

Syllabus

Course Overview

This course is grounded in pragmatic theoretical frameworks that help to guide practicing public policy analysts to ameliorate real-world societal problems. Some of the various theoretical frameworks that we will explore in this course are the Multiple Streams (3 Streams) Model of public policy genesis, the Advocacy Coalition Framework theory, and many others. In this course, you will use these types of theoretical perspectives as your foundation of knowledge as you hone your writing skills through the practice of writing white paper briefings. You will also begin to refine your communications skill set through delivering a recorded presentation to your learner colleagues. This is a fast-paced and interesting public policy analysis course where you will develop and refine your real-world written and verbal communication skills.

PSL Program Journey

View [PSL Program Journey](#), a useful map that will guide you as you begin your program. This map gives you an overview of all the steps required to complete your degree and outlines the resources that will support you along the way.

Course Discussions

The discussion area in the Capella courseroom is a place where you are given the opportunity to think critically about your ideas and share them with peers. Robust threaded discussions promote reflective responses and enhance the learning experience. To allow adequate time for responding to discussions, initial posts are due by Thursday each week. Responses are due by Sunday.

Take time to review the [Creating Strong Discussion Posts \[PDF\]](#) document, which has been designed to provide practical suggestions and best practices for crafting substantive responses to discussion questions. This document will also be made available in every discussion in this course.

Developing as a Writer

Your writing skills are critical to your academic and career success. Writing is an iterative process, and the keys to this process are creating drafts, seeking and receiving feedback, and making revisions. In this course you will have various opportunities to move through these steps as you work on your assignments. You will also have built-in support and assessment from a faculty writing expert. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the writing resources offered, such as those in the [Writing Center](#), as they are crucial to helping you become a more capable, skilled, and confident writer, both during your academic journey at Capella and beyond. If you feel you need more help than these resources can provide, your instructor can provide a referral for you to meet with a writing consultant.

APA Style and Formatting

Capella uses APA style as the standard for all academic writing. Using a single publication manual ensures a consistent style across degrees, programs, and schools. Because APA is used widely in scholarly works and academic publications, it is a good choice for the Capella community. Remember to use the APA manual from your first course as a resource for the assignments in this course. You will also find APA assistance in the [Writing Center](#).

Smarthinking

Capella partners with [Smarthinking](#), a Web-based tutoring service, to offer you online tutoring in a variety of subjects and custom critique of your papers. You will receive 168 minutes to use toward tutoring each quarter. The tutors are called e-structors and can help you develop successful learning skills in a professional and supportive environment. E-structors are available to help you, but not replace your instructor. Learn [how to get started](#) and [how to use Smarthinking](#).

With Smarthinking you can:

- Get live, one-on-one online tutoring help.
- Submit an essay or paper for review.
- Submit questions for a tutor's response.

Subjects covered include writing, APA style and formatting, and reading comprehension.

Capella Library

You are highly encouraged to explore the [Capella University Library](#). The Capella library is an entirely digital library and one of your most valuable resources for finding the persuasive evidence and scholarly resources you will use in your course assignments.

Career Resource Center

Use the [Career Center](#) resources to manage and plan your career through every stage. The Capella Career Center provides many online resources, but it also provides other ways you can get assistance and interact with the staff. You can connect and interact with counselors online and ask questions. The Career Center has multiple resources such as exploration and planning, job search strategies, connecting with others, job search tools, career enrichment, and seminars and presentations.

Kaltura Media

In this course, you will be required to create a video presentation using Kaltura Media or similar software. Refer to [Using Kaltura \[PDF\]](#) for more information about this courseroom tool.

Note: If you require the use of assistive technology or alternative communication methods to participate in these activities, please contact DisabilityServices@Capella.edu to request accommodations.

Course Competencies

(Read Only)

To successfully complete this course, you will be expected to:

- 1 Analyze how organizational structure, organizational environments, and organizational leadership impacts the policy analysis function.
- 2 Analyze how differing theories of policy analysis manifest within the conduct of today's Public Administration.
- 3 Analyze how differing theories of policy analysis manifest in their application within the conduct of today's Public Administration
- 4 Analyze the differing roles of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.
- 5 Evaluate the exercise of the policy analysis function through various models and theories of ethics.
- 6 Communicate in a manner that is scholarly, professional, and respectful of the diversity, dignity, and integrity of others.

