHODS COURSES

ECON 605: Benefit-Cost Evaluation

Wednesday 4:30-7 pm

Yusuke Kuwayama

The purpose of benefit-cost analysis (BCA) is to determine the net benefits of potential projects by cataloging the impacts of the projects, quantifying those impacts, and converting them into monetary terms. This course will focus on the use and application of BCA, including the economic rationale for BCA, basic principles for assessing the economic effects of projects, techniques for valuing health and environmental impacts, intergenerational and philosophical concerns as they relate to BCA, social discounting, risk, and uncertainty.

PUBL 610-07: Mixed Methods Research

Online Asynchronous

Fernando Tormos-Aponte

This course seeks to prepare students to develop and critique research designs that combine multiple research methods. Students will learn how to develop research designs that researchers employ to identify and assess causal mechanisms, forward causal arguments, and develop interpretations of social and political phenomena, including case studies, process-tracing, ethnographies, and interpretive work. The course covers the strengths and weaknesses of these methods, their epistemological foundations, and the ways in which social scientists combine them. The course prepares students and provides opportunities to use multiple data collection and analysis techniques, including grounded theory, inductive and deductive coding, and participant-observation. Further, students will become familiarized with research ethics norms and issues.

ECON 611: Advanced Econometrics I

Tuesday & Thursday 5:30-6:45 pm

Tim Gindling

This course teaches basic econometric analysis and shows how it can be applied to examine policy issues. The course will provide the student with the skills needed to work with large data

sets, to apply econometric techniques such as Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), Two-Stage Least Squares (2SLS), maximum likelihood estimation and the analysis of panel data. Students will be assigned problem sets that use data provided by the instructor and will learn how to use econometric packages such as SAS, STATA and SPSS. Prerequisite: STAT 351 or STAT 355, ECON 421 and ECON 490 or equivalents

PUBL 611: Causal Inference

Thursday 7:10-9:40 pm

Jane Arnold Lincove

A central goal of evaluation and policy research is estimating the causal effect of an intervention, program, or policy change on behaviors and outcomes. This course provides instruction and practice in research designs and analytic strategies that are commonly employed to address causal questions in evaluation and policy research such as propensity score matching, instrumental variable, regression discontinuity, difference-in-differences, and others. We consider the underlying logic of each method, how and when to apply them to a policy research question, model assumptions and how they can be tested, and data requirements and limitations. Students will learn from illustrative examples and hands-on experience using data and Stata statistical software. Completion of PUBL 600 (Research Methods) and PUBL 604 (Statistical Analysis) or similar coursework is required.

History 701-01: The Study of History

Wed. 6:00pm-8:30pm

Daniel Ritchel

What is history? How do historians research, analyze, and write about the past and how have they done so in previous generations? What are the different genres in which they have worked? How shall we assess these? Is there such a thing as objectivity or neutrality in writing history? What is the significance of chronology? How do new technologies inform our work? This semester, we will examine these and other questions. Furthermore, to be effective historians, we need to be both artisans and artists. In this course, we make a start with each. My aim in this course is three fold: for you to gain an understanding of how professional history writing has evolved (historiography); to study some innovative or new approaches to historical research; and for you to begin working with primary sources.

FIELD COURSES AND ELECTIVES

PUBL 610-04: Advanced Policy Analysis for Health, Education, and Social Welfare

Mondays 4:30-7:00 pm

Jane Arnold Lincove

Governments play a central role in social welfare as a regulator, provider, and funder of health care, education, and a social safety net. This course focuses on applying policy analytic frameworks to questions of the role of government in social policy and the efficiency, equity, and justice of different policy strategies. Students will learn economic, sociological, ethical, and political frameworks for policy analysis and apply an integrated framework to current debates in

health, education, and welfare. The course is appropriate for masters and doctoral students with an interest in health, education, urban, social policy, and economic policy and doctoral students planning dissertation work in these fields. Assignments include problem sets, policy memos, and an in-class simulation project where we will design a policy intervention. Students should have a basic understanding of the economic concepts of public goods and market failure. Completion of ECON 600, ECON 601, or a similar course is recommended.

PUBL 610-05: Demographic Issues and Public Policy
Tuesday 4:30-6:40 pm
John Rennie Short

This course looks at how demographic trends influence and shape public debates and policies. It examines policies across the demographic transition, from rapidly growing to maturing and ageing societies. Specific issues covered include youth unemployment, harvesting the demographic dividend and coping with a greying society. This is a cross-cultural course that looks at countries across the globe.

