



THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

# Course Schedule

## Spring 2024 at a Glance

Core and Disciplinary Courses for MPP and PhD				
PUBL 600 <i>Research Methodology</i>	Nick Kelly	Monday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 451
PUBL 601 <i>Political and Social Context of the Policy Process</i>	Lauren Hamilton Edwards	Wednesday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 438
PUBL 602 <i>Microeconomics for Public Policy</i>	Zoë McLaren	Monday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 438
PUBL 603 <i>Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis</i>	Ann Kellogg	Thursday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUBL 438
PUBL 604 <i>Statistical Analysis</i>	Yusuke Kuwayama	Tuesday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 438

**Core and Disciplinary Courses for MPP only  
also for Ph.D. in Management Specialty**

PUBL 613 <i>Managing Public Organizations</i>	Mir Usman Ali	Thursday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 438
PUBL 623 <i>Governmental Budgeting</i>	TBD	Monday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 440
SOCY 606 <i>Inequality and Social Policy</i>	Mercedes Dunn	Tuesday	4:30-7:00	PUBL 204

**Core and Disciplinary Courses for PhD Only**

609 <i>Social Science Approaches to Policy Analysis</i>	Lauren Hamilton Edwards	Wednesday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 440
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**Advanced Methods Courses**

PUBL 607 <i>Statistical Application in Evaluation Research</i>	Zoë McLaren	Monday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 438
PUBL 608 <i>Applied Multivariate Regression</i>	Yusuke Kuwayama	Tuesday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 440

**Specialization Courses**

PUBL 610-02 <i>Baltimore Area Study</i>	Pamela Bennett Loren Henderson Nancy Miller	Thursday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 440
PUBL 610-03 <i>Theory and Practice of Social Equity</i>	Mir Usman Ali	Tuesday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 451
PUBL 618 <i>Issues in Health Care Finance and Service Delivery</i>	Nancy Miller	Tuesday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 438

**Fall 2023 by Day and Time**

<b>Monday</b>		<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>Thursday</b>	
<b>4:30</b>	<b>7:10</b>	<b>4:30</b>	<b>7:10</b>	<b>4:30</b>	<b>7:10</b>	<b>4:30</b>	<b>7:10</b>
607 SOCY 619	602	608 618 SOCY 606	604 610-03 623	609	601	610-02 613	603

# Course Descriptions

## Core and Discipline Courses

### **PUBL 600 *Research Methodology***

Nick Kelly	Monday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 451
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Research provides the foundation for informed public policy making. This class is designed to provide you with an introduction to research methodology, from the basics of research design to advanced methods for causal inference. This course provides a foundation for further study of research methodology. It prepares students for future courses including PUBL 604, 607, 608, and 611. By design, many topics will be covered at a foundational level; however, by the end of the course you will be prepared to evaluate the quality of existing research and propose studies of your own to address questions of interest. This course is designed to allow you to both understand and perform important research techniques. For instance, we will not only study sampling and understand the value of different types of sampling, but we will also learn how to implement sampling techniques through statistical software.

### **PUBL 601 *Political and Social Context of the Policy Process***

Lauren Hamilton Edwards	Wednesday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 438
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This course is designed to introduce students to the processes by which policy is made in the United States. It introduces students to the policy-making system, including the institutional, structural and political contexts, as well as the policy-making environment. The various stages of the policy-making process from problem definition and agenda-setting to implementation are examined and discussed, and important theories and models of policy-making are presented. Significant concepts relating to the political analysis of public policy are discussed, such as the social construction of problems, group demands, political influence and resources, motivations and incentive for political behavior and political feasibility (graduate catalog description).

Many similar courses focus on the policy process. In this course, we will be taking a broad view of policy, not just the process but also the wider social and political context. Individuals, groups of people, and what is happening in the particular moment heavily inform the process. This is a large endeavor so we will be focusing our discussions and reading primarily on domestic policy issues.

### ***PUBL 602 Microeconomics for Public Policy***

Zoë McLaren	Monday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 438
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This course will provide an analytic framework for policy analysis and public management with a focus on understanding economic markets, mitigating market failures, and avoiding government failures through effective public policies. Through problem sets, cases, and projects, students will: apply economic models to policy problems; use economic definitions of efficiency and equity as criteria for policy evaluation; identify sources of market failure, economic justifications for policy intervention, and appropriate remedies; and identify government failures and appropriate remedies.

