

outcomes, developing alternatives and recommendations, composing policy arguments, communicating the results, and monitoring and evaluating policy consequences

- Apply the key tools of policy analysis, including cost-benefit analysis, as well as newer policy tools, such as evidence-based practice
- Understand strategies for measuring policy impacts on non-market goods such as environmental quality and the loss of human life
- Evaluate the differences between policy analysis and program evaluation
- Evaluate current issues and controversies in public policy, such as economic and budgetary policy, environmental and energy policy, and foreign policy

Professional Expectations

A part of graduate study is learning to learn from every possible source – from readings, peers, life experiences, the instructor, and research projects. The excellence of each student’s preparation, assignments, and participation in reasoned, thoughtful discourse in class drives the success of the learning experience, and ultimately each student’s grade. Each student and his/her contributions should be treated with respect, and no student should feel marginalized, minimized, or otherwise discriminated against. Being in class on time and prepared to contribute, as well as actually contributing, are signs of respect for fellow students and your commitment to the graduate learning process. The instructor will directly counter any unprofessional or disrespectful activities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Your attendance and active participation is expected. The material we cover is challenging, and classroom discussion is essential to fully understand the concepts and techniques contained in the readings. I expect that your participation will reflect your careful consideration of assigned readings. Quality contributions to class discussion include asking questions, offering opinions, careful listening, and consideration and respect for the opinions of your classmates. A simple cost-benefit analysis will indicate that class attendance *and participation* are well worth the effort (i.e., unless you attend regularly, you are very likely to fail this class). Several components will determine each student’s final course grade, described below:

1. Discussion Leader (10 points)
2. Active Participation (15 points)
3. Homework Assignments (28 points)
4. Policy Analysis Project Report (25 points)
5. Project Presentation (12 points)
6. Critique of Peers (10 points)

Earning 100 points will be considered perfect performance for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points. There is no extra credit for this course.

Homework Assignments (28 points)

All of the homework assignments will focus on the student’s policy analysis project. Students will complete four homework assignments, each of which is worth one-fourth of the homework grade:

1. Policy Brief (2-3 pages and presentation; 7 points)
2. Annotated Bibliography (5-7 pages; 7 points)
3. Political Feasibility Homework (2-3 pages; 7 points)
4. Goals and Alternatives Matrix (2-3 pages and presentation; 7 points)

Homework Assignments #1 and #2 are to be your own independent written work. Your policy brief presentation may take place in groups, and your group may coordinate which sources are annotated

by which group members, to avoid overlap. Homework Assignments #3 and #4 are to be the joint work of your project team.

Critique of Peers (10 points)

During the last class sessions, students will present their project reports to the class. Each student will be randomly assigned to write a 1-page critique of one of the reports presented by a fellow classmate.

Late Work Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted. Early assignments will always be accepted. If you find yourself in a situation where you cannot make it to class and cannot give your homework to a colleague to turn in for you, you may email the homework to me, along with an explanation for why you are not in class. Otherwise, you are expected to attend class and turn it in yourself.

Your **final project is due at 11:00am on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.** If you turn in your project on December 9th after 11:00am, you will be penalized 1.5 points. From then on, until you turn in your project, every time the clock strikes midnight, you will be penalized 1.5 more points.

TAMU email account

Students must have a TAMU email account. I will often send out class announcements, reminders, or logistical instructions using this email system. You are responsible for making sure that your TAMU account is current and working.

Grading Standards:

All grades are dispensed using the following scale:

90-100 points:	A	- <i>Extraordinary, excellent work and mastery of concept</i>
80-89 points:	B	- <i>Good work and solid command of concept</i>
70-79 points:	C	- <i>Adequate work and sufficient understanding of concept</i>
60-69 points:	D	- <i>Poor work, little understanding of concept</i>
60 < points:	F	- <i>Lack of work, no understanding of concept</i>

Honor Code

An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.

If you are found guilty of plagiarism or cheating, you will fail the assignment, you will probably fail the course, and you will likely be recommended for expulsion. If you have any questions about Honor Council Rules and Procedures, you may find more information at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Disability Services in Cain Hall, call 845-1637, or email disability@tamu.edu.