University of Georgia
Department of Public Administration and Policy
PADP 4200 - The Public Policies of Risky Behavior
Fall 2022
COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Shelby Steuart   **Class Time:** MWF, 11:30am-12:20pm
Office: 101X Baldwin Hall   **Class Location:** 102 Baldwin Hall
Email: Shelby.Steuart@uga.edu   **Office Hours:** Mon. 12:30-1:30, by appointment

Description:

This course is a one semester survey of public policies related to individual risky behaviors, and the analysis of the impact of those policies on health and economic outcomes. The class introduces students to the theoretical and quantitative techniques of policy evaluation, focusing primarily on economic models of policy evaluation. The course is intended to enable students to be critical users of policy analyses and to understand the role of such analysis in social policy development. This course will provide an introduction to the field of economic analysis for those students who are planning to continue on in the area of social policy evaluation and development.

Part of the programmatic goals for University of Georgia Public Administration and Policy students are that they understand the public policy process at the federal, state and local levels, including formulating, implementing and evaluating public policy. Students should develop the ability to interpret and persuasively communicate information regarding policy alternatives through written materials.

Secondly, the Public Administration and Policy program at UGA teaches students to utilize various methods and analytical tools to provide effective reasoning for decision-making and policy creation. Students should learn to effectively inform the public and other stakeholders of decisions and initiatives through the presentation of data and research findings. Furthermore, they should learn to produce policy papers involving the synthesis of information, evaluation, and analysis of critical questions or problems currently facing the field of public administration and policy.

Ultimately, this course seeks to lead students to develop these skills by applying the economic method of thought - assuming rational agents respond predictably to incentives in order to allocate the scarce resources at their disposal as seems "best" to them - and how this method can be a widely useful tool for assessing the need for, and likely impact of, public policy. Students in the course will practice the several skills outlined above via class discussion, out-of-class readings, communication of policy findings, and writing an independent paper.

Course Objectives
1. Survey a wide range of public policies aimed at regulating or mitigating behaviors that increase the risk of adverse health outcomes, high social costs, or death;

2. Examine how policy analysis is used to inform public decisions and policy development; examine the steps involved in the policy analysis process, including problem definition, determination of evaluation criteria, identification of policy alternatives, and policy evaluation;
3. Consider the political context and the challenges to the rational model of policy analysis when the underlying behaviors being regulated are risky (and arguably not fully rational);
4. Examine how data are used by social policy analysts to verify social problems and delineate policy problems as well as the challenges to unambiguous, objective empirical analysis;
5. Consider how criteria for policy analysis (equity, equality, adequacy, security, liberty, efficiency, social justice, democracy as well as technical, administrative, and political feasibility) are selected and applied, and consider the ethical and political issues involved in criteria selection;
6. Examine the different methods for valuing policy effects and the process by which the policy to be implemented is selected, including cost-benefit analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis, as well as evaluation of the distribution of policy effects among population subgroups.

Educational Outcomes
By the end of the semester, students will be expected to demonstrate:
1. a thorough understanding of the policy analysis process;
2. an understanding of the costs that specific risky behaviors can impose on individuals and society and the role that public policies make in addressing those problems;
3. a thorough understanding of the limits of rational policy analysis to influence the decision-making process;
4. the ability to appreciate the use of secondary data sources and empirical evidence to substantiate policy arguments and to understand the limitations of data and empirical analysis;
5. the ability to apply multiple criteria (e.g., efficiency, equity, equality, security, liberty, or social justice and democracy) in evaluating social policies;
6. an understanding of how policy alternatives are identified and evaluated;
7. the ability to critically analyze policies and programs in terms of their distributional impacts, with particular attention to the impact on vulnerable groups.

Text for Course: There is no assigned text for the course. Rather class discussion will be motivated by a set of readings.

Organization of the Course: Class meetings will be lecture and student-led discussion. Class participation will be a very important part of the grading; I will call on individual students throughout the class to facilitate discussion (with names selected randomly before class starts). ***It is imperative that students conduct their own surveys of the day's topic and read the assigned materials before class!*** Class attendance is required.

Correspondence with instructor: I am delighted to correspond with students about the course via email. I will respond within 48 hours on weekdays.
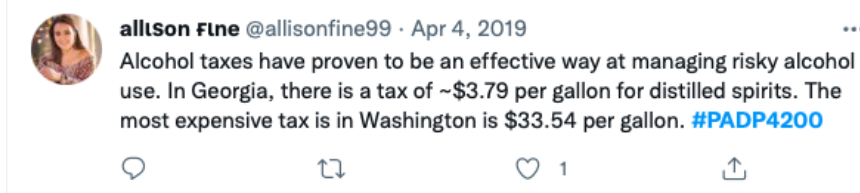
Grading: There are six components of the final grade:
1. Social media outreach: tweets sent (10%)

