



UAPP110: CHANGING THE WORLD AND PUBLIC POLICY

Class meeting

No required class meetings

Instructor

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Teaching Mode:

Online - Asynchronous

Office Hours:

by appointment

<https://tibortoth.youcanbook.me>

OVERVIEW

Is "Going Green" making a difference? Who are the haves and the have not's? Does politics matter? Can you get a job AND make a difference in the world? The answers to these questions can be found through sound Public Policy. Public Policy begins with you, and challenges us to engage contemporary questions and issues through institutional and public venues that enhance civil society (i.e., citizens, government, institutions). This course examines major policy issues confronting contemporary society, and the basic concepts and strategies that are used to address them.

This course examines major policy issues confronting contemporary society and the basic concepts and strategies that are used to address them. The purpose of this introductory course is to set the foundation for learning about the breadth, interconnectedness, complexity, and impact of public policy for citizens and groups within domestic and global communities. Throughout the semester you will be: a) Introduced to public policy problems and issues so that you can critically engage the material for policy analyses; b) Provided a comprehensive picture of public policy by discussing policymaking processes and the roles/responsibilities of those in the policy and policymaking arenas; and c) Offered the opportunity to connect classroom learning with "real world" issues affected by public policy decision making.

The learning goals for this course are as follows:

- Develop and apply the ability to examine contemporary policy problems through critical research and analysis, civil discourse, and through direct interaction with organization advocates, government officials, and policy professionals.
- Acquire knowledge of the contours of public policy, the processes through which public policy is developed and implemented, the different types of policy tools, and the

political values and structures that inform government action at various scales - from the local to global.

- Identify and appreciate the ways in which public policy impacts our communities generally and ourselves personally, and recognize that citizenship in democratic societies involves active engagement with policy-making systems.
- Become motivated to practice the famous dictum and “be the change” you want to see in the world by getting involved and invested in public policy.

Or to put it another way, the overarching goal for this class is to THINK. As we will discover, public policy is quite diverse and subject to change from a multitude of angles, including your own. My hope is that after this semester you will have a more thorough understanding of how public policy “works” and how, in your opinion, it can be improved.

COURSE PREPARATION

This course has no prerequisites. This is an introduction course to get you exploring public policy and contemporary public policy issues.

COURSE FORMAT

This course will be delivered fully online - asynchronously. No in person meetings with the instructor will be required. However, students will be encouraged to attend office hours. The completion of small, low stakes weekly assignments such as readings, quizzes online discussions will be required. This approach will facilitate steady progress and knowledge acquisition.

Student-focused learning format will be used in the course. The primary instructional technique of “learning by doing” is accomplished through brainstorming, individual research and writing and experience sharing.

ASSIGNMENTS **ABOUT YOU**

Students complete a short survey on their background and interest in policy issues.

READINGS AND RECORDED LECTURES

Students will engage with readings from the textbooks and view lectures on the substantial themes covered in the book on the public policy process. (See Lecture/Textbook Themes under COURSE OUTLINE BELOW)

WEEKLY QUIZZES

Students will complete weekly quizzes on Canvas. Quizzes will test knowledge of readings and lectures and give students an opportunity to re-engage with the material covered.

WEEKLY ENGAGEMENT ON DISCUSSION BOARD

Every week of the semester we will explore different challenging policy issues. We will engage these policy issues by exploring opposing views of the policy problem. We will use curated resources that include short video and audio clips, news articles, interviews, reports, websites, statistics, and info-graphics. Once familiarized with the policy issue students will be asked to take what they learned about the issue and what they learned from that week’s

lectures/readings and discuss these policy topics. Targeted prompts will engage students in these challenging and fun discussions. (For a sampling of potential issues Exploration of Opposing views on Policy Issues under COURSE OUTLINE BELOW)

PARTICIPATION

Students will earn points towards participation by actively and respectfully participating in individual and team work – based on peer evaluations and instructor observations. Please note: The full range of points (0-10) will be assigned for participation.