### ***PUBL 603 Theory and Practice of Policymaking***

Ann Kellogg	Thursday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUBL 438
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This course focuses on the basic principles and techniques of policy analysis. Most of the course attends to activities involved in policy analysis. In addition, the relationship between policy analysis and policy making, along with emerging professional and ethical issues, will be addressed.

### ***PUBL 604 Statistical Analysis***

Yusuke Kuwayama	Tuesday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 438
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This course provides an introduction to statistical analysis in the social sciences. The objectives for the course are that, by the end of the course, students will have learned how

to: (a) frame quantitative research questions relating to social processes and public policy; (b) find, organize, and analyze data that address these research questions; (c) use descriptive statistics and statistical inference to address these research questions; and (d) coherently report and display results. Prerequisite: PUBL 600.

### ***PUBL 609 Social Science Approaches to Policy Analysis***

Lauren Hamilton Edwards	Wednesday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 440
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A methodological examination of the contributions, complementarities and conflicts among the economic, political science and sociological approaches to policy analysis. Focuses on the nature of questions each discipline can answer by looking at their methods and limitations.

Fundamental assumptions, theories, perspectives and policy recommendations are discussed. This course is repeatable for credit.

This course culminates in the Comprehensive Exam and is not open to MPP students.

### ***PUBL 613 Managing Public Organizations***

Mir Usman Ali	Tuesday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUBL 438
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This course examines current management theories and techniques with a specific focus on organizations in the public and nonprofit sectors. The course prepares students to evaluate current management approaches in the public and nonprofit sectors, as well as preparing the student for the application of those approaches in the field. Topics will include New Public Management, New Public Service, the political context of public management, contracting out, networking, strategic management and planning, performance management, and public participation.

## **PUBL 623 *Government Budgeting***

TBD	Monday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 440
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This is a survey course on how U.S. governments acquire and spend money. For both better and worse, budgeting is an incredibly important process. While people often think it is a dry and boring subject, in fact, it's exactly the opposite. Budgeting involves fundamental issues of public policy, management, and politics. We will address those issues throughout the semester, using real-world documents and events. You should find that different parts of this course complement your other courses on policy analysis and evaluation, public management, health policy, education policy, and urban policy.

Assignments emphasize learn-as-you-do exploration of ideas and skills, particularly on how budgets are prepared and then executed at the micro level. This is essential knowledge for public managers, elected officials, and those who work with or seek to influence them.

## **SOCY 606 *Inequality and Social Policy***

Mercedes Dunn	Tuesday	4:30-7:00	PUBL 204
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This course examines poverty and inequality in modern society. The focus is on describing the extent of poverty and inequality, examining theories that attempt to explain these phenomena and discussing the policies that have been employed to mitigate them. In addition to class inequality, the course will consider racial and gender inequality.



## Advanced Methods Courses

These are suggestions. *You must discuss your options with your advisor.*

### **PUBL 607 *Statistical Application in Evaluation Research***

Zoë McLaren	Monday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 438
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One of the fundamental challenges in policy analysis is determining the causal impact of a policy or intervention on one or more outcomes of interest. This course will examine the fundamental theory of causal inference and use it to design studies, analyze data and interpret regression analysis. Lectures will focus primarily on analyzing data from randomized controlled trials (RCTs), which are considered the “gold standard” in overcoming the challenge of confounding and obtaining causal estimates, with a particular emphasis on obtaining and interpreting causal estimates. We will examine potential threats to unbiased estimates in RCTs (e.g. selection bias, attrition, non-compliance, missing data) and the means for addressing them in research design and data analysis. In parallel, students will master data cleaning and regression analysis techniques using Stata and gain hands-on experience working with real world data. The course will culminate with students producing an original research analysis using skills acquired during the semester.

