

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION CHILTON HALL, DENTON

PADM 4450
Public Policy Analysis

Course Outline Fall 2021

Class Meeting: Monday / Wednesday 11.00 AM – 12.20PM @ Chilton Hall 240

Instructor: Simon A. Andrew, Ph.D.

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Office: Chilton Hall 204A

Office Hours: **Monday 9:00 – 11:00 AM**
3.00 – 5.00 PM

Or by appointment

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Course Description

Policy analysis is the application of theory and evidence to predict or evaluate the outcomes of alternative strategies or decisions. The most common goal of policy analysis is to ascertain the impacts of a proposed policy change on a given population. Sometimes the role of the policy analyst is also to render a judgment on the policy, i.e. whether it is good or bad. Yet, whether our role extends to judging a policy's worth or merely dispassionately describing its likely outcomes, professional policy analysts tend to use an established set of quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques.

Many tools used by policy analysts have been adopted from other social science disciplines. The omnivorous nature of policy analysis makes this disciplinary approach quite distinct from other academic fields. While policy analysts can and do specialize in certain policy areas and/or techniques, they must be conversant in a wide variety of disciplinary approaches.

For better or for worse, economics has become the lingua franca for describing and quantifying the impacts of proposed policies. Thus, a basic understanding of economics is necessary. While this is not an economics course, the tools and terms used by economists will be the principal lens through which we will evaluate policy impacts. The nature of these impacts, and the nature of benefits and costs vary substantially by policy area. For this reason, after the economic concepts have been reviewed we will apply these tools to different topical areas. Becoming an effective policy analyst requires knowing the basic tools and applying them appropriately to the right disciplinary context.

Special attention will be paid to improving students' ability to analyze issues involving multiple actors with diverse interests, where information is either uncertain or incomplete. Upon finishing the class, students should be able to apply the skills developed over the course of the semester to a variety of policy areas.

Course Prerequisites

There is no prerequisite for this class.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- Understand how economic concepts can be applied to improve policy analysis;
- Understand the limitations of economics in policymaking and identify common flaws that undermine the effectiveness of public policy;
- Understand how policy analysis tools differ by policy area based on the definitions of benefits and costs and the availability of information;
- Learn how to frame policy questions in constructive ways so they can be systematically addressed;
- Understand how policy analysis approaches differ by topical area;
- Understand a basic Benefit-Cost Analysis (CBA) based on a model and use the model to evaluate a specific planning project.

Materials

There is no textbook required for this course. I will either post excerpts from the following books in Canvas or make reference to them when they are available online at the UNT Library. Some of you may find it easier to purchase a copy rather than reading scanned copies.

References

Weimer, D.L and A R Vining (1998) Policy Analysis: Concepts And Practice. Prentice Hall: New Jersey.

I will also be using the following materials:

Dye, Thomas R. (1998) Understanding Public Policy, New Jersey: Prentice Hall

John, Peter (2012) Analyzing Public Policy. Routledge Textbooks in Policy Studies, Electronic Copy Available UNT Library

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone and camera
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Provide a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course, such as:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

Course Policies

I expect all students to conduct themselves with professional courtesy, which includes but is not limited to the following:

(1) **Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments should be completed in advance, and class members should be prepared for daily class discussions. When the readings are discussed, it will be assumed you will be prepared to lead a discussion and or participate significantly.

(2) **Cheating or Plagiarism:** In accordance with departmental policy (attached), cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the course. Any work submitted for a grade should be the original work of the student. Remember, plagiarism is a violation of acceptable student conduct. *Long quotations should be avoided. Text or unique ideas taken directly from an author (quoted or paraphrased) should be cited and that citation should include a page number for the text.* Violations will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary action will be taken should such

violations occur. Please see the professor if you have any questions about academic integrity in general or as it relates to particular requirements for this course.

(3) **Special Accommodations:** Attached to this syllabus is an **ADA** statement. If you are a student with a qualifying disability that will affect your participation in class or your ability to take tests (as certified by the UNT Office of Disability Accommodation), please see the professor no later than the third class meeting so that we can work out appropriate accommodations and develop a written agreement about them.

(4) **Late Work:** I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a university-excused absence and provides documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline.

(5) **Respect for fellow students, the field, and the instructor:** Although some of the issues we will cover can be controversial and may evoke an emotional response, please treat other students respectfully. Please wait your turn if you would like to contribute to the discussion.

(6) **Syllabus Changes:** I reserve the right to change, modify, add to, alter, delete, and otherwise rearrange the syllabus to make the learning process accessible and in response to changing in a situation. If this were to occur, students will be given advanced notice and a copy of the changes.

(7) **Attendance and Meaningful Participation:** Regular attendance and meaningful participation will provide the margin of difference for those on the borderline between grades. Class attendance and participation are expected in this course.

FACE COVERINGS

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

COURSE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Department of Public Administration believes in the fundamental principles of life, liberty, equality, equity, and in doing good to all people as we serve our students and the public interest.

