

POLICY ANALYSIS

Department of Political Science



**WHERE IS YOUR
PROFESSOR?**

DR. AMBER LUSVARDI

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE**

SHE/HER/HERS

OFFICE: SAGE 4619

920-424-3456

LUSVARDIA@UWOSH.EDU

About This Class

Policy Analysis POL 315

Classroom: Sage 2234

Class times: Tuesday/Thursday 1:20-2:50

3 credit hours

About Office Hours

My office hours are time set aside specifically for you. We can discuss course content, any barriers you are facing, or broader questions about political science. If you are not available during my office hours, please let me know and I can accommodate you.

Office Hours: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tuesday in person (preferred) or via Teams or by appointment



What to Know

Getting Started in this Course

Political science is a social science - sciences that study human and social behavior. In political science we are particularly interested in power. As Harold Laswell said, "Who Gets What, When, and How?"

Public policy is an applied aspect of political science and the study of policy is often interdisciplinary in nature. In this course, we will consider the development and analysis of public policy.

Strategies for Success



Check your Canvas page. There, you will see due dates reflected on your calendar, can see your updated grades, and can access course readings and assignment rubrics.



If you find you are not performing as well as you would like in this course or your courses generally, please reach out to me. I can help to accommodate you or see if we can address any barriers you are experiencing together.



Class attendance is the greatest predictor of academic success in college (Crede, Roche, and Kieszczynka 2010). I count on your attendance as a valued member of this class. If you are not attending class regularly, I will reach out to you for an office hours meeting.





Course Description

This course introduces techniques for analyzing policies and evaluating the consequences of governmental decisions. Consideration is given to the factors that affect policy success, including problem definition, implementation challenges, and enforcement issues. Prospects for reforming existing policies are also discussed in depth.

Required Textbooks

Bardach and Patashnik. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*. Sage/CQ 6th ed.

Kingdon, John. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy*. Longman. 2nd ed.

All other readings on Canvas.



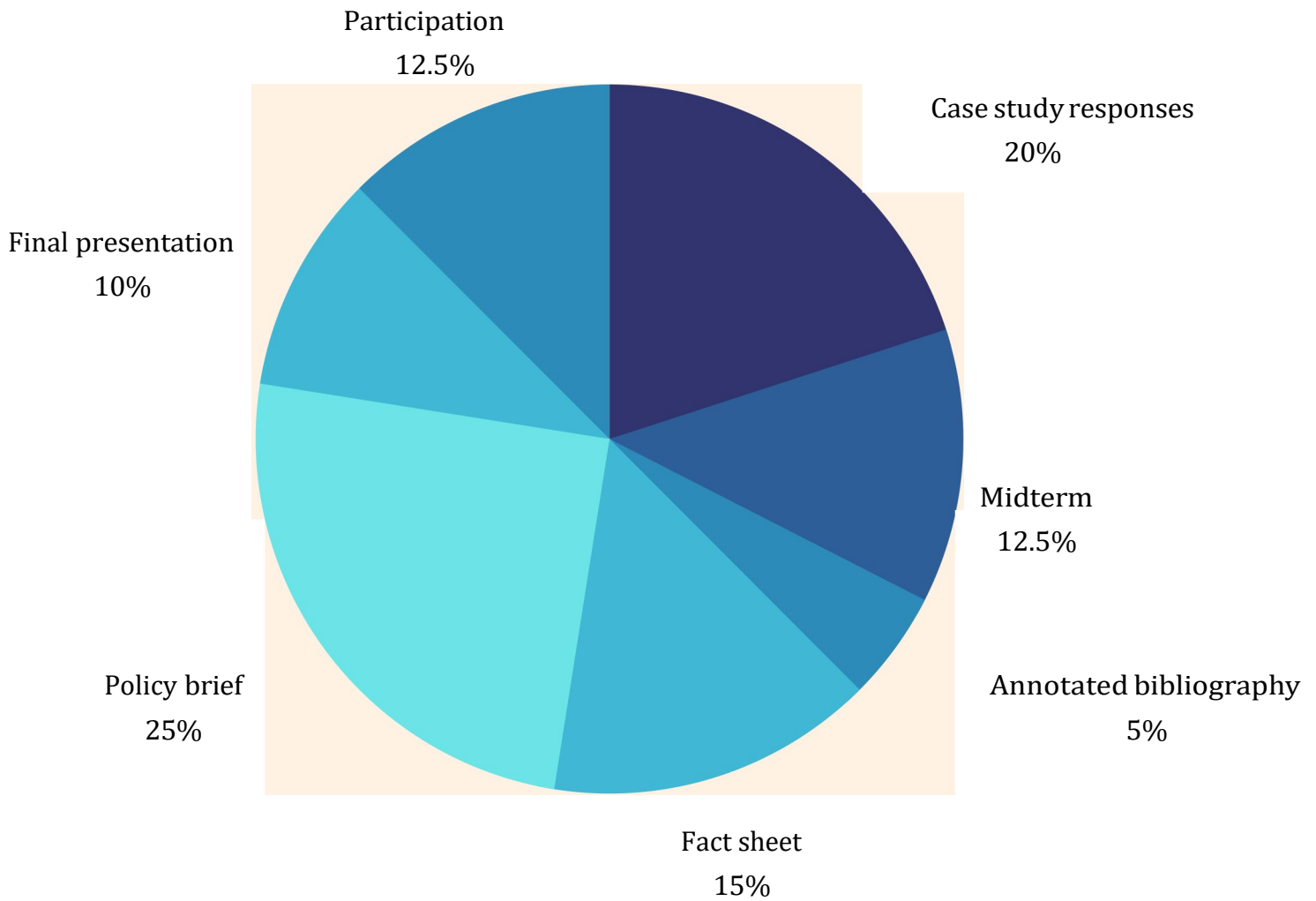
Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the policy evaluation process, with knowledge as to when the timing is right for political actors to focus on a particular problem.
2. Analyze problems and identify a range of solutions.
3. Identify and use analytical techniques to critically evaluate public policies.
4. Evaluate arguments that arise within policy debates.
5. Effectively communicate, both orally and in writing, high-quality policy arguments.

