

PA 802: Public Affairs Seminar Series

AY 2023-24

Taken for Credit During Spring Semester 2024

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Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The La Follette School seeks to mix policy-relevant academic research with current policy and program analysis. This course provides an opportunity for students to engage with cutting edge research related to public policy and public management from scholars representing a range of disciplinary and methodological approaches. As a supplement to your coursework, the seminars offer an up-close look at how research is developed by scholars and evaluated by their peers. The sessions with practitioners also provide insights into the real-world challenges of working in the public sector. While it is natural for students to focus on presentations closely related to their policy interests, the course can also provide exposure to a broader range of policy topics and perspectives. Crafting of public policy and policy analysis in the La Follette School tradition requires a sound evidence base, including scholarly work. Properly using any work requires understanding the questions motivating the research, the methodology involved, its limitations in application, and its relationship to prior work. This course will help students develop a solid foundation for continued interaction with academic research in their work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be an informational meeting on **September 25, 2023 at 11:00am** and another information meeting will be held during the Spring semester on **January 24, 2024 from 11:30am-12:00pm**. Students interested in taking the course for credit in the Spring should plan to attend at least one of these sessions.

The course is scheduled for credit in the Spring; however, students are also encouraged to attend seminars in the Fall semester (all of which count toward seminar attendance and summaries in the same way Spring seminars will). Students can earn 2 course credits by attending 20 seminars & submitting 20 one-page summaries.

Students must satisfy the following requirements to earn 1 course credit:

- Attend at least 10 seminars (not including meetings of the course).
- Submit a one-page summary of each seminar attended to the appropriate professor (based on the semester of the seminar). This summary should provide a brief description of the topic and key findings, as well as your own assessment of the presentation's strengths and weaknesses. Each summary should connect the seminar's topic to a reading (already) completed in a different La Follette School class and explain the connection to that reading. Please submit all papers by email and within one week of the seminar's date.
- Attend one of the scheduled course meetings.

Students may take this class for elective credit for the purposes of counting toward their La Follette School graduation requirements no more than twice during their La Follette career (and for no more than 3 credits total).

ELIGIBLE SEMINAR SERIES ON CAMPUS

Attendance at and summary responses to seminars offered as part of the following series count towards the course requirements:

- [La Follette School of Public Affairs Seminar Series](#)
- [Frontiers in Mortality, Risk and Insurance Seminar Series](#)
- [Institute for Research on Poverty \(IRP\) Seminar Series](#)

- [Center for Demography and Ecology Seminar Series \(DemSem\)](#)
- [Center for Financial Security Seminar Series](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences Seminars](#)
- Seminars offered through the Nelson Institute for Environment Studies (e.g. [Weston Roundtable Series](#); [Climate, People and the Environment Program](#); [Climate Change Symposium](#); etc.)
- [Population Health Monday Seminar Series](#)
- [Neuroscience and Public Policy Seminar Series](#)
- [Agriculture and Applied Economics Development Workshop](#)

Students may also request the instructor's approval to count other seminars offered in the departments of Sociology, Economics, Political Science as well as in the Schools of Law, Business, Education, Social Work, and Medicine & Public Health. Students may also petition to count seminars offered through other campus units or, when appropriate, hosted off campus.

POLICIES

Grading: Grading will be according to graduate school standards, with grades being Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U).

Academic Integrity: I require that the students and student teams maintain the highest level of ethics and integrity throughout the course. I expect a full adherence to UW-Madison's code of academic integrity. I also expect that you will acknowledge all ideas that are not your own through proper citation. Please put all direct quotes in quotations. Any accepted format for citation may be used if it is used consistently. There is to be no cheating in this course – be it via plagiarism or some other form of falsification. Students who do not adhere to the highest levels of integrity may receive no credit on assignment, fail the course, or have some other consequence, depending on the action.

Statement on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty will work either directly with the student or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. (See: [McBurney Disability Resource Center](#))