Course Prerequisites

PSL7030, PUAD7015.

Syllabus >> Course Materials

Required

The materials listed below are required to complete the learning activities in this course.

Integrated Materials

Many of your required books are available via the VitalSource Bookshelf link in the courseroom, located in your Course Tools. Registered learners in a Resource Kit program can access these materials using the courseroom link on the Friday before the course start date. Some materials are available only in hard-copy format or by using an access code. For these materials, you will receive an email with further instructions for access. Visit the [Course Materials](#) page on Campus for more information.

Hardware

Capella University requires learners to meet certain minimum [computer requirements](#). The following hardware may go beyond those minimums and is required to complete learning activities in this course. **Note:** If you already have the following hardware, you do not need to purchase it. Visit the [Course Materials](#) page on Campus for more information.

SpeakingR

External or built-in microphone

External or built-in webcam

Library

The following required readings are provided in the Capella University Library or linked directly in this course. To find specific readings by journal or book title, use [Journal and Book Locator](#). Refer to the [Journal and Book Locator library guide](#) to learn how to use this tool.

- Birkland, T. A. (2016). *An introduction to the policy process (4th ed.)*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Desmarais, B. A., & Hird, J. A. (2014). *Public policy's bibliography: The use of research in US regulatory impact analyses*. *Regulation & Governance, 8*(4), 497–510.
- Eissler, R., Russell, A., & Jones, B. D. (2014). *New avenues for the study of agenda setting*. *Policy Studies Journal, 42*(S1), S71–S86.
- Fisher, E. L. (2013). *Psychological perspectives on diversity for students and policy makers*. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy, 13*(1), 398–400.
- Resnik, D. B. (2015). *Food and beverage policies and public health ethics*. *Health Care Analysis, 23*(2), 122–133.
- Schneider, A., & Ingram, H. (1993). *Social construction of target populations: Implications for politics and policy*. *The American Political Science Review, 87*(2), 334–347.
- Schneider, A., & Sidney, M. (2009). *What is next for policy design and social construction theory?* *Policy Studies Journal, 37*(1), 103–119.
- Weible, C. M., & Sabatier, P. A. (Eds.). (2018). *Theories of the policy process (4th ed.)*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Suggested

The following materials are recommended to provide you with a better understanding of the topics in this course. These materials are not required to complete the course, but they are aligned to course activities and assessments and are highly recommended for your use.

Optional

The following optional materials are offered to provide you with a better understanding of the topics in this course. These materials are not required to complete the course.

Integrated Materials

Book

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 9781433805592.

Unit 1 >> Introducing the Policy Process and Multiple Streams Theory

Introduction

Typically, public policy is loosely defined as governmental action that impacts the citizenry of any given society. Think of public policy as what government does and does not do, and remember that governmental inaction often speaks as loudly as action. In this course you will obtain a much higher understanding of public policy than the average citizen would possess. You will come to understand and highly value the American public policy making processes.

This week, we will start down this road through an introduction to the concept of public policy as well as its processes. You will also be introduced to the Multiple Streams (3 Streams) Public Policy Theoretical Framework of Dr. John Kingdon.

Learning Activities

u01s1 - Studies

Readings

Use [An Introduction to the Policy Process](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 1, "Introducing the Policy Process," pages 1–24.

Use [Theories of the Policy Process](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 1, "The Multiple Streams Framework: Foundations, Refinements, and Empirical Applications," pages 17–54.

u01s2 - Assignment Preparation

You are encouraged to refer to the *APA Manual* to ensure you are citing all your sources appropriately in your assignment as this is part of the grading requirements. You should already have a copy of the following:

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Unit 7 Assignment Preparation

Kaltura Media

One of the requirements for the Unit 7 assignment is to create a video presentation using Kaltura Media or similar software. Also note that in the Unit 7 discussion, you will need to submit your URL for peer review. Consider your URL for the discussion a first draft where you can use peer feedback to revise.

