

Public Policy Concentration for Website

This is a new, third graduate track in addition to the professional and research tracks. This new track was created in partnership with the new School of Social Science, Urban Affairs and Public Policy and allows students to take advantage of the specialized courses offered by the new school.

This program is primarily designed for those with journalism experience who wish to more fully understand processes by which public policy is made and the substance of selected-policy areas. It is strongly suggested that students without journalism experience successfully complete intensive Reporting.

Journalism Requirements

Intensive Reporting (For graduate students without news writing experience.)

Introduction to Public Policy Reporting

Enterprise Reporting with an Urban Reporting Focus

First Amendment

Ethics and Standards (New Name)

Research Methods (Students without journalism experience must take journalism's Research Methods CG201. Students with journalism experience, with approval from the graduate coordinator of journalism director, can select a research methods course from Public Policy Research Course offerings.)

Four electives from Public Policy course listings* (See attached offering from the School of Social Science, Urban Affairs and Public Policy.)

*Selected graduate students can take Seminar in Investigative Reporting with Walter Robinson, former Globe Spotlight Team editor as one of their electives. Interested students should contact Professor Robinson to arrange for an interview. This class will count as one elective for those students who are accepted to participate in this class.

The School of Social Science, Urban Affairs and Public Policy Course Offerings

The following courses are research methods and specialized courses in public policy offered by the new school.

***Public Policy Research Courses**

HST G101 Theory and Methodology 4 HS

Examines the following questions in the context of major issues in current historical research and debate. Where do historical questions come from, and how do we answer them? How do we produce knowledge about historical events and processes? What theoretical models guide historians work? Emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches as well as concrete techniques in historical research.

POL G201 Methods of Analysis 3 SH

Provides an overview of research methods and tools used by social scientists, including survey research, elite interviews, statistical approaches, case studies, comparative analysis, use of history, and experimental/non-experimental design.

POL G202 Quantitative Techniques 3 SH

Teaches the use of social science quantitative techniques, emphasizing application of value to public sector analysts and scholars alike. Includes descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, cross-tabulation, bivariate regression and correlation, and multiple regression. Examines how to generate and interpret statistical analysis through use of SPSS.

POL G203 Techniques of Policy Analysis 3 SH

Provides a systematic approach to understanding the origins, formulation, implementation, and impact of government outputs. Reviews key analytical concepts and competing theoretical perspectives. Considers both the political dimensions of public policymaking and the technical aspects of program design within the natural history of the policymaking process. Draws on case materials from a spectrum of policy areas.

POL G318 Techniques of Program Evaluation 3 SH

Reviews methodologies for assessing the impact of public policy. Includes experimental and quasi-experimental research design, the value and limits of case studies, political and organizational barriers to evaluation research, report writing, and procedures for instituting change.

SOC G204 Ethnographic Theory 3 SH

Examines ethnography, an approach mostly utilized in a “field setting” outside the university and its library. Calls for researchers to become directly involved or immersed in the everyday lives of individuals and/or groups in order to examine and explain the way they subjectively perceive, feel, and give meaning to their worlds. The course’s main objective is to teach you the practicalities, realities, joys, and limitations of ethnography through the examination of some writing on ethnographies and a couple of actual ethnographies.

SOC G210 Statistical Methods for Sociology 3 SH

Introduces statistical methods relevant to sociology. Topics include tabular analysis, nonparametric statistics, analysis of variance, regression analysis, path analysis, measures of association, estimation,

and univariate and multivariate hypothesis testing. A knowledge of elementary statistical theory is presumed.

Public policy graduate courses

Economics

CECNG250 International Economic Development 4SH

This course examines the record of growth and development over the past five centuries, the history of global disparities in levels of development over the past two centuries, theories of growth and development, and development policies across lagging countries over the past fifty years. Each topic is examined from different theoretical perspectives, including Marxist, neo-Marxist, neoclassical, and institutional. *Prerequisites:* Some background in macroeconomics and trade theory is helpful but is not required.

CECNG251 International Finance 4SH

This course introduces students to international finance and equips them with tools and methods to study and analyze international economic issues and problems. Topics include: the foreign exchange market, balance of payments, international investment and banking, monetary and fiscal policy in an open economy, economic integration and monetary unification, the international monetary system, and optimum currency areas. Each student is required to write a short paper on a current problem in international finance. *Prerequisites:* None.

