



**INTL 207
INTRODUCTION TO POLICY ANALYSIS
SPRING 2015**

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Class Time and Room: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9.45am, CASE B33

Office Hours: Tuesdays 15.00-16.00pm or make an appointment via e-mail

Course Description

This is an inter-disciplinary, practice-oriented course that aims at introducing students how to approach societal problems as policy analysts. During the short first section of the course we will go over some of the major theories of policy processes. In the second half of the course we will be less concerned about theoretical approaches and focus on practical aspects of policy analysis. The main goal of the course is to equip students with principal skills required for evidence based policy analysis. Each student is expected to pick a policy problem and write and present a policy brief, a short report that communicates the findings and recommendations on a policy problem chosen by the student.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the course students are expected to learn:

- (1) Major theories of the policy process,
- (2) How to define and frame policy problems,
- (3) How to find and use academic sources and data,
- (4) How to determine criteria to assess various policy options,
- (5) How to evaluate the outcome of each alternative based on selected criteria,
- (6) How to choose the most reasonable alternative,
- (7) How to write up a policy brief for a decision-maker,
- (8) How to present a policy brief in a professional manner.

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam % 30

Policy Brief % 35 (10 % Drafts, 25% Final version)

Presentation % 10

Attendance and Participation %25

*No Final Exam

Course Material

Course textbook Bardach, Eugene. 2011. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*. 4th ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. You are expected to read the assigned readings before the class. Additional readings will be posted online. Each week I will share the power point slides for the lectures digitally. The slides will cover the basic points that we will cover in class; they cannot be the sole source for your studies.

Academic Honesty

Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the University's Academic Honesty Policy webpage at <http://vpaa.ku.edu.tr/academic/student-code-of-conduct#09>. By registering, you have admitted to these policies. Violations of the University's Academic Honesty Policy will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary actions will be taken if such violations occur. Please read the information provided in the link and familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities.

Participation and Attendance

You are expected to attend and participate in all classes. If you don't show up, you cannot complete the in class exercises and get points (20% of your overall grade).

Make-Up Policy

There won't be any make-ups unless there is a documented medical or family emergency. You need to contact me BEFORE the exam or the due date of the assignment if you have a problem.

Electronic Devices

You are not allowed to use cellphones in class, including text messaging. You can use your laptops to take notes, but you are not allowed to surf on the web, check your email, or use social media. **You are not allowed to record the lectures.**

Late Submission

- One-third of a grade will be deducted for every day an assignment is late.
- Assignments will not be accepted more than three days late.

Case Studies and In-Class Exercises

Most weeks in groups of four or five, we will do some in class exercises and/or case studies following the lectures. You will hand in these exercises as a group at the end of the class. Participation in these exercises will contribute to your overall participation grades.

Policy Brief

Students are expected to submit a policy brief. A policy brief is intended to communicate the findings of a policy-focused research in a clear and succinct way. You will submit certain sections of your policy briefs during the semester to get feedback and *improve* your final product. Details on writing policy briefs will be provided throughout the semester. Students will complete the policy brief in three steps:

Assignment 1: Choose a policy problem and submit a 500-word discussion of the problem. I am more than willing to assist you to choose your policy problem. (5% of your overall grade).

Assignment 2: Around 750-word document that identifies policy options, as well as relevant data to the issue. (5% of your overall grade).

Assignment 3: A 2000-word long (excluding references and footnotes) final policy brief submission (30 % of your overall grade).

Course Schedule

Feb 10th	Introduction to the Course -Syllabus
Feb 12th	What is Policy Analysis -de Leon, Peter (2008) "The Historical Roots of the Field" in The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy, pp. 39 – 57.
Feb 17th & 19th	Theories of the Policy Process I: Stages Model, Incrementalism, Multiple Stream - Lindblom, C. E. (1959). The science of" muddling through". <i>Public administration review</i> , 79-88. --Jones, B. D. (1999). Bounded rationality. <i>Annual review of political science</i> ,2 (1), 297-321. --Zahariadis, N. (1999). Ambiguity and Multiple Streams. In Sabatier, P. (ed) <i>Theories of the Policy Process</i> , Boulder Colorado: Westview
Week 3 Feb 24th & 26th	Theories of the Policy Process II: Punctuated Equilibrium Theory and Policy Processes in Turkey -- Baumgartner, F. R., Jones, B. D., & Mortensen, P. B. (2014). Punctuated Equilibrium Theory: Explaining Stability and Change in Public Policymaking. In Sabatier, P. and Weible, C. (eds) <i>Theories of the Policy Process</i> , Boulder Colorado: Westview