In preparation, complete the following:

- If you have not already done so, set up and test the hardware that you plan to use for recording.
- Practice using the hardware to ensure the audio and visual quality is sufficient.
- Refer to the [Using Kaltura \[PDF\]](#) tutorial for directions on recording and uploading your video in the courseroom.
- Note that in the Unit 7 discussion, you will need to create a transcript of your presentation. For any recording created or uploaded with Kaltura media, closed captioning is automatically generated within one day after you post a recording, but the captions alone may not be sufficient. To ensure accessibility to everyone, include your own transcript of your presentation as an attachment in the activity.

Note: If you require the use of assistive technology or alternative communication methods to participate in this activity, please contact DisabilityServices@Capella.edu to request accommodations.

Interview with Local Representative

Note that a component of the Unit 7 assignment is to incorporate information from an interview with a local representative, such as a city council member. Be sure to schedule this interview in advance so you have time to synthesize the information. If you are not able to conduct the interview, research your city council website.

u01s3 - Discussion Expectations

Read the Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide to learn how the instructor will evaluate your discussion participation throughout this course. Also, review [Creating Strong Discussion Posts \[PDF\]](#).

As noted in the Course Summary, initial discussion postings are due on Thursdays and responses due by Sunday of the same week.

Initial Discussion Posts

- Your initial discussion posts in this course are expected to be at least 250 words and must include relevant examples and supporting evidence. All other references must be cited using current APA style and format.
- Include one academic resource in addition to the materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning.
- The initial discussion post must be made by Thursday of the current week.

Response Guidelines

- The response should be at least 75 words. Support your reasoning with one academic resource in addition to the materials assigned in this course.
- Keep in mind that the objective of your response post is to stimulate discussion, to promote an exchange of ideas among learners, and most importantly, to generate a sense of community in the courseroom.
- The response to one other learner's post must be made by Sunday of the current week.

u01d1 - Public Policy Definitions

For this discussion, provide two definitions of the term *public policy*. Your first definition should consist of the first definition that pops into your head when you think of public policy. Your second definition of the term public policy should come from a much more scholarly source such as your textbook or a peer-reviewed journal article. In what ways do the two definitions differ? Do you expect your own definition to change as you move through the course?

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence that is dated within the past five years. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with reference to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in proper APA style.

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

u01d1 - Learning Components

- Define aspects of public policy.

u01d2 - Unit 1 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 2 >> Historical and Structural Contexts of Public Policy Making

Introduction

Welcome to the second week of this course! This week we will be covering the various elements and environments of public policy making, including:

1. The structural, social, political, and economic environments, as well as the elements of the public policy processes such as inputs and outputs.
2. The historical and structural contexts of public policy making.
3. The Punctuated Equilibrium Theory.

Learning Activities

u02s1 - Studies

Readings

Use [*An Introduction to the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 2, "Elements of the Policy Making System," pages 27–64.
- Chapter 3, "The Historical and Structural Contexts of Public Policy Making," pages 65–106.

Use [*Theories of the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 2, "Punctuated Equilibrium Theory," pages 55–102.

Use the Capella library to read the following:

- Schneider, A., & Ingram, H. (1993). [Social construction of target populations: Implications for politics and policy](#). *The American Political Science Review*, 87(2), 334–347.

u02d1 - Social Construction of Target Populations

What are the elements of public policy making? Elaborate upon the theoretical perspective of the Social Construction of Target Populations. How can that theory be applied from a practitioner standpoint?

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence that is dated within the past five years. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with reference to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in proper APA style.

Course Resources

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

u02d2 - Unit 2 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 3 >> Official Actors and Their Roles in Public Policy

Introduction

This week we will delve into a deeper understanding of the various official actors and their roles in public policy genesis, evolution, and perhaps, eventual decline and deconstruction. You will once again be exposed to an exciting theory from the tool kit of public policy. You will also apply the Policy Feedback Theory in the solving of real-world issues and problems relating to the genesis of public policy itself.

Learning Activities

u03s1 - Studies

Readings

Use [*An Introduction to the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 4, "Official Actors and their Roles in Public Policy," pages 107–152.

