

THE ROBERTSON SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
Private Syllabus – GOV 612: Public Policies: Problem Solving Through Strategic Decision Making

SUMMER 2006

The Robertson School of Government provides a foundation of Judeo-Christian principles for its rigorous academic curriculum, producing leaders equipped to meet challenges of leadership in the public square.

PROFESSOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

GOV 612 teaches the student how to structure public policy problems, choose appropriate techniques, and understand the limits of quantitative approaches to policy analysis. Understanding the impact of distributional effects, externalities, and the role of risk and uncertainty in policy analysis is key to this course. This course helps the student identify a criterion for choice, normative roles for analysis, and use information in making public policy decisions.

CONNECTION TO THE PROGRAM OF STUDY

The Robertson School of Government seeks to restore our nation's Judeo-Christian heritage, to renew the traditional values of citizenship in the public affairs of the United States, and to promote these ideals in all the nations of the world. To that end, leadership and policy issues are rigorously analyzed from various academic perspectives in a broad, multidisciplinary endeavor, emphasizing the application of Judeo-Christian principles to theoretical and practical problems. The program is designed to produce principled graduates who are morally, spiritually, and intellectually well-grounded and who are also equipped with the practical and technological skills needed to meet today's challenges of leadership in government, policy-making, and politics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate and apply the biblically-based "self-evident truths" to personal behavior and political decision-making
2. Articulate and apply the jurisdictional principles of law and

government to political decision-making

3. Develop and articulate biblically based policy alternatives
4. Demonstrate the appropriate application of contemporary research methods and critique the results
5. Demonstrate the ability to provide research-based solutions to complex political issues
6. Apply quantitative research methods to the analysis of public opinion and other data, including information from governmental and non-governmental sources
7. Demonstrate the ability to influence public opinion through the provision of seminars, discussions and information exchanges
8. Formulate policy in response to current and future problems and develop realistic strategies for the implementation of change consistent with biblical principles.
9. Demonstrate understanding of decision-making models
10. Demonstrate the ability to communicate ideas and values effectively, orally and in writing
11. Apply appropriate conflict resolution skills to interpersonal and group problems
12. Demonstrate analytical skill in assessing and depicting social conditions

TEXTS AND RESOURCES

Texts (required):

Bardach, Eugene, *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*. Chatham House Publishers, 2000. ISBN # 1889119296

Dunn, William N., *Public Policy Analysis*. 3rd Edition. Prentice Hall, Inc. ISBN # 0130976393

Hart, Chris. *Doing a Literature Review*. Sage Publications, 1998. ISBN # 0761959750

Stinchcombe, Arthur L. *Constructing Social Theories*. University of Chicago Press, 1968. ISBN # 0226774848.

**GOV 612 IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS: SECTION A---QUALITATIVE AND SECTION B-QUANTITATIVE METHODS BASED. THE FINAL EXAMS FOLLOW AS A MEANS OF PRESENTING THE CONTENT THAT YOU ARE TO MASTER IN THIS COURSE. YOU MAY CHOOSE WHICH SECTION YOU WILL PURSUE AS A COURSE OF STUDY FOR GOV 612. PLEASE EMAIL YOUR DECISION TO olivmcd@regent.edu.
QUALITATIVE EXAMINATION**

**SECTION A ONLY
GOV612 POLICY ANALYSIS**

Section A --- Qualitative Examination --- GOV 612 SUMMER 2006 ---Olivia M. McDonald© 2006

Purpose:

The goal is master of the case study analysis methods as they may be applied to public policy. This examination requires the application of this qualitative approach to specific public policy problems. THE PRINCIPLE FOCUS WILL BE UPON HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO NATURAL AND UNNATURAL DISASTERS & TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVIITY DETECTION/RESPONSE. SPECIFIC REGIONS OF THE WORLD WILL BE ASSIGNED TO YOU. YOU WILL APPLY THE CASE STUDY APPROACH TO A NATION OR COLLABORATIVE NATION RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM AREA. YOU WILL HAVE ALL SUMMER TO DEVELOP YOUR CASE STUDY. YOUR PRELIMINARY AND THEN FINAL CASE STUDY DOCUMENTS WILL BE POSTED IN Bb FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT. SECTION B STUDENTS WILL POSE CRITICAL QUESTIONS TO SECTION A CASE STUDY FOR WHICH SECTION A STUDENTS WILL PREPARE A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE. A FORMAL GUIDE SHEET WILL BE DISTRIBUTED OUTLINING THE FORMAT THE FINAL CASE STUDY DOCUMENT MUST TAKE. ALL ATTACHMENTS OR APPENDICES THAT WOULD FURTHER SUBSTANTIATE YOUR CASE ARE TO BE PROVIDED.