CECNG265 Inequality and Poverty 4SH

This course covers an array of topics on the economics of inequality and its application to the distribution of wages, earnings, incomes, and wealth and the economics of poverty. Specific course topics include an analysis of the distribution of economic rewards in societies and alternative mechanisms for distributing incomes and goods/services; alternative concepts and measure of economic inequality; theories of distributive justice; empirical studies of wage, earnings, income and wealth inequality; the measurement and analysis of poverty problems; and public policies to combat inequality and poverty. Empirical studies of inequality and poverty problems in the U.S., other industrialized countries and developing nations are presented. *Prerequisites:* CECNG110, Microeconomic Theory, and CECNG140, Applied Econometrics, or permission of instructor.

CECNG Economics of Government 4SH

The course presents an overview of the economics of government and the role of public policy. The course develops guidelines to determine which economic activities are best performed by government and which are not. Topics include public choice, public goods, externalities, public enterprise, and efficiency and equity effects of alternative tax systems. *Prerequisite:* CECNG110, Microeconomic Theory, or permission of instructor.

CECNG270 Economics of Law and Regulation 4SH

This course relies on models of welfare economics to analyze the impact of laws, regulation and deregulation, in terms of both positive and normative aspects. Topics include economic analysis of market failures and government remedies; property, tort and contract law/ and economic and social regulation. Students are encouraged to develop critical skills in analyzing various types of economic policy. *Prerequisites:* Knowledge of microeconomic theory.

History

HST G216 American Education in World Perspective 4 SH

Examines the expansion of public education from the passage of compulsory schooling laws to the establishment of the multi-university and the problems facing American education in the 1990's. Gives attention to views that common schooling and land-grant colleges were part of the larger movement to extend democracy. Examines challenges to these propositions in detail.

HST G217 Modern American Social History 4 SH

Examines historical literature on changes in American society over the last hundred years. Possible topics include race, ethnicity, class, gender, migration, demography, deviance and social policy.

HST G220 North American Environmental History 4 SH

This course analyzes recent major works in the environmental history of North America. Readings will include the works of historians that transcend nation boundaries and focus on the effects of human activities on changing the land, forests, wildlife and wildlife habitat, water and air quality. Many of these works are multi-disciplinary and include the writings of natural scientist and social scientists.

HST G239 Media and History 4 SH

Introduces students to the variety of chemical and electronic media, the appropriate uses of these media for teaching, preservation, outreach, and primary research documents. Each student will engage in research related to the selection and evaluation of existing media, and on the deconstruction, analysis, evaluation, and assembly of documentary presentations. Students will then form research and production teams for the creation of actuality media production, which will take place during the semester. Topics such as media preservation, production budgeting, marketing, and intellectual property will also be covered.

Political Science

POL G303 Public Budgeting and Financial Management 3 SH

Surveys governmental budgeting at the federal, state and local levels. Surveys major revenue sources and expenditure responsibilities. Discusses budgetary processes and politics, as well as resulting policies. Considers both proposed and implemented reforms. Also introduces financial management practices,

including cash management, fund accounting, debt financing, endowment spending and control, cost allocation procedures, and tax expenditures.

POL G304 Economic Institutions and Analysis 3 SH

Introduces the fundamentals of macroeconomics and microeconomics as well as the role of key economic institutions, such as the Federal Reserve. Includes analysis of government's role in a market economy and introduces methods of economic analysis.

POL G305 Institutional Leadership and The Public Manager 3 SH

Examines the problems and techniques relevant to effective management of a public agency in a complicated and often turbulent political environment. Topics include legislative relations, media relations, role of the courts, unions and advocacy groups, policy implementation and evaluation, and setting and working with high standards of integrity.

POL G307 Functions and Techniques of Public Management 3 SH

Examines the problems and techniques relevant to management of a public agency, with an emphasis on internal issues that face public managers. Topics include planning and agenda setting; organizational design; agency budgeting; employee recruitment, selection and development; and reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

POL G308 Organization and Management of Nonprofit Organizations 3 SH

Offers an overview of fundamental management principles and concepts as applied to nonprofit organizations. Topics include organizational development, team building, board and staff functions and leadership, managing staff and volunteers, program planning and evaluation, public relations and marketing, decision making, and strategic planning.

POL G310 Administrative Law and Politics 3 SH

Introduces students of American politics and policymaking with a segment of politics that concerns the relationship between administrative agencies and the courts that review them. Emphasis is on the development of important administrative law principles and the application of these principles to practical problems in public administration.

POL G320 Theories of Political Economy 3 SH

Explores the basic philosophical, psychological, political, and economic underpinnings of contemporary public policy, with an emphasis on the United States. Considers the core philosophical and political theories of conservative, liberal, and radical political economy, and examines the economic structures consistent with these competing theories.

POL G321 Health Policy and Politics 3 SH

Examines contemporary health care policies, programs, and politics. Discusses the structure of the health care system and its costs, efforts to develop universal health coverage, the spread of managed care, and related topics.