Use [*Theories of the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 3, "Policy Feedback Theory," pages 103–134.

u03a1 - Rise of a Public Policy White Paper

Assignment Overview

When a public policy is developed, it endures a cycle. The assignments in this course will examine the "cycle" of a public policy. The first assignment will analyze the rise of a public policy through a 4–5 page white paper in which you will select a peer-reviewed article and use that article to explain how researchers use theories to analyze the rise of a public policy and review that rise using theoretical concepts.

A white paper is a form of communication from an employee to a supervisor or administrator. It should be concise, informative, and able to explain complex issues in a succinct way. Writing a white paper requires high critical thinking skills and the ability to write in concise fashion, which are highly sought-after skills and can lead to more responsibilities in the field.

Assignment Instructions

In your 4–5 page white paper, address the following:

- Explain how researchers use theories to analyze the rise of a public policy.
- Evaluate the way the scholarly article uses an ethical theoretical lens to explain the rise of the public policy.
- Review the rise of a public policy using theoretical concepts.
- Defend the choice of the political lens that is used when reviewing the rise of a public policy.
- Demonstrate an academic writing style through concise, well-organized prose that follows assignment guidelines and APA style.

Example assignment: You may use the assignment example, linked in the Resources, to give you an idea of what a Proficient or higher rating on the scoring guide would look like.

Submission Requirements

- **Written communication:** Your writing should clearly identify where each grading criteria or part of the assignment is addressed. Your points must be logical, substantive, and relevant based on the evidence presented. The writing must be free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA guidelines:** Resources and citations must be formatted according to current APA style and formatting. When appropriate, use APA-formatted headings.
- **Resources:** Your ideas must be supported with relevant recent, scholarly sources that are dated within the past five years and are properly cited and referenced in current APA style.
- **Length of paper:** 4–5 typed, double-spaced pages, not including the title page and references.
- **Font and font size:** Times New Roman, 12 point.
- **Writing assistance** is available through the Writing Center or Smarthinking, the free online writing tutorial and review service.

Review the scoring guide for the grading criteria for this assignment.

Course Resources

[Smarthinking](#)

[Assignment 3 Example \[PDF\]](#)

[Capella Writing Center](#)

u03d1 - Policy Feedback Theory

In this discussion, elaborate upon the history and usage of the Policy Feedback Theory. Relate this theory to a real-world situation or situation in your organization.

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence that is dated within the past five years. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with references to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in current APA style.

Course Resources

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

u03d2 - Unit 3 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 4 >> Unofficial Actors and Their Roles in Public Policy

Introduction

Last week we examined the Official Actors and their various roles and responsibilities in the public policy arena. This week we will focus on the Unofficial Actors and their roles and responsibilities. Additionally, you will be introduced to the Advocacy Coalition Framework Theory and apply that theory to a real-world situation.

Learning Activities

u04s1 - Studies

Readings

Use *An Introduction to the Policy Process* to read the following:

- Chapter 5, "Unofficial Actors and their Roles in Public Policy," pages 153–198.

Use *Theories of the Policy Process* to read the following:

- Chapter 4, "The Advocacy Coalition Framework: An Overview of the Research Program," pages 135–172.

u04s2 - Assignment Preparation

Your Unit 5 assignment is due next week. If you have not already done so, review the assignment instructions and scoring guide and familiarize yourself with the requirements and grading criteria. Remember to review the instructor feedback and think about how you will use that feedback to enhance your next white paper.

u04d1 - Advocacy Coalition Framework Theory

For this discussion, elaborate upon the history and usage of the Advocacy Coalition Framework Theory in public policy. Provide an example of the usage of this theory in the real world or in your organization.

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence that is dated within the past five years. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with references to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in current APA style.

Course Resources

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

u04d2 - Unit 4 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 5 >> Agenda Setting, Power, and Interest Groups

Introduction

Welcome to the halfway point in this course! This week we will be delving into a greater understanding of the Agenda Setting, Power, and Interest Groups concepts as they fit into the overall public policy context of this course. You will also be introduced to the Narrative Policy Framework.

