

**University of Louisville**  
**Department of Urban and Public Affairs**  
**Urban Policy Analysis**  
**PADM 606 / UPA 650**  
**Syllabus**

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Class Meeting: Thursday 5:30-8:15 UPA 236  
Office Hours: Email for appointment

***Course Description:***

This course offers an introduction to public policy formation and policy analysis in the urban setting. In the first part of the course, we identify the actors in the policy arena (government, citizens, nonprofit groups, corporations, etc.), discuss the steps in the policymaking process, examine basic concepts and methods of policy analysis, and detail how decision-making progresses. In the later part of the course, we review existing urban policies within the U.S., specifically as they relate to economic development and employment, social programs, housing, and the environment. The final evaluation is a policy brief demonstrating the practical application of policy as it pertains to a particular urban issue.

***Course Objectives:***

The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) is the national accrediting body for MPA programs. As an accredited program, we have to demonstrate that our MPA graduates have five universal competencies identified by NASPAA. They are:

- Lead and manage in public governance;
- Participate in and contribute to the public policy process;
- Analyze, synthesize, think creatively, solve problems, and make decisions;
- Articulate and apply public service perspectives; and
- Communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry

The courses that comprise your MPA program support these competencies, with some courses more directly linked to a particular competency. This course primarily supports competencies two and three: to contribute to the policy process through the synthesis and analysis of data and information. However, the course will also contribute to the other universal competencies. Specifically, after completing this course, you will be able to:

- Apply an analytical framework to local urban policy issues
- Gather data and information to study a policy problem
- Carry out bivariate and multivariate policy analyses
- Use software to analyze data
- Interpret and produce tables, charts, and graphs
- Perform a cost-benefit analysis
- Propose and communicate the complete analysis of a policy problem

### **Course Activity:**

The course will follow a seminar format with a mix of lectures, in-class exercises, group work, and active student participation. It is imperative that you come to class prepared and that you contribute to class discussions and in-class activities. The objectives detailed above are achieved through required readings, data exercises, policy projects, and exams. Note that a three-credit hour course – under the university-minimum 42 contact hours per credit hour criterion – equates to nine hours of work per week.

### **Required Textbook:**

Dunn, William N. 2018. *Public Policy Analysis: An Integrated Approach, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Taylor and Francis. Routledge. ISBN: 9781138743847 (may vary depending on binding)

Additional readings will also be assigned during the semester and made available on Blackboard.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
Course Participation and Preparation	Weekly	100
Data Exercises	See Course Schedule	400
Midterm Exam	March 24	200
Policy Brief Presentation	April 21	50
Policy Brief	May 2	250
<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>1000</b>

Attendance is mandatory. If you have a legitimate reason for being unable to attend a session, please let me know ahead of time. For every unexcused absence, you forfeit 10 of the available attendance and participation points. There will be four take-home data exercises assigned throughout the semester. Data exercises must be turned in by the beginning of class on the due date, and should be submitted via email. There will also be a take-home midterm exam – similar to the data exercises – to be completed over the spring break period. Late assignments are not accepted.

#### *Policy Brief*

For the final exam in the course, you will be required to submit a policy brief on a topic of your choice. The policy brief should be 3,000-5,000 words, not including tables or references. The brief should rely on existing or original analyses which rely on applied data to demonstrate the policy process. The primary purpose of the policy brief is to give you the opportunity to apply the ideas and theories you have learned in class to a practical issue of interest to you. It will also allow you to continue developing your writing and presentation skills.

In the last class session, each student will present the existing draft of her/his policy brief to the rest of the class. The policy presentation should run for about 10 minutes, with additional time at the end for questions from your peers.

Course grades will be calculated as the number of points earned out of the total number of points available. Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>F</b>
100 -	92 -	89 -	86 -	82 -	79 -	76 -	72 -	69 -	66 -	62 -	≤ 59
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60	

In general, letter grades in the **A** range indicate exceptional or above average work, letter grades in the **B** range indicate good or average performance, letter grades in the **C** range indicate work that is somewhat below average, and letter grades of **D** or **F** suggest serious issues that need to be immediately addressed.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### ***Academic Integrity:***

Students should be familiar with their rights and responsibilities, as outlined in the University of Louisville Graduate Catalog at <https://louisville.edu/graduatecatalog/toc>. Particular attention should be paid to the section entitled “Code of Student Conduct”. Plagiarism and other policies relating to academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced in this course.

### ***Academic Grievance Procedure:***

If a student believes that she/he is being treated unfairly, the academic grievance procedure is outlined in the University of Louisville Graduate Catalog at <https://louisville.edu/graduatecatalog/toc>.

### ***Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:***

The University of Louisville is committed to providing access to programs and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and require accommodation to participate and complete requirements for this class, notify me immediately and contact the Disability Resource Center (119 Stevenson Hall or (502) 852-6938) for verification of eligibility and determination of specific accommodations.

### ***Statement on Diversity:***

The University of Louisville strives to foster and sustain an environment of inclusiveness that empowers us all to achieve our highest potential without fear of prejudice or bias. We commit ourselves to building an exemplary educational community that offers a nurturing and challenging intellectual climate, a respect for the spectrum of human diversity, and a genuine understanding of the many differences—including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, disability, religion, national origin or military status—that enrich a vibrant metropolitan research university. We expect every member of our academic family to embrace the underlying values of this vision and to demonstrate a strong commitment to attracting, retaining, and supporting students, faculty and staff who reflect the diversity of our larger society. For more information, visit the [Office of Diversity and Equity](#).

### ***Title IX/Clery Act Notification:***

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain **confidential** support from the PEACC Program (852-2663), Counseling Center (852-6585), and Campus Health Services (852-6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (852-5787) or University of Louisville Police (852-6111).

Disclosure to **University faculty or instructors** of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is **not confidential** under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University’s Title IX officer.

For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Guide (<http://louisville.edu/hr/employeerelations/sexual-misconduct-brochure>).

**Course Schedule:**

Every effort will be made to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to modify as deemed necessary. You will be notified in a timely manner of any changes.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due	Assignment Due
1	1/13	Introduction to Urban Policy	Review syllabus	
2	1/20	Structuring Policy Problems	Dunn Chapters 1-3	
3	1/27	Extrapolation and Trend Analysis	Dunn Chapter 4	
4	2/3	Regression Analysis		Data Exercise 1
5	2/10	Policy Prescription – Microeconomic Foundations	Dunn Chapter 5	
6	2/17	Policy Prescription – Cost Benefit Analysis		Data Exercise 2
7	2/24	Policy Prescription – Cost Benefit Analysis II		Data Exercise 3
8	3/3	Monitoring Policy Outcomes – Graphical Techniques	Dunn Chapter 6	
9	3/10	Monitoring Policy Outcomes – Regression Discontinuity	Dunn Chapter 8	Data Exercise 4
10	3/17	<b>SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)</b>		
11	3/24	Economic Development Policy	TBD	Midterm
12	3/31	Welfare and Social Policy	TBD	
13	4/7	Housing Policy	TBD	
14	4/14	Environmental Policy	TBD	
15	4/21	Policy Brief Presentations		
	5/2	<b>POLICY BRIEF DUE BY 8:00 PM</b>		