



Revised September 15, 2007

Advanced Research Seminar on Law and Public Policy (API-462Y/HLS 95311A)

Semester: Fall 2007 and Spring 2008
 Jointly Listed: Harvard Law School/Kennedy School of Government
 Place: To be announced
 Time/day: Every other week, Fall / Every week, Spring
 Teaching faculty and contact details:

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Description

This seminar focuses on the blending of skills and styles taught at Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government in addressing major policy issues. Students will be encouraged to solve problems by simultaneously applying the multidisciplinary techniques, methods and approaches, including those common in law, political science, economics, management, history, and ethical/normative analysis. In the Fall Semester we will illustrate the process of a multidisciplinary approach, which we will expect students to apply in their own papers. Students will be assigned as the discussant for one of the core readings in the fall semester and they will present their work and provide feedback as a discussant for other student's papers during the spring semester. The seminar will meet six times in the fall and every week in the spring.

Students will present their work during the spring semester. The Integrated Written Project substitutes for the KSG Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE) for MPP students and Second-Year Policy Analysis (SYPA) for MPA/ID students and fulfills the HLS Written Work Requirement. The Project consists of a detailed plan of action for a specific public policy issue and it should be directed to a particular public policy official, real or hypothetical. The cases should focus on a major issue of public policy which is currently under debate. A list of suggested topics is listed at the end of the syllabus but students could consider and suggest alternatives outside of those proposed.

The written work will involve four steps.

I. Provide a brief synopsis of the planned project topic (3-6 pages) by October 17.

The synopsis should include the following sections.

- i. Context: who is the client, why is the topic important, and why is it policy relevant?
- ii. How should the problem be defined?
- iii. What evidence (research literature, cases, and data) should be assembled and what methods used to analyze the problem?
- iv. How can you assess the political feasibility of your solution?
- v. What two or three alternative key policy options should be considered by your client as potential solutions?
- vi. Key readings in a short bibliography (identify 10-15 relevant sources)

II. Provide a first draft of the project (10-15 pages)

The first draft should build on a revised version of synopsis by including the following sections.

- i. Context: who is the client, why is the topic important, and why is it policy relevant?
- ii. How is the problem defined?
- iii. What does the evidence say about addressing the problem? What methods, techniques and data is used in your research?
- iv. How can you assess the political feasibility of your solution?
- v. What two or three alternative key policy options should be considered by your client as potential solutions?
- vi. What criteria should be used to evaluate the options? How should your client think about the trade-offs, the pros and cons, of each alternative, to make an informed choice?
- vii. Draft bibliography

III. Provide a second draft of the project (15-25 pages)

The second draft would build upon a revised version of the above, by including the following sections

- i. Executive summary and recommendations
- ii. Context: who is the client, why is the topic important, and why is it policy relevant?
- iii. How is the problem defined?
- iv. What does the evidence say about addressing the problem? What methods, techniques and data is used in your research?
- v. How can you assess the political feasibility of your solution?
- vi. What two or three alternative key policy options should be considered by your client as potential solutions?
- vii. What criteria should be used to evaluate the options? How should your client think about the trade-offs, the pros and cons, of each alternative, to make an informed choice?
- viii. What are your final recommendations?
- ix. Bibliography and technical appendices

IV: Submit final draft (35-50 pages plus any technical appendices)

The report should focus on providing your client with policy advocacy (arguments seeking to set the agenda and raise an issue profile), political analysis (feasibility of adoption), and policy analysis (comparing the pros and cons of alternative options for reform). It should also consider issues of policy implementation (discussing how to manage the process of introducing the reform), and policy evaluation (examining the impact of a reform after it has been implemented).

This seminar is required for students earning a joint degree from Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government. While usually taken in the final year of that four-year program, by petitioning the course professors it may be taken instead in the third year. In addition to joint degree students, students pursuing concurrent law and policy degrees may be admitted with the permission of the instructors. Upon completion of the Integrated Written Project, students will receive one KSG credit and one HLS written work credit. In exceptional circumstances, two HLS written work credits will be awarded.

Class Schedule 2007-2008: Fall semester meeting on Wednesday 8-10am Hauser 524

Class	Date	Topic	Assignment
Fall	7 Sept	Introduction and organization	
1	Sept 26th	Stages in the process of policy analysis- PN	
2	Oct 10th	Assembling evidence- PN	
3	Oct 17th	Assessing the political feasibility of a proposal part 1- PH	Project proposal
4	Nov 14th	Assessing the political feasibility of a proposal part 2- PH	
5	Nov 28th	Combining this into a effective report- PN	
6	Dec 5th	The role and influence of a government lawyer- PH	
Spring			
7		Class project discussion:	I: Project 1 st draft
8		Class project discussion:	
9		Class project discussion:	
10		Class project discussion:	
11		Understanding the perspective of the recipient of the proposal: (A) The role of the appointed manager	II: Project 2 nd draft
12		Understanding the perspective of the recipient of the proposal: (B) The role of the elected official	
13		Paper presentations	
14		Paper presentations	
15		Paper presentations	III. Final draft
16		Paper presentations	
17		Comparisons and lessons	
18		Final wrap up	

Readings:

Eugene Bardach. 2004. *A Practical Guide For Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path To More Effective Problem Solving* CQ Press; 2nd edition. (order from Amazon or equivalent)

Philip Heymann. 2007. *Living the Policy Process*. Oxford University Press (forthcoming). Part One and Part Four (copies available from Jane Reader, Hauser 518)

Essential readings per class

Class One. Stages in the process of policy analysis (Pippa)

Part I, "A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis", pp1-53, by Eugene Bardach (CQ Press, 2005, 2nd ed)

Class Two. Assembling evidence (Pippa)

Part II, "A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis", pp61-88, by Eugene Bardach (CQ Press, 2005, 2nd ed)

Class Three. Assessing the political feasibility of a proposal part 1 (Phil)

Pages 1-71 (Part 1), "Living the Policy Process", by Philip Heymann. (OUP 2007) Copies to be handed out in class

Class Four. Assessing the political feasibility of a proposal part 2 (Phil)

Pages 72-136 (Part 1), "Living the Policy Process", by Philip Heymann. (OUP 2007) Copies to be handed out in class

Class Five. Combining this into a effective report (Pippa)

Appendix A: "A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis", pp107-121, by Eugene Bardach (CQ Press, 2005, 2nd ed)

Class Six. The Role and influence of a government lawyer (Phil)

Chapters 14-16 (all of Part 4), "Living the Policy Process", by Philip Heymann. Copies to be handed out in class.

Project Topics

There are various topics where we would particularly welcome proposed projects.

For Professor Heymann these include issues of terrorism, drugs, the development of criminal investigations abroad, corruption, and more generally anything closely related to crime.

For Professor Norris these include a range of comparative topics in politics, in developing and advanced industrialized societies, including challenges of strengthening democratic governance, the reform of political institutions and constitutional arrangements (such as electoral systems, federalism/decentralization, legislatures and executives), comparative public policy, and policy issues relating to women's empowerment and gender equality, political participation and civic engagement, political communications and the role of the media, voting and public opinion, and political economy.

More specific examples of project topics can be suggested within each of these areas. You may also want to consider and suggest alternatives outside of these proposed areas.

Your project topic and proposal needs to be agreed by Professors Heymann and Norris, and if this is outside of their areas of expertise, an outside expert who is willing to provide a technical review of the second draft of your project during the spring semester should be identified.