POL G322 Issues in Health Policy and Administration 3 SH

Discusses selected ethical and legal issues and the topics relevant to health policy and administration, such as health care rationing, confidentiality of patient data, informed consent, end-of-life issues, physician-assisted suicide, and medical malpractice.

POL G323 Mental Health Policy Issues and Administration 3 SH

Examines key issues in the development of mental health policy from both U.S. and comparative perspectives. Also includes discussion of implementation processes and barriers in the establishment of comprehensive systems of community care.

POL G327 Comparative Public Policy and Administration 3 SH

Examines issues related to public policy, bureaucracy and organization, budgeting, public management, and personnel administration in a cross national, cross cultural, and international context. Uses examples from Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as the U.S. and Europe.

POL G330 Education Policy in the United States 3 SH

Focuses on the socioeconomic environment and political and economic decisions that influence the performance of public schools in the United States, examines how race and class affect school performance, compares approaches to improving education, and addresses school financing and accountability.

POL G331 Environmental Politics and Policy 3 SH

Explores debates surrounding the making of environmental policy in the United States and other nations. Examines the nature of environmental problems, how the structures of political systems affect policymaking, and the competing interests at work in environmental politics. Also discusses environmental policy in cross national and international perspectives.

POL G333 Science, Technology, and Public Policy 3 SH

Discusses the impacts of breakthroughs in science and technology on politics and public policy making – and how politics in turn influences scientific research and technological development. Examines differences between scientific and democratic values, competing definitions of rationality, the nature of problems, policy-making processes, questions of intellectual property rights, and debates over risk assessment, including the “precautionary principle.” Focuses primarily on the United States but with comparisons to the European Union and other areas of the world. Anchors discussion in such areas as (for example) biotechnology, nanotechnology, alternative energy sources, and artificial intelligence.

POL G356 Comparative Political Economy 3 SH

Compares national economic policies in areas such as banking regulation, taxes, welfare, environmental protection, and privatization in up to five countries each quarter. We examine the impact of (a) the type of military system (presidential democracy, parliamentary democracy, modernizing military regime, and so on) and (b) the organization of the central government bureaucracy on public policy choices. Countries covered will include both advanced industrial nations (such as the U.S., Britain, Japan, France, or Germany) and developing countries (such as Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, or India).

POL G357 International Political Economy 3 SH

Contrasts two approaches to understanding trade, financial, and other economic relations among nation states. The first, international relations theory, emphasizes the relative power positions of states in a fundamentally anarchic and unequal international system. The second, neoclassical economics, assumes peace and security, and stresses market relations of supply and demand among both states and private firms. We employ these alternative prisms to examine historical and contemporary issues, which may include; The Bretton Woods Agreement, the behavior of the Euromarkets, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the possibilities for collective action to reduce environmental degradation or the for profit trade in arms of drugs.

POL G361 U.S. National Security Policy 3 SH

Analyzes U.S. national security policy with particular attention to the various forms of war that threaten the U.S. and world security.

POL G367 United States Foreign Policy 3 SH

Examines the theory and practice of U.S. foreign policy. Focuses on selected issues since the end of the Second World War with emphasis on contemporary policies and challenges.

POL G392 Topical Seminar in Public Policy and Administration 3 SH

Examines current issues in the area of Public Administration and Policy.

Sociology**SOC G238 Sociology of Education 3 SH**

Analyzes the structure and function of educational institutions, and presents student, faculty, and administrative perspectives. Emphasizes the role of education in process of socialization, social mobility, social change, and social control.

SOC G241 Sociology of Law 3 SH

Discusses the relationship among law, ethics, and social policy, with emphasis on such issues as family violence, the management of AIDS, state regulation of public morality, and health maintenance and the

provision of medical care. The course has an applied focus and emphasizes student participation and initiatives.

SOC G262 Children in America: Sociological and Policy Perspective 3 SH

This course presents an introduction to the study of children, their problems, and various policy options to resolve these problems. While based on a sociological foundation, this course will move toward an interdisciplinary perspective in exploring such issues as education, family violence, health care, and juvenile justice, among others. The course will be guided by the principles of social action advocacy in the children's public policy arena.

SOC G273 Gender and Social Policy 3 SH

Provides an introduction to gender and social policy with particular attention to intersections of inequalities based on class, race, and sexuality. The focus is on (equality) policies in employment, including "family friendly" measures and antidiscrimination policies. Policies covered also include those focused on child-care, poverty, reproduction, and sexuality. The intersections of family, economy, sexuality, and state are examined from a variety of perspectives, including cross-national, comparative analysis.