



# **PA 311: Policy Analysis & Program Evaluation**

**Fall 2017**

Room: Old Mill 523

Tuesdays, 04:35 – 07:35 pm



A course website is created on Blackboard, which can be accessed at <https://bb.uvm.edu>. All power point presentations, additional readings, and assignments will be available at the Blackboard website.

<b>TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS</b>
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Required:

Newcomer, Kathryn E.; Harry P. Hatry; and Joseph S. Wholey (2015) *Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation (Jossey Bass Nonprofit & Public Management Series)*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Jossey-Bass. ISBN: -1-11 - 0-

Patton, Carl; David Sawicki; and Jennifer Clark (2016) *Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Routledge. ISBN: 978-0137495092

Additional readings, shown in the *italics* in the Calendar, will be uploaded on the Blackboard website for this class.

**CALENDAR**

Date	Topics and Readings
August 29	<p><b>Topic: An Overview of Systematic Approaches to Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis</b>  <b>Background Readings:</b>                      Newcomer et al., Chapters 1-2                      Patton et al. Chapter 1</p>
September 5	<p><b>Topic I: Logic Models</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 3; Patton et al. Chapter 9</p> <p><b>Topic II: Using Agency Records</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 13</p>
September 12	<p><b>Topic I: Implementation Evaluation and Program Monitoring</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapters 4 and 5</p> <p><b>Topic II: Using Surveys</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 14</p>
September 19	<p><b>Topic I: Quasi-experiments</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapters 6</p> <p><b>Topic II: Using the Internet</b></p>

	<b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapters 18 and 23
September 26	<b>Topic I: Randomized Experiments</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapters 6  <b>Topic II: Collecting Data in the Field</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 17
October 3	<b>Topic I: Conducting Case Studies</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 8  <b>Topic II: Conducting Semi-Structured Interviews</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapters 19 and 22
October 10	<b>Topic I: Designing Multisite Evaluations</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 10  <b>Topic II: Conducting Focus Groups</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 20
October 17	<b>Topic I: Meta-analysis, Systematic Reviews and Evaluation Syntheses</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 25  <b>Topic II: Evaluation Challenges, Issues and Trends</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 31
October 24	<b>Topic I : Cost-Effectiveness and Cost-Benefit Analysis</b> <b>Readings:</b> Newcomer et al., Chapter 24
October 31	<b>Topic I: The Policy Analysis Process</b> <b>Readings:</b> Patton et al. Chapters 2 and 3
November 7	<b>Topic I: The Analysis of Problem Formulation</b> <b>Readings:</b> Patton et al. Chapter 4
November 14	<b>Topic I: Evaluation Criteria &amp; Policy Alternatives</b> <b>Readings:</b> Patton et al. Chapters 5 & 6
November 21	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</i>
November 28	<b>Topic I: Evaluating Alternative Policies</b> <b>Readings:</b> Patton et al. Chapters 7 and 8
December 5	<b>Topic: Revisiting the Big Picture of Policy Analytical and Program Evaluation Methods</b>  <i>Student Presentations</i>

<b>ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING</b>
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conducting public policy analysis and evaluation and applying specific methodologies on real-world public policy issues and programs. There will be ten worksheets that will be extensively discussed in the class and uploaded on the blackboard website throughout the semester. These worksheets will provide students an opportunity to apply and assess the pros and cons of prominent policy analytical and program evaluation methodologies that are covered in the course. Second, students will work on an individual project, in which they will comprehensively apply *at least* two methodologies covered in this course to analyze a real world public policy or evaluate a government program in the substantive area of their policy interest. The individual project assignment will lead to the development of at least one publishable quality policy research paper. More detailed instructions about worksheets and individual project will be

Disability/Access

The student should contact the instructor as soon as possible, and no later than the tenth day of instruction of the semester following the assignment of the grade in question. No grade can be appealed after the student has graduated.

### Educational Records and Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records.

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Students may write the University official responsible for the record to ask that it be amended, and should clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of their privacy rights under FERPA

### **RELEVANT PUBLIC POLICY JOURNALS**

1. Advances in Economic Analysis & Policy
2. Agenda: A Journal of Policy Analysis & Reform
3. American Economic Journal: Economic Policy
4. American Foreign Policy Interests: The Journal of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy
5. The American Journal of Tax Policy
6. American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy, and the Law
7. Analyses of social issues and public policy
8. Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy
9. Applied Health Economics and Health Policy
10. Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy
11. Asian American Policy Review
12. Asian Politics and Policy
- 13.





73. Journal of Disability Policy Studies
74. Journal of Economic Policy Reform
75. Journal of Education Policy
76. Journal of Educational Administration and Policy Studies
77. Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management
78. Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning
79. Journal of European public policy
80. Journal of European Social Policy
81. Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law
82. Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management
83. Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy
84. Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research
- 85. Journal of Policy Analysis & Management**
86. Journal of Policy History
- 87.**

- 119. Population research and policy review
- 120. Public policy and administration**
- 121. Public policy research**
- 122. Public Works Management & Policy
- 123. Regional Science Policy & Practice
- 124. Research policy
- 125. Review of environmental economics and policy
- 126. Review of Policy Research**
- 127. Science and Public Policy
- 128. Sexuality Research and Social Policy
- 129. Social Issues and Policy Review
- 130. Social Philosophy and Policy
- 131. Social Policy
- 132. Social Policy & Administration
- 133. Social Policy and Society
- 134. Space Policy
- 135. Sustainability: science, practice, & policy
- 136. Transport policy
- 137. Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice
- 138. Urban Policy and Research
- 139. Utilities policy
- 140. World policy journal