**"Ideas are the very stuff of politics" Deborah Stone,
*Policy Paradox***

ASSESSMENT

Your final grade will be based on four responses to our class case studies, a midterm, an annotated bibliography, a fact sheet, a policy brief, a final presentation, and participation.



Assignments

Case Study Responses (20 x 4) - Throughout the course of the semester, I will present four "cases" on various domestic policies and their impacts. For each case, you will write a **2-3 page** response answering the following questions: what was the «intent" of the policy being proposed? How did the policy attempt to «fix" the identified «problem?" What was involved? Were there unintended consequences to the policy? Who were the winners and losers in this policy? In the policy evaluation process, what modifications would you make to adjust this particular policy? What is one point from the reading or podcast you had not previously thought about?

Midterm (50) - An exam that will cover topics developed during the first half of the semester. Midterm will be Oct. 20.

Policy brief assignment - You will have multiple assignments that will assist you in the creation of a short but effective policy brief.

1. Annotated bibliography (20) - You will create and annotated bibliography with a minimum of 8 scholarly sources.
2. Fact sheet (60) - You will create a four-page "fact sheet" that advocates for the desired policy outcome you seek for your policy.
3. Policy brief (100) - You will create a polished and visually interesting 2-3 page policy brief for your chosen policy.
4. Presentation (40) - You will present your policy brief to the class with a focus on: (1) What policy outcome you are advocating and why (2) the choices you made in creating your policy brief as the best way to communicate your issue.

Participation (50) - You are present and active in class and free from distractions. If you need to miss class, you communicate with your professor. We will have a check-in at mid-semester. At the end of the semester, you will submit a paragraph in which you grade yourself on participation for the semester (I may or may not accept your grade).

**Detailed descriptions and rubrics of all assignments are on Canvas.

Due Dates

Annotated Bibliography	Oct. 7
Case Study 1 response	Oct.14
Midterm Exam (taken in class)	Oct. 20
Case Study 2 response	Oct. 24
Fact Sheet	Nov.4
Case Study 3 response	Nov.7
Case Study 4 response	Nov.18
Policy Brief	Dec. 9
Participation	Dec.12
Presentations	Week of Dec.12

Grading Scale

Your final grades are calculated by points earned/total points.