2. Exam and speaker questions (10%)
3. Mid-term exam (20%)
4. Participation in classroom discussion (20%)
5. Research Paper and presentation (20%)
6. Final (non-cumulative) exam (20%)

Social media outreach: Learning to communicate the facts of social problems and the evidence base for policy solutions is a crucial role for policy makers, bureaucrats, researchers, and (increasingly) informed citizens. Social media outlets, such as Twitter, are powerful ways to communicate directly to the public; learning to use these tools responsibly is commensurately important. Consequently, students in the class will be required to participate in public education using Twitter. By the end of the day on Friday each week, students must send a tweet that has two components: 1. One factual piece of information about the policy we discussed that week, providing an introduction to your reader, and 2. How effective some policy intervention is, based upon evidence discussed in class (or similar evidence that students find on their own). All tweets must include the hashtag: #PADP4200. The social media component of the class grade will be assigned as the proportion of required posts submitted. I will review all posts, and will not give credit for posts that are not on-topic. Students should keep screenshots/ email confirmations of all tweets made and provide me with PDF printouts of all relevant posts, there will be an assignment on eLC to upload them after the last day of class. Also, students are encouraged to share their Twitter handle with me so that I can follow them and see the posts for myself. My twitter handle is @shelbysteuart.

Example:

Exam and speaker questions: Each week, students will write a question relating to the week's reading assignment, that may be chosen to be on the exams. Students will post their question in two places: 1. eLC assignment, 2. Exam questions Google Sheet (make sure to put it on the correct tab for full credit), which can be found at bit.ly/3Q9qHjp and shared on eLC. In addition, we will periodically have speakers come to our class to discuss a topic related to what we are covering that week. Students are expected to be engaged while the speaker is talking and to prepare a question to ask the speaker. Questions will be collected at the end of class.

Mid-term exam will be an in-class exam, on Wednesday, September 28th.

Final Exam will be an in-class exam, on Monday, December 5th.

Research Paper: A research paper, of at least 10 pages in length (double spaced, 12-point font, one inch margins, not counting cover page, graphs or references) summarizing the literature and available data on some specific risky behavior and policy response is due by 5PM on Friday, December 2. Any

paper handed in after that date will receive a one-letter grade (10 point) reduction in grade. Each student will give a 5-minute (maximum!) presentation of their research topic and findings to the class. Grades will be assigned based on the quality of the analysis, comprehensiveness of the literature and data review, grammar, and quality of the in-class presentation.

Late policy: Tweets about each week's social problem must be made by 5PM on Friday each week. Any research paper handed in after the due date and time will receive a one-letter grade (10 point) reduction in grade. If you miss an exam without a university-approved excuse, you will receive a zero. If you have a university-approved absence, then the remaining exam will count double in the final weighting. No make-up exam will be given.

Academic Integrity: All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

Course Outline and Schedule

NOTE: The following schedule is a general plan for the course; changes may be required as the semester progresses to accommodate speed of learning or student interest. Changes will be announced in advance by the instructor.

Aug 17-19   Syllabus, Overview, and Introduction to Risky Behavior Policy Analysis

Leigh, Barbara. "Peril, chance, adventure: concepts of risk, alcohol use and risky behavior in young adults." *Addiction* (1999) 94(3), 371-383

Bradford, W. David. "The association between individual time preferences and health maintenance habits." Medical Decision Making 30.1 (2010): 99-112.

Aug 22-26   Risky Behavior Policy Approaches and Considerations

Logan, D and Marlatt, G. "Harm Reduction Therapy: A Practice-Friendly Review of Research." *Journal of Clinical Psychology* (2010) 66(2), 201-2014

Jenson, J and Howard, M. "Youth Crime, Public Policy, and the Juvenile Justice System: Recent Trends and Needed Reforms." *National Association of Social Workers* (1998)

Alida V. Merlo, Peter J. Benekos. "Is Punitive Juvenile Justice Policy Declining in the United States? A Critique of Emergent Initiatives"

Aug 29-Sep 2   Economic Foundations of Policy Analysis

Ghorbani, A. "Demand for Health and Healthcare."

Bradford, David. "Cost-Benefit Analysis in Health Services Research." Methods and Designs for Outcomes Research (2006): 191.

Dolan, Paul, et al. "QALY maximization and people's preferences: a methodological review of the literature." Health economics 14.2 (2005): 197-208.

Robinson, Lisa A. "Policy Monitor: How US Government Agencies Value Mortality Risk Reductions." Review of Environmental Economics and Policy 1.2 (2007): 283-299.

Whitehead, Sarah J., and Shehzad Ali. "Health outcomes in economic evaluation: the QALY and utilities." British medical bulletin 96.1 (2010): 5-21.