PUBL 610-08: Social Movements
Online Asynchronous
Fernando Tormos-Aponte

Social movements are shaping politics across the globe, pressuring politicians, governments, and corporations to change their policies and practices through a wide range of strategies including protest, shaming tactics, civil disobedience, and even violence. This course focuses on the politics of social movements. Students will learn about how social movements emerge, evolve, survive, influence, and are shaped by politics. The objectives of this course are: 1) to acquaint students with social movement theories, research methods, and practices; 2) to develop students' critical thinking and analysis skills; 3) to train students to conduct social movement research. After completing this course, students will be able to discuss literature on social movements and apply research methods to the study of social movements. Students are not expected to have prior knowledge of social movements to take this course.

PUBL 627: Policy Networks and Intergovernmental Problems
Thursday 4:30-7:00
Lauren Hamilton Edwards and Mir Usman Ali

Complex public policy programs draw in the involvement of a wide range of governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Governmental agencies increasingly rely on cooperative or contract relationships with private and non-profit organizations to deliver services to the public. Public agencies now frequently coordinate their efforts to address multiple dimensions of a public problem at the same time. Students of public policy must be aware of how public problem solving occurs in a multi-organizational context. This class prepares students to work in or conduct research on public management networks, contract relationships, and collaborative efforts. Topics covered include the foundations for multi-organizational collaboration, design and evaluation of public management networks, and privatization and the management of contract relationships.

PUBL 644: Urban Theory**Tuesday 7:10-9:40 pm****John Rennie Short**

The course will provide a broad understanding of the basic themes and obsessions in contemporary urban theory. The aim is to introduce you to the current range of urban theorizations. Students will undertake written assignments that will familiarize them with selected themes, theorists and cities. The course is based around lectures as well as seminar presentations by class members on topics selected by them in consultation with the instructor.

PUBL 652: Politics of Health**Wednesday 4:30-7:00 pm****Nancy A. Miller**

The U.S. spent \$3.8 trillion on health care in 2019, 17.7% of the U.S. gross domestic product. Health care as a policy issue touches everyone and is a top-ranked concern in national polls. It has continuing visibility given court decisions related to the constitutionality of the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA). Efforts to strengthen the ACA is a focus of President Biden, following efforts in the Trump administration to repeal the ACA. This course is designed to help students understand how and why health policies like the ACA reflect the political system in which they are enacted and implemented.

Students will learn the following: 1) Important concepts, theories and literature concerning the impact of politics on health policy; 2) How to apply political dimensions to specific health policy legislation related to issues such as access to insurance and health services, quality of care, and cost containment; 3) The values underlying alternative health policies and how to assess the comparative advantages and disadvantages of policy alternatives based on these values; and 4) how the perceived roles of public and private actors, as well as the market and government in general, affect health policies.

PUBL 698: Policy Analysis Capstone**Monday 7:10-9:40 pm****Pamela R. Bennett**

In this course, students will integrate theories, techniques and skills learned in public policy core and disciplinary foundations courses and apply these to an individual capstone paper that fits with their specialization. Students are required to enroll in PUBL 699 for 1 credit with their advisor, who will provide feedback on capstone paper.

PUBL 700: Doctoral Dissertation Work**Wednesday 7:10-9:40 pm****Susan M. Sterett**

Want to make more progress on your dissertation, and you're not always sure how? Do you read through your paragraphs and don't understand why an advisor can't see the connections you see?

In this course we will work together to move toward completing. Students who are working on a proposal or who have defended a proposal and are working on their dissertation are all welcome. Students will bring drafts of chapters (very rough, incomplete drafts welcome). Students from all specializations welcome. Each week, we will work on refining theoretical arguments, clearly stating data and methods, and improving how paragraphs and sentences track. We'll rely on proven practices to clarify your arguments, improve the structure of your writing, and ensure that sentences go where we mean them to. We will work on exercises to understand how journal articles in journals of interest are structured, to allow students to develop structure in their own work. We will primarily work with two books: Wendy Belcher, *How to Write your Journal Article in 12 Weeks*, and Joseph Williams and Joseph Bizup, *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*. Other readings available on Blackboard.

HIST 712-01: Adam Smith Meets Uncle Sam: U.S. Business and Economic Policy History
Thursday 6:30-8:00 pm
Christy Chapin

Adam Smith (*Wealth of Nations*, 1776) argued that when people participated in markets and acted freely in their own “self-interest” (often but not always to make money), an “invisible hand” guided them to promote the collective welfare. Yet governments have traditionally intervened in economic dealings in order to support societal welfare. In this class we will review how divergent beliefs have historically clashed, mingled, and mixed to create U.S. business and economic policy. Why does the American economy look like it does today? Is the American market the product of “natural” market forces (Smith’s “invisible hand”)? How has the interplay of political, market, and societal forces shaped the American system? Topics covered vary each semester but can include the rise of the American corporation, finance and banking, health care, the Great Depression and New Deal policy, business regulation, Keynesian policy, environmental regulation, monetary policy, and more.