

# Law and Public Policy

## **The Logic of the LPP Core**

The LPP core is designed to provide students with a common knowledge in theories of public policymaking, interdisciplinary analysis, law, economics, and research methodology. From this common base, students select electives in one of the policy focus areas offered by LPP: crime, law and justice; sustainability and climate change; health policy; labor market, analysis and workforce development; and urban policy. LPP was founded in the belief that public policy analysis and development requires an interdisciplinary approach and knowledge base. Thus, students select their electives in colleges throughout the university. The core provides the theoretical and methodological base for our interdisciplinary approach.

## **Interdisciplinary Approaches to Policy and Advocacy (LW 7482)**

This course introduces students to the judicious use of studies done in various disciplines for policymaking and advocacy. Through the concept of "paradigm" students learn to identify the conceptual structure and methodologies underlying different disciplines and to understand the uses to which work within each paradigm can properly be put. The course examines the differences between science, law, policymaking, and advocacy, including the role of normative judgments in each. The justification of normative judgments, including concepts of social justice, will be considered. The use of studies from different disciplines for policymaking and advocacy with respect to tobacco control and obesity prevention will provide illustrative examples.

## **Law and Legal Reasoning (LPSC 7308 )**

This course introduces students to the American legal system and to the types of legal reasoning used by lawyers and judges. Students acquire the skills needed to use legal resources and legal reasoning in academic work, including reading and understanding cases and statutes, doing legal research and writing legal memoranda, and applying existing law to the issue at hand. Finally, the course provides an overview of key areas of law that are particularly important for

policy students, such as federalism/pre-emption, constitutional law and administrative law.

By the end of the semester students will:

- Understand basic legal concepts and terminology, the organization of the federal and state court systems in the United States, and how litigation moves through the courts
- Understand different types of legal reasoning used in cases involving both common law and enacted/statutory law
- Be able to read and understand key legal documents, especially judicial opinions but also litigation documents such as complaints and briefs
- Know how to brief a legal case, analyze a legal case and apply it to a new fact pattern
- Perform legal research by finding the applicable case law or statute and writing a legal memorandum
- Understand basic concepts in Federal constitutional law and administrative law

### **Strategizing Public Policy (LPSC 7311)**

This course provides a practical and theoretical overview to crafting effective strategies for advancing public policy changes at the federal, state and local level using a range of legislative, litigation and other policy tools. After developing the technical aspects of a public policy proposal, those working for policy change face an array of strategic and tactical decisions about where and how to intervene in the complicated system of actors and institutions that establishes and implements public policies. The course uses a series of case studies on a wide range of policy topics to understand and evaluate how different policy strategies evolve in the interplay between branches and levels of government. These case studies are integrated with key readings on policy theory, so that theory (e.g. on agenda setting, policy solutions, framing) will be presented in the context of case studies that demonstrate the application of that theory. Taking an inter-branch perspective on how policy is made, the course places particular emphasis on the role litigation and the courts in policymaking, an aspect of public policy formulation that is often downplayed or overlooked. Through case studies from a variety of policy areas including education, housing, climate, health, gay rights and land use, the course will consider what policy issues are best suited to being addressed at different levels of government (federal, state or local) and how to make strategic use of different policy instruments (legislation, litigation,

regulation, ballot initiatives and other legal and policy instruments). Through the case studies and class discussions, students analyze the strengths and weaknesses of policy change options and evaluate which strategy or strategies are most likely to produce desired policy change. The goal of the course is to provide students with both a theory-based and pragmatic framework for developing effective strategies for achieving desired policy change across a broad spectrum of issues and at all levels of government.

### **Economics of Law and Regulation (ECN G267)**

This course covers a variety of topics in the fields of economics of regulation and of law and economics. Economics of regulation examines the role of government in altering market outcomes. It draws from areas such as welfare economics, public economics, and industrial organization. Law and economics examines the economic consequences of laws and legal systems, and their economic efficiency. It also draws heavily on the field of welfare economics. All these fields are branches of microeconomics.

Students who complete this course should have an understanding of

- the interaction between law and economics
- how to use economics to judge the efficiency and equity of laws and regulations, and
- how economics contributes to the creation of policy and to judging policy effectiveness.

### **Research and Statistical Methods (LPSC 7305)**

This course examines a variety of topics in the methodology of social science research, with particular emphasis on survey research. The course is designed to introduce graduate students to the methods underlying data collection within the social sciences, particularly those involved with using survey data, and to provide a foundation for reading and critically evaluating the research literatures of the social

sciences. An additional objective of the course is to teach students how to develop their own research questions as well as testable hypotheses. The course will enable students to develop an understanding of the types of questions and topics that can be addressed by the various research methods used by social scientists. The

development of a research proposal during the semester is a central part of each student's responsibility during the course.

## **Research Design and Analysis (LPSC 7310)**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to research design, logic of inquiry, data collection, and evaluation of evidence. Various methods of data collection will be reviewed, with a particular emphasis on surveys and qualitative methods.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Locate and critically evaluate the research literature relative to your area of interest
- Write a comprehensive literature review
- Develop your own research questions and testable hypotheses (if appropriate)
- Construct a comprehensive research proposal