

# Course Descriptions

Spring 2013

Department of Political Science

Bowman Hall 302

<http://dept.kent.edu/polisci>

## Graduate Political Science Courses

POL 6/70002-001 Approaches to Public Policy 3 Hawes  
CRN 17018/ 17028

This course introduces students to the philosophy of science and scientific inquiry within the context of the social sciences, and presents a broad survey of leading paradigms and debates within the field of public policy. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

R 5:30-8:15 BOW 311

POL 6/70004-001 Public Policy Methods II 3 Claassen  
CRN 17019/ 17029

This course introduces students to multivariate quantitative techniques appropriate for the analysis of public policy and incorporates a broad array of advanced qualitative analysis. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

T 2:15-5:00 MOU 201

POL 6/70191-001 Sem: American Political Behavior 3 Claassen  
CRN 20132/ 20133

R 2:15-5:00 BOW 311

POL 6/70304-001 Analytic Tech Policymaking 3 Johnson  
CRN 17021/ 17031

This course covers the concepts, techniques, and conventions for assessing economic efficiency when this is one of the social and political goals relevant to public policymakers. Students are introduced to theories of cost-benefit analysis as they pertain to public policy. Prerequisite: POL 60301 and graduate standing.

M 4:25-7:05 BOW 223

POL 6/70501-001 Seminar Transnational and Comparative 3 Barnes  
CRN 17022/ 17032

This course introduces students to theoretical and practical examples in the fields of transnational and comparative politics. Broadly speaking, the field of "comparative politics" analyzes domestic processes of various countries, while the field of "transnational politics" (or "international relations") examines interactions that take place across state borders. In this course, you will become acquainted with some of the major concepts, theories, and debates in the two fields, which will give you a good foundation for further exploration.

R 11:00-1:45 SFH 121



This course explores the roles played by ethnicity, race, religion, culture and other elements of identity in the generation, resolution and conduct of conflicts within and between groups. We will examine identity formation and maintenance, physical and symbolic markers of difference and theories of persons, groups and nations in order to understand both why groups differentiate themselves from one another and how these mechanisms can provide the grist for conflict or the grease that promotes resolution.

W 5:30-8:15 BOW 311

Staff training and experience in college teaching; colloquia on professional ethics and responsibilities of political scientists. Maximum of 4 hours applicable toward Ph.D. requirements, with graduate studies committee approval. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

T 9:55-10:45 BOW 222

### Public Administration

Research or individual investigation for master's level graduate students. Credits earned may be applied toward meeting requirements if department approves. Prerequisite: Special approval and graduate standing.

This course focuses on issues peculiar to public sector labor relations, including the impact of public employee unionism on traditional merit systems and personnel policy decision processes.

Prerequisite: PADM 60375 and graduate standing.

WEB COURSE

CRN 16469

The purpose of this course is to provide a basis for understanding the financial management and budgeting issues facing various levels of government. The course has contemporary significance when one considers the impact of the current recession on government revenues. This problem is a particular issue for the states and for various local governments that are required to balance budgets. Daily newspaper coverage of reductions in work forces for police, fire, teachers, and a multitude of other public servants is evidence of the problem. The declining population and tax base in some mid-western communities adds to the challenges of many public financial managers

Part of this challenge is declining revenues. When one examines the issue of resource generation a multitude of questions can be raised: What revenue sources are available to conduct the affairs of national government? Which sources have been reserved for the states? What sources are available to counties, municipalities, townships, and other local governmental units? What are the implications of various revenue sources? What groups and individuals bear the burden of various revenue generating systems? What are equitable taxation policies? The list of issues is lengthy and critical to one's understanding of the financial management problems plaguing governmental units.

On the expenditure side a different host of questions beg for consideration. What theories exist for public budgeting? What are the shortcomings and problems with various approaches? How is the budget a tool of public policy and the political system? Can governmental budgeting decisions be made more rational? Would a more rational budgeting system be an advantage or would such a system lead to government by numbers rather than a government by people? How do federal and state mandates reshuffle local public policy goals? How serious is the growing national debt? What comprises the major part of the national debt? What are the implications of reducing the national debt by simply a simple across the board reduction in federal expenditures? What makes the solution to entitlements so difficult and how have they become uncontrollable government expenses?

The course is not designed to teach the student to crunch numbers but rather to study public budgets and public revenue streams from the perspective of policy, efficiency, and equity considerations.

WEB COURSE

PADM 60379-001 Program Evaluation

3

Drew

CRN 16470

Introduction to evaluation of government programs. Emphasis on familiarizing students with the theory and specifically the techniques utilized under different evaluation formats. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

WEB COURSE

PADM 60381-001 Methods in Public Administration

3

Manoharan

CRN 16471

The purpose of the course is to equip students with the basic skills necessary for conducting research in public administration. This course introduces the student to statistics, research design and survey research, through lecture notes and synchronous sessions.

WEB COURSE

PADM 60387-001 Electronic Governance

3

Manoharan

CRN 16472

Governments at all levels in the United States are increasingly transforming to Internet to enhance quality of services and significantly reduce costs. Public administrators are implementing various strategies to enable this transformation to a more effective and efficient public service delivery. This phenomenon of e-governance also has the potential to transform the relationship between government and citizens.

The course is an introduction to e-governance with an emphasis on public administration. The course examines the use of information and communication technology in public organizations and the factors associated with its implementation such as managerial capacity, models/framework, leadership, and strategic planning. Through readings and discussions, students will also become familiar with implications of e-governance for privacy, transparency, accountability, usability, citizen participation and digital divide.

W 5:30-8:15 BOW 222

PADM 60392-001	Internship in Public Administration	3	Sykes
CRN 16473			
Provides an opportunity for students to gain practical experience and be exposed to processes of public decision making and policy development. Prerequisite: public administration (PADM) major; and graduate standing; and special approval.			
PADM 60470-001	Personal Account Public Service	3	Drew
CRN 16474			
Focus is on students internalizing their role in the public service as stewards of the public trust. Topics covered include dimensions of stewardship: maintaining personal honor; protecting the liberty and dignity of the citizen, dimensions of justice; anti-corruption, incorporating principles of stewardship in their personal decision making and throughout the organization. Prerequisite: public administration (PADM) major and graduate standing.			
M 5:30-8:15 BOW 203			
PADM 60477-001	Nonprofit Financial Resource Development	3	Burns
CRN16475			
Successful strategies for fundraising and resource development for nonprofit organizations. Students will be exposed to fundraising in practice and will write a resource development plan. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.			
WEB COURSE			
PADM 60492-001	Capstone Seminar	3	Drew
CRN 16476			
Capstone course required for all M.P.A. students. Students will complete an approved written project that is analytical and research based. Prerequisite: public administration (PADM) major; and graduate standing; and special approval needed from department.			