

UGA Andy Whitford aw@uga.edu
 <https://spia.uga.edu/faculty-member/andrew-b-whitford/> 412 Baldwin
Office hours: Tuesday, 2-4 PM, or by appointment
Course page: At ELC: <https://uga.view.usg.edu>

PADP 8650 – PUBLIC POLICY SEMINAR**Spring 2026**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will help you develop a deeper understanding of the major analytical techniques and theoretical approaches to the study of business and government.

This course contributes to our Competency 2: To participate in the public policy process: “Students in the Master of Public Administration program at The University of Georgia will understand the public policy process at the federal, state, and local levels, including formulating, implementing, and evaluating policy. They will develop the ability to interpret and persuasively communicate information regarding policy alternatives through memoranda and presentations. Additionally, students will analyze policy alternatives using quantitative and qualitative tools to evaluate decisions and explain potential ramifications for diverse constituencies. They will learn to manage financial resources and develop a comprehensive budget proposal to achieve organizational goals.”

TEACHING APPROACH

I will help you identify the key concepts discussed in the material. This course has a seminar format, which centers on extended discussions of advanced readings. Because this is an 8000-level course, readings and assignments include complex and difficult concepts in economics and statistics. This course requires intensive seminar participation and writing.

TEXT AND MATERIALS

- All readings will be distributed online.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: You are expected to participate through asking questions and answering inquiries raised in class. You cannot participate if you are not physically present. To adequately prepare for class, all assigned readings should be completed by the dates indicated on the course schedule. Not all assigned readings may be discussed in class; nonetheless you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with them. Please notify me as soon as possible if you must miss class for a medical or other emergency. In addition to attendance, your participation grade will reflect your contributions to class, including class discussion and any activities/exercises.

For each set of readings, you will bring a typed page with two questions for guiding our discussion of that day’s readings. Other details about this will be distributed via ELC.

In-Class Presentation: You will present, explain, critique, and interrogate one GAO study from the master list of agencies provided on ELC. You may work alone or with a partner; of

course, more is expected from a team than a person working solo. You will have around 20 minutes for your presentation. Use a slide deck, videos, or other media. Bring a written summary of your presentation for everyone in the class; include information about background sources. Members of the class will question the presenters. Your presentation is an opportunity to inform us of the important aspects of the selected study, so be creative. You will have an opportunity to sign up for specific topics. Other details about this will be distributed via ELC.

Enforcement Summary (ES): You will write 2 short enforcement summaries. I will assign the topic. You will write these briefs in teams. You will also peer review other teams' memos; I will grade peer review as participation. Other details about this will be distributed via ELC.

Regulator History/Biography (RHB): Over the course of the term, you will complete a regulator history/biography. Other details about this will be distributed via ELC. Dates for your proposal and final submission are listed on the Schedule of Topics.

Final Paper and Presentation (RP): You will write a summary and analysis of an ongoing or recent rulemaking process. Your choice of case is subject to my approval. You may work with another student or solo; of course, more is expected from a team than a person working solo. You will present the summary and analysis during the **last two weeks of class**. Other details about this will be distributed via ELC. Dates for your proposal and final submission are listed on the Schedule of Topics.

EVALUATION

Your final evaluation is based on the components listed above, given the following weights:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Weight</u>
1. Participation	15%
2. In-Class Presentation	15%
3. Two Enforcement Summaries (ES)	30%
4. Regulator History/Biography (RHB)	10%
5. Final Paper and Presentation (RP)	30%

An A will be awarded to anyone with 93 or more points, an A- to those with 90-92.99 points, a B+ to those with 87-89.99 points, a B to those with 83-86.99 points, a B- to those with 80-82.99 points, a C+ to those with 77-79.99 points, a C to those with 73-76.99 points, a C- to those with 70-72.99 points, a D to those with 60 to 69.99 points, and an F to anyone receiving fewer than 60 points in the course.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

See ELC at <https://uga.view.usg.edu>

COURSE POLICIES AND OTHER INFORMATION

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Instructor Availability If you would like to speak with me outside of class, feel free to stop by my office during scheduled office hours. Occasionally I have meetings during the day and may be unavailable. To ensure that I am available on a given day, email me at least 24 hours in advance to set a specific time to meet.

Prohibition on Recording In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they:

- Will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course. Understand that faculty members have copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way.
- Understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study.
- Will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they will not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials.
- Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester.
- Understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws.

Special Needs Students with special needs that require accommodation should notify the Office for Disability Services and me as soon as possible so the appropriate arrangements can be made. All information as well as documentation is considered confidential.

UGA Student Honor Code "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at honesty.uga.edu.

Religious Holidays Students who are absent from academic or social activities because of religious observances will not be penalized. If you want to be excused from class to observe a religious holiday, notify me in advance. You are responsible for any material covered during the excused absence but will be given reasonable time to make up any work missed. If an event is scheduled during the class at which you are excused for a religious observance, you should arrange as soon as possible for an alternate time or be given a comparable assignment.

Miscellaneous No "extra credit" will be assigned in this course under any circumstances. Keep in mind that final grades may only be changed in the event of a clerical error (e.g., points summed incorrectly). Also, for privacy reasons, information pertaining to course grades cannot be discussed over the telephone or via email. A final grade of "Incomplete" will only be given in this course under extraordinary circumstances and is solely at the discretion of the instructor. The course

syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Please silence devices while in class. Devices and laptops may only be used in-class with my permission. I accept late work after the due date only by prior arrangement. You must type any grade appeals and attach supplemental information as appropriate.

UGA Well-Being Resources

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

- Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu
- Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu
- University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
- Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu
- Accessibility and Testing: accessibility.uga.edu

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.