As you complete this examination, your responses should demonstrate your proficiency in the following areas:

- Defining problem situation
- Identifying objectives
- Identifying constraints
- Defining preferences
- Identifying options

In addition, you must demonstrate your ability to effectively employ procedures for scenario appraisal by

- Developing a Nation or Collaborative Nation Profile
- Identifying Decision-Making Episodes
- Identifying Theory-Driven Practices
- Identifying Ethical Confrontations
- Identifying Legal Confrontations
- Defining the Case Strategy: Descriptive, Explanatory, or Exploratory
- Narrowing the Point of Focus
- Securing Information Release
- Conducting Formal Informational Interviews
- Developing the Public Policy Narrative
- Formalizing the Case Study
- Developing Discussion Questions

QUANTITATIVE EXAMINATION

**SECTION B ONLY
GOV612 POLICY ANALYSIS**

Section B ---- Quantitative Examination ---- GOV612 SUMMER2006 ----Olivia M. McDonald© 2006

Purpose:

The goal is mastery of analytical methods that are frequently employed in policy analysis. This examination requires the application of the quantitative approaches to specific public policy problems. THE PRINCIPLE FOCUS WILL BE UPON HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO NATURAL AND UNNATURAL DISASTERS & TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY DETECTION/RESPONSE. SPECIFIC SCENARIOS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO YOU FOR WHICH YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPLY TECHNIQUES THAT WILL HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO YOU IN A PROSEMINAR CONTEXT.

YOU WILL HAVE A ONE-WEEK TIME ALLOTMENT ASSIGNED FOR EACH SCENARIO. YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE POSTED IN Bb ON THE DESIGNATED DUE DATES. THE LAST POSTING WILL BE OF AN AUDIO DRIVEN POWER POINT WHICH YOU WILL PREPARE AS A FORMAL CYBER PRESENTATION OF YOUR FINDINGS. A WRITTEN GUIDE SHEET WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THE SCENARIOS. YOU ARE TO SUPPLY ALL CALCULATIONS AS ATTACHMENTS. THESE PROJECTS WILL USE REAL DATA.

As you complete this examination, your responses should demonstrate your proficiency in the following areas:

- Defining problem situation
- Identifying objectives
- Identifying constraints
- Defining preferences
- Identifying options

In addition, you must demonstrate your ability to effectively employ procedures for projection and aggregation with regard to:

Difference Equations:

- Measuring growth
- Systems analysis
- Forecasting and simulation
- Population projection

Discounting and Annualizing:

- Time and money
- Computing present value
- Annualizing versus discounting
- Adjusting for inflation

Project Evaluation

- Cost-Benefit/Cost Effectiveness Analysis
 - Decision rules for project selection
 - Budget constraints
 - Choice of discount rate

Linear Programming

- Formulating optimizing problems
- Graphical solutions
 - Simple maximization problem
 - Objective function
 - Constraints
 - Mathematical statement
 - Graphical solution
 - Slack variables
 - Extreme points
 - Optimal solution
 - Surplus variables

- Simple minimization problem
- Infeasibility
- Unboundedness problems
- Degeneracy problems
- Alternate optimal solutions
- Goal programming

Decision Analysis

- Decision trees
- Sequential strategies
- Estimating the value of information
- Risk aversion and utility
- Modeling stochastic processes

Computer Simulation

- Discrete and stochastic models
- Validation
- Statistical considerations
- Simulation packages

Waiting Line Models

- Single channel waiting lines
- Arrival distributions
- Service time distributions
- Queue discipline
- Single-channel waiting line model with Poisson arrivals and exponential service times
- Multiple-channel waiting line model with Poisson arrivals and exponential service times
- Economic analysis of waiting lines
- Simulation of waiting lines

Markov Processes

- Markov chains
- Long-term analysis
- Regular, absorbing, and cyclical chains
- Markov processes
- Measurement

Complex Problems

- Sensitivity analysis
- Scenario analysis
- Estimating subjective probabilities