Learning Activities

u05s1 - Studies

Readings

Use [*An Introduction to the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 6, "Agenda Setting, Power, and Interest Groups," pages 199–240.

Use [*Theories of the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 6, "The Narrative Policy Framework," pages 173–214.

Use the Capella library to read the following:

- Eissler, R., Russell, A., & Jones, B. D. (2014). [New avenues for the study of agenda setting](#). *Policy Studies Journal*, 42(S1), S71–S86.

u05a1 - Evolution of a Public Policy White Paper

Assignment Overview

It is important to know that public policy runs through a cycle, and in this cycle there is a period of stasis and stability, as well as a period of decline. For this assignment, you will write a white paper that expands upon the idea of the rise of a public policy and moves to the evolution of a public policy.

Choose a different peer-reviewed article than your previous assignment and analyze how the policy evolves over time. You will also write this analysis using a different theoretical lens than your previous assignment.

Assignment Instructions

In your 4–6 page white paper, address the following:

- Explain how researchers use theories to analyze the evolution of a public policy.
- Evaluate the way the scholarly article uses the theoretical lens to explain the evolution of the public policy.
- Recommend a different theoretical lens to use to enhance the analysis of the evolution of the public policy.
- Incorporate instructor feedback from previous assignment to enhance, concision, cohesion and content.

Submission Requirements

- **Written communication:** Your writing should clearly identify where each grading criteria or part of the assignment is addressed. Your points must be logical, substantive, and relevant based on the evidence presented. The writing must be free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA guidelines:** Resources and citations must be formatted according to current APA style and formatting. When appropriate, use APA-formatted headings.
- **Resources:** Your ideas must be supported with relevant recent, scholarly sources that are dated within the past five years and are properly cited and referenced in current APA style.
- **Length of paper:** 4–6 typed, double-spaced pages, not including the title page and references.
- **Font and font size:** Times New Roman, 12 point.
- **Writing assistance** is available through the Writing Center or Smarthinking, the free online writing tutorial and review service.

Review the scoring guide for the grading criteria for this assignment.

Course Resources

[Smarthinking](#)

[Capella Writing Center](#)

u05d1 - Agenda Setting Theory

For this discussion, elaborate upon the history and usage of the Agenda Setting Theory in public policy theorizing. How can this theory be applied to your organization? Have you seen elements of this theory in your organization?

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence that is dated within the past five years. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with reference to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in proper APA style.

Course Resources

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

u05d2 - Unit 5 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 6 >> Policies, Policy Types, and the IAD and SES Framework

Introduction

This week we will delve into a much deeper understanding of policies and policy types. In studying public administration you will need a strong grasp of these concepts to ensure a full understanding. The knowledge that this week's lessons offer can help you to become a more active citizen in the constitutional republic in which we live. As you continue to learn about public policy theory, the IAD Framework and the SES Framework Theories will be introduced.

Learning Activities

u06s1 - Studies

Readings

Use *An Introduction to the Policy Process* to read the following:

- Chapter 7, "Policies and Policy Types," pages 241–272.

Use *Theories of the Policy Process* to read the following:

- Chapter 6, "The IAD Framework and the SES Framework," pages 215–252.

Use the Capella library to read the following:

- Desmarais, B. A., & Hird, J. A. (2014). Public policy's bibliography: The use of research in US regulatory impact analyses: Public policy's bibliography. *Regulation & Governance*, 8(4), 497–510.

u06s2 - Assignment Preparation

Your Unit 7 assignment is due next week. If you have not already done so, review the assignment instructions and scoring guide and familiarize yourself with the requirements and grading criteria. Also note that in the Unit 7 discussion, you will need to submit your URL for peer review. Consider your URL for the discussion a first draft where you can use peer feedback to revise.

In preparation for your video presentation component in the Unit 7 assignment, complete the following tasks this week, if you have not already done so:

- Set up and test your hardware that you plan to use for recording.
- Practice using the hardware to ensure the audio and visual quality is sufficient.
- Refer to the [Using Kaltura \[PDF\]](#) tutorial for directions on recording and uploading your video in the courseroom.
- Note that in the Unit 7 discussion, you will need to create a transcript of your presentation. For any recording created or uploaded with Kaltura media, closed captioning is automatically generated within one day after you post a recording, but the captions alone may not be sufficient. To ensure accessibility to everyone, include your own transcript of your presentation as an attachment in the activity.

