Week One (March 30)

Introductions, overview of course, expectations.
What is policy, policy analysis, policy evaluation, policy research?

Readings:
W & V. Chap. 2, 3 (chap. 1 is optional).

Week Two (April 6)
The mainstream policy analysis model – economics of market failures.

Weimer & Vining provides a well-recognized conceptual framework for the basic “modified rationalist” approach to contemporary policy analysis. Though the material may be familiar to some of you, it bears a careful re-reading. The journal articles provide examples of published empirical research within this framework and material for class discussion. The same applies to weeks 3-5.

W & V., chap. 4, 5, and 6.
(Relate to Senior Project)


**Week Three (April 13)**

Distributional and other goals. Government failures.

**Readings:**


**Weeks Four and Five (April 20 and 27)**

Generic policies for correcting market and government failures
Policy tools for achieving policy objectives

**Readings:**

W & V., chap 10 and 13


From the listing below, each student chooses one tool chapter from Salamon (2002) and a "matching" article (or 2 if desired) that illustrates empirical work on that tool. The student will lead a discussion of the chapter and article(s).

Chapters and articles to read will depend on student choices.

- chap. 5, Social regulation, by Peter May
- chap. 7, Public information, by Janet Weiss
- chap. 8, Corrective taxes and tradable permits, by Joseph Cordes
- chap. 10, Purchase of service contracting, by R. DeHoog & L. Salamon
- chap. 13, Tax expenditures, by Christopher Howard
- chap. 14, Vouchers, by Eugene Steuerle & Eric Twombly


**Week Six (May 4)**
Alternative theories of and approaches to policy analysis

**Readings:**

- Deborah Stone (2002). Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decisionmaking, Revised Edition. NY: W.W. Norton. (On reserve). This is a long book but engaging and readable. I suggest that everyone read the preface, introduction, chapter 1, short conclusion, and the short introductions to each of the book’s sections (about 50 pp. total). Then read one “Goals” chapter, one “Problems” chapter, and one or two chapters from “Solutions” (her take on policy instruments).

**Week Seven (May 11)**
Policy impact evaluation methods

**Guest: Visiting Professor Maureen Pirog**, Editor of JPAM

**Readings:**

- M. Pirog and L. Xu, “Directions in Public Program Evaluation in the US”

**Supplementary:**


**Two advanced surveys** (not on reserve):


**Week Eight (May 18)**

Policy impact evaluation: Methods and applications

**Readings:**

From the listing below, each student will choose one article (or 2 if desired) that applies one major method used in policy and program evaluation research and lead a discussion of it (them). We will coordinate the choices so that each of you discusses a different method.


Week Nine (May 25)
Policy adoption & implementation from the modified rationalist perspective; cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis.

Guest: Professor Bill Zumeta

Readings (Tentative):
W & V. chap 12, 16.


Week Ten (June 1)
Uses and impacts of policy research and evaluation in the policy making process
Student presentations of papers

Other material to be assigned