**PUBL 610: Education Policy Analysis Course Outline**

# Fall 2017

# Monday 4:30-7 pm

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**Course Description**

In the US and throughout the world, governments play a central role in education as a regulator, provider, and funder. This course focuses on applying policy analytic frameworks to questions of the role of government in education and the efficiency, equity, and justice of education policies. Students will learn economic, sociological, ethical, and political frameworks for policy analysis and apply these frameworks to current education policy debates. The course is appropriate for masters students with an interest in education and/or applied policy analysis and doctoral students planning dissertation work in the education policy field.

**Pre-requisites**

Students should have a basic understanding of the economic concepts of public goods and market failure. Completion of ECON 600 or PUBL 604 is strongly recommended.

**Course Requirements & Grading**

Assignments include problem sets, policy memos, participation in a class simulation project, and a final paper. For the class project, students will research, discuss, and make recommendations to remedy a policy problem in education.

**Credit/no credit grading is not permitted for this course. Any one registered credit/no credit will receive no credit.**

# Course Outline

**Part 1. Frameworks for Policy Analysis**

**Readings from:**

*Policy Paradox* by Deborah Stone

*Politics and Markets* by Charles E. Lindbloom

*Theories of the Policy Process* edited by Paul A. Sabatier

*Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practices* by David Weimer and Aidan R. Vining

*Applied Cost-Benefit Analysis* by Robert J. Brent

*Classics of Public Policy* edited by Jay M. Shafritz, Karen S. Layne, and Christopher P. Borick

*Just Results: Ethical Foundations for Policy Analysis* by Ralph D. Ellis

*Democracy and the Policy Sciences* by Peter DeLeon

*Critical Theory, Public Policy, and Planning Practice* by John Forester

**Part 2. Why is Education a Public Problem?**

**Readings from:**

*Theories of Democracy: A Reader* edited by Roanld J. Terchek

*Development as Freedom* by Amartya Sen

*Democracy and Education* by John Dewey

*Comparative Education: Exploring Issues in International Context* by P.K. Kubow and R.R. Fossum

*Comparative Education: The Dialectic of the Global and the Local* by R. Arnove and C.A. Torres

*Human Capital* by Gary Becker

*The Role of Government in Education* by Milton Friedman

**Part 3. Policy Applications**

**Policy topics (determined by student interest) such as:**

* College admissions and financial aid policies
* K-12 and higher education accountability systems
* Standardized testing
* School and university segregation, stratification, and equity
* Strategies for taxation, tuition, and public education finance
* Teacher quality and teacher employment reforms
* Parent choice and education markets
* Charter schools, vouchers, and privatization