Sep 7-12   Prescription Opioid Misuse Prevention Policies

Volkow, N and Blanco, C. "The Changing Opioid Crisis: development, challenges, and opportunities." (2021) 26(1): 218-233

Harris et al. "IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Experiences of People Who Use Drugs During the COVID-19 Pandemic." (2022) Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Volkow, N and McLellan, A. "Opioid Abuse in Chronic Pain – Misconceptions and Mitigation Strategies." *New England Journal of Medicine*. (2016) 374:13

Bao, Yuhua, et al. "Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs Are Associated With Sustained Reductions In Opioid Prescribing By Physicians." Health Affairs 35.6 (2016): 1045-1051.

Doleac and Mukherjee. "The Moral Hazard of Lifesaving Innovations: Naloxone Access, Opioid Abuse, and Crime." *IZA Institute of Labor Economics* (2018)

Dowell, Deborah, et al. "Mandatory provider review and pain clinic laws reduce the amounts of opioids prescribed and overdose death rates." Health Affairs 35.10 (2016): 1876-1883.

Anderson, D. Mark. "Does information matter? The effect of the Meth Project on meth use among youths." Journal of Health Economics 29.5 (2010): 732-742.

Schuster, Janice Lynch. "Down The Rabbit Hole: A Chronic Pain Sufferer Navigates The Maze Of Opioid Use." *Health Affairs* 33.7 (2014): 1294-1297.

Note: Sep 12 - Guest Speaker: Julie McGuire, Technician I with Prince William County Fire and Rescue

Sep 14-16   Medical Cannabis Policy

Lucas and Walsh. "Medical cannabis access, use, and substitution for prescription opioids and other substances: A survey of authorized medical cannabis patients." (2017) *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 42:30-35

Powell, David, Rosalie Liccardo Pacula, and Mireille Jacobson. "Do medical marijuana laws reduce addictions and deaths related to pain killers?." *Journal of health economics* 58 (2018): 29-42.

Sznitman and Bretteville-Jensen. "Public opinion and medical cannabis policies: examining the role of underlying beliefs and national medical cannabis policies." (2015) *Harm Reduction Journal*. 12:46

Cerdá, Magdalena, et al. "Medical marijuana laws in 50 states: investigating the relationship between state legalization of medical marijuana and marijuana use, abuse and dependence." Drug and alcohol dependence 120.1 (2012): 22-27.

Bradford, Ashley C., and W. David Bradford. "Medical marijuana laws reduce prescription medication use in Medicare Part D." *Health Affairs* 35.7 (2016): 1230-1236.

Sep 19-23   Adult Use Cannabis Policy

Anderson and Rees. "Point-Counterpoint: The Legalization of Recreational Marijuana: How Likely Is the Worst-Case Scenario?" Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (2014) 33(1): 221-232

Pacula et al. "Current U.S. State Cannabis Sales Limits Allow Large Doses for Use or Diversion." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine.* (2021) 5(60):701-705

Kan et al. "Impact of recreational cannabis legalization on cannabis use, other substance use, and drug-related offending among justice-system-involved youth." (2021) *Behavioral Sciences and the Law.* 40(2):292-309

Farmer, et al. "Changes in Traffic Crash Rates After Legalization of Marijuana: Results by Crash Severity." (2022) *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.* 83(4), 494–501

Kerr, David CR, Harold Bae, Sandi Phibbs, and Adam C. Kern. "Changes in undergraduates' marijuana, heavy alcohol and cigarette use following legalization of recreational marijuana use in Oregon." Addiction 112, no. 11 (2017): 1992-2001.

Cerdá, Magdalena, et al. "Association of state recreational marijuana laws with adolescent marijuana use." JAMA Pediatr (2016).

Sep 26-30   Finishing Cannabis Policy & Midterm

Midterm exam - Wednesday, Sep. 28

Note: No class Friday, Sep. 30th - Research Paper work day

Oct 3-7Alcohol Policy

Wilson, et al. "Comparing Alcohol Use of Pre-COVID-Era and COVID- Era Cohorts of Mandated College Student Drinkers." (2022) *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.* 83(4), 480-485

GBD 2016 Alcohol Collaborators "Alcohol use and burden for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016." *The Lancet* (2018)

Shield, et al. "Chronic Diseases and Conditions Related to Alcohol Use." *Alcohol Research. (2015)*

Yoruck, C. E. "The Effect of Alcohol Consumption on Labor Market Outcomes of Young Adults-Evidence from Minimum Legal Drinking Age Laws." B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy 15(3) (2015): 1297-1324.

Abraham et al. (2020). "Availability of Medications for the Treatment of Alcohol and Opioid Use Disorder in the USA." *Neurotherapeutics*

Oct 10-14   Contraceptive Policy

Darroch et al. "ADDING IT UP: Costs and Benefits of Meeting the Contraceptive Needs of Adolescents." *Guttmacher Institute*. May 2016.