- We believe in the importance of diversity and inclusion
- We believe in fairness and equity for all faculty and students in and out of class
- We believe in mutual respect and civility for all students and faculty
- We believe that faculty and students have a right to a redress of grievances
- We believe that students and faculty should be actively engaged in good works

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

ASSIGNMENTS: Course Structure, Requirements, and Grading Criteria

A combination of lecture and discussion activities will be utilized for the class sessions. The course assignments have connected each other to help student's knowledge building through the semester. I will introduce the pertinent subject matter and attempt to tie together the various readings on a topic, but you will be expected to actively participate in the discussions. You are expected to read and comprehend all of the required readings.

1. **Discussions and Short Response (30%)**: There will be short responses throughout the semester over discussions and reading materials. **There will be 5 (five) focused discussions and short response assignments for questions related to that week's module (5 responses x 6% each =30%)**. We will utilize the "Discussion" option in Canvas, which provides an integrated system for class discussions.

All short responses should be completed via Canvas for the date indicated in the syllabus. Your short response to a topic should be between **400 – 500 words**. You are expected to submit your responses **AFTER** we have the discussion.

2. **Cost-Benefit Analysis Memo (20%)**: You are required to write an evaluation of a case study that employed a Cost-Benefit Analysis. I will provide additional instructions. Your memo is due on **Monday - November 29, 2021**.
3. **Exam 1 (25%)**: On **Wednesday (Oct 6, 2021)**, there will be a mid-term exam covering all the topics that have been taught in class up to that point. This exam will account for **25 percent** of the final grade.
4. **Exam II (25%)**: On **Wednesday (Dec. 6, 2021)**, there will be an exam which accounts for **25 percent** of the final grade. The final test will cover only the second half of the semester.

Course Grading

Final grades for the course will be determined as indicated below:

Canvas Discussions /Short Responses (5 in Total)	30 %
Cost-Benefit Analysis (Memo)	20 %
Exam I	25%
Exam II	25%

Total for final grade	100%

A standard scale will be used for grading (e.g. 90%- 100% = A; 80%- 89% = B; 70%- 79% = C; 60 %- 69% = D; 59% and below = F).

COURSE OUTLINE

Subject to change at instructor's discretion

Week	Date	Modules/Topics	Assignments
1	23-Aug	Introduction to syllabus and Course Expectations	
	25-Aug	[Module 1] Introduction to Public Policy	
2	30-Aug	[Module 2] Idealized Competitive Model – The Efficiency Benchmark	
	1-Sep	[Module 2] Idealized Competitive Model – The Efficiency Benchmark	
3	6-Sep	Labor Day - paying tribute to American workers; and to all of their many contributions and achievements through the years. Labor Day was created by members of the labor movement, who organized strikes and rallies to fight for better working conditions amid the Industrial Revolution.	
	8-Sep	Discussion 1 - Gibbons Creek Coal Plant	Canvas Discussion/Short response due Friday 11:59PM
4	13-Sep	[Module 3] Rationales for Public Policy – Market Failures	
	15-Sep	[Module 3] Rationales for Public Policy – Market Failures	
5	20-Sep	[Module 3] Rationales for Public Policy – Market Failures	
	22-Sep	Discussion 2 - Urban Blight	Canvas Discussion/Short response due Friday 11:59PM
6	27-Sep	[Module 4] Rationales for Public Policy – Limitations of Competitive Framework and the Importance of Distributional Goals	
	29-Sep	[Module 4] Rationales for Public Policy – Limitations of Competitive Framework and the Importance of Distributional Goals	
7	4-Oct	Review for Exam 1	
	6-Oct	*****EXAM I*****	EXAM 1
8	11-Oct	[Module 5] Are there Limitations to Public Intervention? Government Failures	
	13-Oct	[Module 5] Are there Limitations to Public Intervention? Government Failures	
9	18-Oct	[Module 6] What are the Mechanisms to Correct for Market and Government Failures?	
	20-Oct	[Module 6] What are the Mechanisms to Correct for Market and Government Failures?	
10	25-Oct	[Module 7] How to Tackle Policy Problems? Cost-Benefit Analysis	

	27-Oct	[Module 7] How to Tackle Policy Problems? Cost-Benefit Analysis	
11	1-Nov	Case Study: Marijuana Policy	
	3-Nov	Discussion 3	Canvas Discussion/Short response due Friday 11:59PM
12	8-Nov	Case Study: High-speed Rail - Transportation Policy	
	10-Nov	Discussion 4	Canvas Discussion/Short response due Friday 11:59PM
13	15-Nov	Case Study: Gambling (Betting) and Gaming Policy	
	17-Nov	Discussion 5	Canvas Discussion/Short response due Friday 11:59PM
14	22-Nov	Cost Benefit Analysis – Workshop on Memo Writing	
	24-Nov	Cost Benefit Analysis – Workshop on Memo Writing	
15	29-Nov	Wrap-up session for Final Exam	Cost-Benefit Memo Due Monday at 11:59PM
	1-Dec	Reading Day - No Class	
16	6-Dec	*****EXAM II*****	EXAM II

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged

to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. **Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification"** (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students

Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Class Recordings & Student Likenesses

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Care Team (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- UNT Psychiatric Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- Individual Counseling (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

**UNT eUIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)

- Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)