Note: If you require the use of assistive technology or alternative communication methods to participate in this activity, please contact DisabilityServices@Capella.edu to request accommodations.

u06d1 - Diffusion Theoretical Models

What are some of the various policy types that you've learned in this course? Choose one theory and apply it to a situation that could occur in your own organization.

Additionally, provide elaboration and analysis on the Diffusion Theoretical Models as used in public policy theorizing.

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence that is dated within the past five years. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with reference to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in proper APA style.

u06d2 - Unit 6 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 7 >> Decision Making, Policy Analysis, and Innovation and Diffusion Models in Research

Introduction

This week you will be introduced to the concepts of both decision making and policy analysis in the context of public policy in the American constitutional republic. Remembering that we are not living in a direct democracy is key to understanding the way public policy decision making and analysis take place in the context of the American federalist governmental structural confines. You will also be introduced to the concepts of both Innovation and Diffusion Models in Policy Research. An interesting comparison of Theories of the Policy Process will conclude the theoretical section of this week's public policy lesson.

Learning Activities

u07s1 - Studies

Readings

Use *An Introduction to the Policy Process* to read the following:

- Chapter 8, "Decision Making and Policy Analysis," pages 273–298.

Use *Theories of the Policy Process* to read the following:

- Chapter 7, "Innovation and Diffusion Models in Policy Research," pages 253–300.

Use the Capella library to read the following:

- Resnik, D. B. (2015). Food and beverage policies and public health ethics. *Health Care Analysis*, 23(2), 122–133.

u07a1 - Local Community Issue Presentation

Assignment Overview

Effective communication is an essential skill for working in the public policy sector. Often information will have to be communicated in the form of a briefing or presentation. During that presentation, one needs to deliver information clearly and in a concise fashion. This assignment will give you the opportunity to practice those skills in the form of an analysis of an issue of your choosing that impacts a local community.

For this assignment, you will construct and deliver a PowerPoint presentation that analyzes the impact of an issue on a local community. Be sure to incorporate information from a local representative, such as a city council member, preferably from an interview, and make recommendations of change in public policy based on your analysis.

Assignment Preparation

You will need to record yourself delivering your presentation as if you are addressing a group of colleagues. Use Kaltura Media or similar software to record the presentation. Consider the following when you record your presentation:

- The instructor is able to view you delivering your presentation, and the camera is positioned so that you as the presenter are easily seen.
- You clearly communicate the content of the presentation.
- The instructor is able to hear your delivery well.
- The audience would be able to glean the main points from your visual aid, but you are elaborating on those main points in your delivery and providing further content than what is on the visual aid.

Assignment Instructions

In your 5–7 slide presentation, be sure to address the following points below. You will submit the video of your presentation as your artifact for this assignment. The video length should be 10–15 minutes.

- Describe the issue that you chose to analyze.
 - Why was that issue chosen?
- Explain the relevance of the issue to your own community.
 - Who does it directly impact?
- Analyze the impact of the issue on the local community.
- Incorporate information gathered from local representative(s) to effectively analyze the issue.
 - This would preferably be done through an interview conducted with the representative. If you are not able to conduct the interview, research your city council website.
- Analyze how the concept of federalism was used to understand the impact of the issue on public policy and the community.
- Address the opposing point of view.
- Recommend a change in public policy based on your analysis of the issue.
 - How does this change positively impact the community members that are currently affected?

Submission Requirements

- **Written communication:** Written communication is free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA formatting:** Resources and citations are formatted according to current APA style and formatting. Slide content does not need to conform to APA style.
- **Number of resources:** Minimum of five peer-reviewed resources, formatted according to APA guidelines.
- **Length of presentation:** 5–7 slides.
- **Resources:** Your ideas must be supported with relevant recent, scholarly sources that are properly cited and referenced in APA Style.
- **Writing assistance** is available through the Writing Center or Smarthinking, the free online writing tutorial and review service.