Atkins, Danielle N., and W. David Bradford. "Association between Increased Emergency Contraception Availability and Risky Sexual Practices." Health services research 50.3 (2015):809-829.

Kearney, Melissa S., and Phillip B. Levine. "Media influences on social outcomes: the impact of MTV's 16 and Pregnant on teen childbearing." The American Economic Review 105.12 (2015): 3597-3632.

Singh and Ratnam. "The influence of abortion legislation on maternal mortality." (1998) International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics. S123-S129

Stover and Ross. "How Increased Contraceptive Use has Reduced Maternal Mortality." *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. (2010) 14:687-695

Oct 17-21   Smoking and E-Cigarettes Policy

Bates, Clive and Kathuria, H. "Point-Counterpoint: e-Cigarette Use for Harm Reduction in Tobacco Use Disorder?" CHEST Journal 3.120 (2021): 807-809

Vander Weg, Mark W., Gary E. Rosenthal, and Mary Vaughan Sarrazin. "Smoking bans linked to lower hospitalizations for heart attacks and lung disease among medicare beneficiaries." Health Affairs 31.12 (2012): 2699-2707.

Bayer, Ronald, and Kathleen E. Bachynski. "Banning smoking in parks and on beaches: Science, policy, and the politics of denormalization." Health Affairs 32.7 (2013): 1291-1298.

Note: No class Friday, Oct. 21st - Research Paper work day

Oct 24-28   Transportation Policy and Driver Safety

Trottenberg, P. and Rivkin, R.S. "Guidance on treatment of the economic value of a statistical life (VSL) in U.S. Department of Transportation analyses." U.S. Department of Transportation (memo). February 28, 2013.

Castillo-Manzano, J, et al. "The complex relationship between increases to speed limits and traffic fatalities: Evidence from a meta-analysis." *Safety Science*. (2019) 111:287-297

Ang et al. "Should congested cities reduce their speed limits? Evidence from São Paulo, Brazil." (2020) *Journal of Public Economics.* 184:104155

Siddique et al. "A Contemporary Approach Towards Curbing Cell Phone Use Related Road Mishaps." (2021) *IEEE*

Oct 31-Nov 4   Vaccine Policy

Bylander, Jessica. "The United States' Piecemeal Approach To Vaccine Policy." Health Affairs 35.2 (2016): 195-198.

Constable, Catherine, Nina R. Blank, and Arthur L. Caplan. "Rising rates of vaccine exemptions: problems with current policy and more promising remedies." Vaccine 32.16 (2014): 1793-1797.

Lawler, Emily and Carpenter, Christopher. "Direct and Spillover Effects of Middle School Vaccination Requirements". NBER Working Paper #23107.

Lawler, Emily. "Giving Teens a Boost? Effects of Adolescent Meningococcal Disease Vaccine Recommendations." *American Journal of Health Economics* 6(2), 2020.

Lawler, E., Carrera, M., and White, C. "Population Mortality and Laws Encouraging Influenza Vaccination for Hospital Workers" *Annals of Internal Medicine* 174(4), 2021.

Nov 7-11   Obesity Policy

Bhattacharya, Jay, and Neeraj Sood. "Who pays for obesity?." The Journal of Economic Perspectives 25.1 (2011): 139-157.

Basu, Sanjay, et al. "Ending SNAP subsidies for sugar-sweetened beverages could reduce obesity and type 2 diabetes." Health Affairs 33.6 (2014): 1032-1039.

Cawley, John. "The economics of childhood obesity." Health Affairs 29.3 (2010): 364-371. Cutler, David M., Edward L. Glaeser, and Jesse M. Shapiro. "Why have Americans become more obese?." The Journal of Economic Perspectives 17.3 (2003): 93-118.

Elbel, Brian, et al. "Calorie labeling and food choices: a first look at the effects on low-income people in New York City." Health affairs 28.6 (2009): w1110-w1121.

Fletcher, Jason M., David E. Frisvold, and Nathan Tefft. "Point Counterpoint: Are soft drink taxes an effective mechanism for reducing obesity?." Journal of Policy Analysis and Management 30.3 (2011): 655-662.

Nov 14-18   Marginalized Communities and Risky Behavior Policy

Rhee et al. "Concentration of Cannabis and Tobacco Retailers in Los Angeles County, California: A Spatial Analysis of Potential Effects on Youth and Ethnic Minorities." (2022) Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs. 83(4)

Entress, R. "The intersection of race and opioid use disorder treatment: A quantitative analysis." (2021) Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment. 108589

Kelley, A. "Treatment access for opioid use disorder in pregnancy among rural and American Indian communities." (2021) Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment. 108685

Note: Nov. 18 will be a paper workshop day, bring your computer and any questions about your research paper.

Nov 21-26

No Class - Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 28-Dec 2   Student Presentations

Dec 5   Final Exam