### **PUBL 608 *Applied Multivariate Regression***

Yusuke Kuwayama	Tuesday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 440
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This course provides an introduction to the practical application of widely used basic multivariate regression techniques. Methods covered include multiple linear regression, time series and panel data analysis, regression discontinuity designs, differences-in-differences, and limited dependent variable models. Students will gain experience in the use of these techniques through hands-on exercises and the preparation of an original regression analysis of real-world data in an area of interest selected by the student. Students will also gain experience in reading and interpreting journal articles that employ multivariate regression.

## **SOCY 619 *Qualitative Methods in Social Research***

Sarah Chard	Monday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 204
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This course will focus on the styles of research, analysis and epistemologies associated with qualitative research in the applied social and policy sciences. As an increasingly important mode of inquiry, qualitative, multi-method approaches are particularly relevant to the study of social interaction and behavior in natural settings. Qualitative approaches involve collecting and analyzing empirical information from multiple sources, such as first-person accounts, life histories, visual/printed records, semi-structured and open-ended interviews, informal and formal observations, and biographical and autobiographical materials. Students in the course will learn how to design, collect and analyze qualitative information by conducting a small, semester-long study. Sections of the research project will be prepared, presented and evaluated throughout the course.

You do need instructor approval to join.

*\*Please note that PUBL 610-02 (under Specialization Courses) may also count as an Advanced Methods course, with permission of your advisor.*

# Specialization Courses

## **PUBL 610-02 *Baltimore Area Study***

Pamela Bennett Loren Henderson Nancy Miller	Thursday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 440
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In this applied qualitative research course, students will learn how to conduct semi-structured interviews with individuals, and then work with faculty to recruit and conduct semi-structured interviews in the Baltimore area. Students will also be introduced to Dedoose software and participate in analysis of the data collected.

The focus of the study is working-age adults who have become disabled, are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and are in the 2-year waiting period before they are eligible for Medicare coverage. In 2021, there were approximately 600,000 new SSDI beneficiaries in the 2-year waiting period (SSA 2021). The waiting period for Medicare is a critical time for SSDI beneficiaries, given their poorer health and low income. Research predating the 2010 Affordable Care Act found that 25.8% of these beneficiaries were uninsured during the waiting period (Riley 2006). Among those in the Medicare waiting period, male and Black beneficiaries had higher odds of being uninsured. Measures of unmet need were significantly higher among those who lacked health insurance. Qualitative interviews from the same period found that participants reported missing medications, delaying needed care, feeling depressed and not in control of their lives while in the waiting period (Williams et al., 2004).

The 2010 ACA significantly expanded insurance options, both through the now optional Medicaid expansion and the state marketplace exchanges. Limits on pre-existing condition restrictions in private insurance options also expanded access to individuals such as SSDI beneficiaries in the Medicare waiting period. These changes in health insurance access have likely changed the experience of SSDI beneficiaries in the waiting period and warrant investigation.

As individuals in the study will reside in the Baltimore area, students will be introduced to urban theories that assist in conceptualizing the opportunities and challenges to managing health issues in an urban environment.

This course can count as an urban specialization or health policy specialization course, as well as an advanced methods course. Students who would like to continue with additional data analysis and prepare a manuscript using the data collected will have the opportunity to do so by enrolling in a companion course in fall 2024.

## **PUBL 610-03 Theory and Practice of Social Equity**

Mir Usman Ali	Tuesday	7:10-9:40 pm	PUP 451
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In this course we will learn about the necessity of analyzing and addressing of social inequities through the lens of social theory and public management theory. We will examine structural explanations for social inequities, the role public managers and organizations may play in mitigating or exacerbating them. We will learn examine theoretical approaches that managers may use to analyze inequities, measure them, as well as strategies for addressing them. A key theme throughout will be to facilitate students in the process of developing an evidence-based, adaptable, repertoire of skills that they can use in their careers as public management professionals or researchers.

## **PUBL 618 Issues in Health Care Finance and Service Delivery**

Nancy Miller	Tuesday	4:30-7:00 pm	PUP 438
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The purpose of this course is threefold: 1) to provide an overview of the concepts, principles, and practices in financing health care services in the U.S.; 2) to understand the relationship between public and private sector financing of health care; and 3) to become sensitive to the complexities of U.S. health services finance, payment, and service delivery, including health care reform efforts.