Review the scoring guide for the grading criteria for this assignment.

Course Resources

[Capella Writing Center](#)

[Smarthinking](#)

u07d1 - Community Issue Presentation Peer Review

Submit your Community Issue Presentation URL to the discussion board this week. Please respond with constructive criticism to the presentation of one other learner this week. Consider these points if you need guidance.

- Were you able to hear and see the presenter properly?
- Did the presenter provide further content than what was displayed on the visual aid?

- Did the presenter communicate their message clearly? Were you able to follow the flow of the presentation?
- Did the presenter address the opposing point of view?

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with reference to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in proper APA style.

Course Resources

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

u07d2 - Unit 7 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 8 >> Policy Design and Policy Tools

Introduction

This week we will explore the concepts of policy design and policy tools. This material will help you to be a strong leader in the public sector during your career, and ensure that you are personally operating on the highest of active citizenship levels possible in your personal life. An interesting comparison of the various theories of the policy process will conclude this week's lesson.

Learning Activities

u08s1 - Studies

Readings

Use [*An Introduction to the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 9, "Policy Design and Policy Tools," pages 299–330.

Use [*Theories of the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 8, "Comparison of the Theories of the Policy Process," pages 301–328.

Use the Capella library to read the following:

- Fisher, E. L. (2013). Psychological perspectives on diversity for students and policy makers: Book review. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 13(1), 398–400.

u08s2 - Assignment Preparation

Your final assignment is due in Unit 10. Review the assignment instructions and scoring guide and familiarize yourself with the requirements and grading criteria. Start thinking about which option you will choose and begin to conduct your research.

u08d1 - Policy Tools and Theoretical Frameworks

What are policy tools? Please provide at least two examples. How could these be used in your organization?

If you were asked to compare and contrast two of the public policy theoretical frameworks that we have learned, which two would you compare and why? Have you seen these theories in practice, either in your organization or in another facet of the real world?

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence that is dated within the past five years. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with reference to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in proper APA style.

Course Resources

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

u08d2 - Unit 8 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 9 >> Struggle and Triumph in Fusing Policy Process and Comparative Research

Introduction

This week we will learn important information regarding policy implementation, policy failure, and policy learning. The theoretical lesson ends with a focus upon both the struggles and the triumphs that may result from the fusion of the policy process and comparative research.

Learning Activities

u09s1 - Studies

Readings

Use [*An Introduction to the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 10, "Policy Implementation, Failure, and Learning," pages 331–360.

Use [*Theories of the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 9, "Struggle and Triumph in Fusing Policy Process and Comparative Research," pages 329–362.

Use the Capella library to read the following:

- Schneider, A., & Sidney, M. (2009). [What is next for policy design and social construction theory?](#) *Policy Studies Journal*, 37(1), 103–119.

Multimedia

- Click [Riverbend City: Public Policy Adoption](#) to engage in a quick-simulation activity in which you will analyze documents and interview stakeholders in relation to the adoption of body cameras in the Riverbend City police department. You will use this activity for the Unit 9 discussion.

Course Resources

Riverbend City: Public Policy Adoption

u09d1 - Public Policy Adoption

After completing the Public Policy in Practice activity, reflect on the following:

- What are the root issues to the problem?
- What are some solutions to the problem?
- What theory could be applied to the situation in order to solve the problem?

Your initial post should be at least 250 words. Support your ideas with relevant examples and evidence that is dated within the past five years. Include at least one academic resource in addition to materials assigned in this course to support your reasoning. All references must be cited using current APA style and format.

Response Guidelines

Review the posts of your peers and respond to at least one, using one of the following approaches:

- Identify knowledge gaps or unknowns that were not considered in your peer's post.
- Identify an assumption on which the post seems to be based, and pose a useful alternative or contrasting approach based on a different assumption.
- Ask a probing question.
- Elaborate on a particular point.

Your response posts should be at least 75 words and substantive in nature. Support your views with reference to assigned readings, as well as other theoretical, empirical, or professional literature. If you are responding with a personal perspective or an example from your workplace experience, be sure to focus on both the theoretical and practical implications. Cite all sources in proper APA style.