100-95 -A

94-90 -A-

89-87 - B+

80-83 - B-

79-77 - C+

76-74 - C

73-70 - C-

69-67 - D+

66-64- D

63-60 - D-

59 and below - failing

Weekly Schedule

***All outside readings available on Canvas

Sept. 8

Introduction to this course and to public policy analysis

Sept. 13 & 15

Introduction to the Policy Process, Birkland Ch.1 via Canvas

Sept. 20 & 22

Understanding the Policy Process - the market model and the polis model, *Policy Paradox*
Introduction and Ch.1 via Canvas

Sept. 27 & 29

Introduction to the policy briefs; Introduction to Kingdon and Official Actors

Sept. 29 - Research Workshop Day with Joe Pirillo in Polk Library 116A

Oct. 4 & 7

Case Study 1: Health Care, Read "The Road to Somewhere: Why Health Care Reform Happened" by JS
Hacker via Canvas

Official actors, Read: Kingdon Ch 2

Oct. 11 & 13

Unofficial actors, read: Weldon, *When Protest Makes Policy* Ch 1 via Canvas and Kingdon Ch. 3

Case Study 2: Violence Against Women Act

Oct. 18 & 20

Policy images and frames. read: Baumgartner and Jones Ch. 2 & 6 via Canvas

Oct. 25 & 27

Social construction of issues, Read: Schneider and Ingram "Social Construction of Target
Populations" on Canvas

Case study 3: School lunch, listen to - Slate Podcast "The Fight over Free School Lunch" linked on
Canvas

Nov. 1 & 3

Agenda setting, Read: Kingdon Chapters 5 & 6

Nov. 8 & 10

Agenda setting, continued, Read Kingdon Chapters 7 & 8

Case study 4: DARE, listen to: You're Wrong About "DARE", linked via Canvas

Nov. 15 & 17

Peer review workshop

Policy analysis, Read: Bardach & Patashnik pages 1-20

Nov. 22

Catch up week

Nov. 29 & Dec. 1

Policy analysis, Read: Bardach & Patashnik pages 21-48

Dec. 6 & 8

Policy analysis, Read: Bardach & Patashnik pages 49-93

Dec. 13 & 15

Final project presentations

Note: If substantive changes are made in course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus made available.

All About You

You have the right to be called by whatever name and pronouns you prefer.

You are a valued member of this class. Your experience as part of this class is important to me. If you are experiencing barriers to your success in this course, please reach out to me so I can assist you or can help you find the correct resources.

On Language

Each person in this course is a valued member of the group and you should feel free to share your experiences as they are relevant to this class. No student in this class is ever expected or believed to speak for all members of a group. Do be thoughtful in your language when adding to class discussion.

Disability Statement

This course is for all UWO students, including those with mental, physical, or cognitive disabilities, illness, injuries, impairments, or any other condition that could negatively impact one's equal access to education. If, at any point in the term, you find yourself not able to fully access the space or content of this course, please contact me by email, phone, or during office hours to discuss your specific needs. I am happy to discuss how to best accommodate you. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessibility Center in Dempsey Hall 215 or at accessibilitycenter@uwosh.edu for further assistance.

What about my Technology

You will never be required to bring a laptop or tablet to class. I discourage students from the use of laptops or tablets in my courses due to the extensive research that shows it to be a hindrance to learning and a distraction to classmates (see Dontre 2020). It is your choice whether to use your laptop/tablet while we are taking notes, but it should be stowed away at other times. As engagement and discussion are important, please refrain from wearing headphones during class.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. It is open to students at any level and in all majors, and is the first in a series of introductory courses in Political Science. In Introduction to Comparative Politics (84:101) we introduce students to the democratic and non-democratic political systems of several different states (e.g., Germany, China, Iran), taking a look inside each one to determine how they function. In Introduction to American Politics (84:105), we give students an in- depth look at the working of the American system of government. And in Introduction to International Relations (IR; 84:115), we show you how states work with and against each other in the global system. Political Science majors are required to take all three, but they stand independently so that non-majors can benefit from them as well.

Note to Poli Sci Majors

Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. Political Science 245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political Analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

Grievance Statement

The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high- quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at kruegerj@uwosh.edu. Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

Student Right to Know

Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990:
<https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>.