	-- Robins, P. (2009). Public policy making in Turkey: Faltering attempts to generate a national drugs policy. <i>Policy & Politics</i> , 37(2), 289-306.
Week 4 March 3rd & 5th	Structuring of Policy Goals: Value-Trade Offs in the Policy Process I: Efficiency vs. Equity Stone, D. (2012). <i>Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making</i> . New York: NORTON. pp 19-84
Week 5 March 10th & 12th	Structuring of Policy Goals: Value-Trade Offs in the Policy Process II: Liberty vs. Security and Welfare Stone, D. (2012). <i>Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making</i> . New York: NORTON. pp 85-155
Week 6 March 17th & 19th	Structuring Policy Problems - Bardach, Eugene. 2011. <i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i> . Introduction and Step 1: Define the Problem -Lakoff, G. 2004. <i>Don't Think of an Elephant!</i> . Chelsea Green Publishing Company: White River junction. PART I.
Week 7 March 24th & 26th	MIDTERM WEEK -Review Session Before the Midterm -March 26 th -Tentative Date for Midterm
Week 8 March 31st & April 2nd	Data Collection and Description for Policy Papers - Bardach, Eugene. 2011. <i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i> . Step 2: Assemble Some Evidence & Part II: Assembling Evidence -Browse TUIK (www.turkstat.gov.tr), and UN DATA (data.un.org) websites -Decide on a policy domain by March 31st!
Week 9 April 7th & 9th	Actors in The Policy Process - Schmeer, K. 1999. Stakeholder Analysis Guidelines in Policy: Toolkit for Strengthening Health Sector Reform. ABT Associates, Inc, Bethesda, MD. - Bardach, Eugene. 2011. <i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i> . APPENDIX C-Understanding Public and Nonprofit Institutions
April 14th & 16th	SPRING BREAK
Week 10 April 21st	*****Assignment 1st is Due on April 21st***** Designing Policy Options and Selecting Criteria - Bardach, Eugene. 2011. <i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i> . Step 3: Construct the Alternatives and Step Four: Select the Criteria & Part III

	<p>“Smart (Best) Practices Research: Understanding and Making Use of What Look Like Good Ideas from Somewhere Else.& Appendix B- Things Governments Do.</p> <p>-May, P. J. (1981). Hints for crafting alternative policies. <i>Policy Analysis</i>, 227-244.</p>
April 23rd	NO CLASS-NATIONAL HOLIDAY
Week 11 April 28th & 30th	<p>Outcomes and Trade-Offs, Decisions</p> <p>-- Bardach, Eugene. 2011. <i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i>. Steps 5,6, and 7.</p> <p>-Excerpts from Kahneman, D. (2011). <i>Thinking, fast and slow</i>. Macmillan.</p>
Week 12 May 5th & 7th	<p>*****Assignment 2nd is Due on May5th*****</p> <p>Outcomes and Trade-Offs, Decisions Continued</p> <p>-- Bardach, Eugene. 2011. <i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i>. Steps 5,6, and 7.</p> <p>-Excerpts from Kahneman, D. (2011). <i>Thinking, fast and slow</i>. Macmillan.</p>
Week 13 May 12th & 14th	<p>How to Write A Policy Brief</p> <p>- Bardach, Eugene. 2011. <i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i>. Steps Part 8.</p> <p>--Musso, J., Biller, R., & Myrtle, R. (2000). Tradecraft: Professional writing as problem solving. <i>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</i>, 19(4), 635-646.</p>
May 19th	NO CLASS-NATIONAL HOLIDAY
Week 14 May 21st	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
FINAL EXAM DATE TBA	No Final Exam-We will use the final exam time to continue on student presentations