Course Resources

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide

u09d2 - Unit 9 Summary

At the completion of this unit, your instructor will post a summary of key points from the week's concepts and topics.

Response Guidelines

You are not required to respond to this discussion.

Unit 10 >> Moving Forward and Climbing Upward: Advancing Policy Process Research

Introduction

Welcome to the final week of this course. You will be concluding our public policy study with a focus upon science and theory in the study of public policy. Looking back on the lessons that you have learned in this course, what will you carry with you in both your career and your personal life? How will you apply theory to practice in real-world societal issues and social problems? Also, consider the future of public policy analysis and theorizing. Where do we go from here?

Learning Activities

u10s1 - Studies

Readings

Use [*An Introduction to the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 11, "Science and Theory in the Study of Public Policy," pages 361–390.

Use [*Theories of the Policy Process*](#) to read the following:

- Chapter 10, "Moving Forward and Climbing Upward: Advancing Policy Process Research," pages 363–378.

u10a1 - Contemporary Public Policy Paper

Assignment Overview

For your final assignment, you will examine the rapidity of change in our contemporary society and what happens when a public policy outlives its original intent. You will analyze the theory of Social Construction of Reality and how public policy is influenced by societal, political, and economic factors. You will choose an existing public policy and conduct an evaluation of that policy. The evaluation will be done in the form of a 10–12 page research paper that can be written in one of two options. Choose one option.

Assignment Options

Option 1: Pivotal Events in Contemporary Society

Think of a public policy that has changed in contemporary society after a pivotal event. Examples:

- Pearl Harbor attack.
- Oklahoma City bombing.
- World Trade Center attacks.

What was the impact of this event? How did it change societal structure? How did it affect public policy? Examine both the societal structure and the impact on public policy. Elaborate on ethical considerations.

Option 2: Final Stages of a Public Policy

There are public policies that were created in an era of industry; however, society is now in an era of information and technology, and those policies may have outlived their original intent. Choose a public policy that has evolved beyond its original intent. Examples:

- Social Security.
- Immigration reform.

Justify whether the public policy should be modified or abolished, and recommend changes and modifications to the policy. Imagine that you would be testifying this information before a committee that is dependent upon the policy you choose.

Assignment Instructions

Along with the overarching ideas from the option you choose, be sure to address the following in your research paper:

- Explain the evolution of the public policy in society.
- Use the Theory of Social Construction of Reality to explain how organizational structure and environment impact public policy.
- Analyze how societal factors drove the evolution of the public policy.
- Evaluate the structure and purpose of the public policy.
- Evaluate the challenges that the federalist structure of the United States governmental system presents for the public policy.
- Recommend changes or modifications to the public policy based on the analysis of its evolution.

Example assignment: You may use the assignment example, linked in the Resources, to give you an idea of what a Proficient or higher rating on the scoring guide would look like.

Submission Requirements

- **Written communication:** Your writing should clearly identify where each grading criterion or part of the assignment is addressed. Your points must be logical, substantive, and relevant based on the evidence presented. The writing must be free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA guidelines:** Resources and citations must be formatted according to current APA style and formatting. When appropriate, use APA-formatted headings.
- **Resources:** Your ideas must be supported with relevant recent, scholarly sources that are dated within the past five years and are properly cited and referenced in current APA style.
- **Length of paper:** 10–12 typed, double-spaced pages, not including the title page and references.
- **Font and font size:** Times New Roman, 12 point.
- **Writing assistance** is available through the Writing Center or Smarthinking, the free online writing tutorial and review service.

Review the scoring guide for the grading criteria for this assignment.

Course Resources

[Capella Writing Center](#)

[Smarthinking](#)

Assignment 10 Example [PDF]

Reflect upon this course considering all that we have learned upon our journey through public policy over the past ten weeks. In a few short paragraphs, provide some elaboration upon how the lessons learned in this course will assist you in both your professional as well as in your personal life on the horizon.

Your initial post should be at least 250 words.

Response Guidelines

You do not need to respond to a discussion.

Course Resources

Graduate Discussion Participation Scoring Guide