

Syllabus  
Doctoral Seminar  
Information Policies and Issues (LIS 274)

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Spring 2001 / Fri 2:30 - 5:50 p.m.  
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### Course Description

In this course the basic conceptual and analytical processes of information policy-making are introduced. Course discussions will draw on readings from many disciplines, including policy studies, political economy, communication research, economics, sociology, as well as library and information science. Students will also be expected to follow current policy discussions underway on Internet discussion groups/lists and in the general media.

### Goals and Objectives

This course is designed as a doctoral-level introduction to major issues and analytical approaches for students in information studies with an interest in policy research and policymaking, and secondly for students from other fields with an interest in information and communication technologies and policy. As a result of their participation, all students in the seminar should be able to:

1. Describe and explain the process of information policy analysis;
2. Identify and explain contemporary policy issues related to information and communication systems and institutions;
3. Trace the recent history of those issues;
4. Discuss the major perspectives or positions on the issues, drawing from appropriate policy documents, research literature, as well as other sources;
5. Identify the players and stakes involved in the policymaking process; and
6. Frame significant questions or problems for policy analysis, and propose analytical frameworks for examining these problems and making policy recommendations.

### Course Requirements

Prerequisites. DIS students participating in this seminar are expected to have already taken LIS 200 or LIS 246 (or be taking one of these prerequisites concurrently). Doctoral students without the prerequisite, MLIS students, or students from other graduate programs may enroll in the course by obtaining the instructor's consent.

Readings/Discussions. The course is taught in seminar form, and students are expected to make cogent and prepared contributions to class discussions. Students should come to class having read the assigned material, and have a broad familiarity with information policy issues as presented in the popular press and on the net.

**Required Texts:** The required readings are included in a course reader that will be available at Westwood Copies, at the corner of Gayley and Weyburn Avenues in Westwood. In addition, there is one required text:

Kaul, I., Grunberg, I., and Stern, M.A. (Eds.) (1999). Global Public Goods: International Cooperation in the 21st Century. New York: Oxford University Press, published for the United Nations Development Programme.

**Examination:** There will be one examination in the course, given as a take-home on May 18 (7th week). Students will have two weeks to complete their answers to the exam; exams are due to the instructor no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, June 1 (9th week). More information about the exam will be given in class.

**Grading Formula:** Grading for the course will be based on the following formula: 60% for the quality of the student's preparation for, and participation in, the seminar; and 40% for a take-home exam to be completed between the seventh and ninth weeks of class.

### **Weekly Topics and Readings (All readings required.)**

#### **Week 1            April 6                    Policy Analysis Basics**

Weimer, D.L. and Vining, A.R. (1992). Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Chapter 1, "What is policy analysis?" pp. 1-14.

Chapter 2, "Toward professional ethics," pp. 15-29.

Chapter 10, "Thinking strategically about adoption and implementation," pp. 312-342.

Dye, T.R. (1984). Understanding Public Policy (5th ed.). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Chapter 1, "Policy analysis: The thinking person's response to demands for relevance," pp. 1-17.

Chapter 13, "The policy-making process: Getting inside the system," pp. 317-341.

Walker, W.E. and Fisher, G.H. (1994). Public Policy Analysis: A Brief Definition. Santa Monica, CA: Rand (publication P-7856).

#### **Week 2            April 13                    The Art and Craft of Policy Analysis**

Wildavsky, A. (1987). Speaking Truth to Power: The Art and Craft of Policy Analysis. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.

Introduction to the Transaction edition,

    "The once and future school of public policy," pp. xxiii-xxxviii.

Introduction, "Analysis as art," pp. 1-19.

Chapter 1, "Policy analysis is what information systems are not," pp. 26-40.

Chapter 6, "Analysis as craft," pp. 385-406.

**Week 3            April 20            Values in Policy Analysis**

- Rein, M. (1976). Social Science and Public Policy. New York: Penguin.  
Introduction, pp. 11-18.  
Chapter 1, "Policy analysis: A personal approach," pp. 19-36.  
Chapter 2, "The fact-value dilemma," pp. 37-93.  
Chapter 3, "Values, social science and social policy," pp. 96-138.  
Chapter 4, "Policy analysis as the interpretation of beliefs," pp. 139-170.  
Chapter 7, "Social science for social policy," pp. 249-268.

**Week 4            April 27            Norms and Ethics**

White, L.G. (1990). Introducing norms into policy studies. In S.S. Nagel (Ed.), Policy Theory and Policy Evaluation: Concepts, Knowledge, Causes, and Norms, pp. 147-158. New York: Greenwood Press.

Melody, W.H. and Mansell, R.E. (1983). The debate over critical vs. administrative research: Circularity or challenge. Journal of Communication, summer, 103-16.

Smith, M.M. (1992). Infoethics for leaders: Models of moral agency in the information environment. Library Trends, 40(3), 553-570.

**Week 5            May 4            Policy Arguments and Discourse**

Dunn, W.N. (1993). Policy reforms as arguments. In F. Fischer and J. Forester (Eds.), The Argumentative Turn in Policy Analysis and Planning (pp. 254-290). Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Bozeman, B. (1986). The credibility of policy analysis: Between method and use. Policy Studies Journal, 14, 519-539.

Innes, J.E. (1990). Knowledge and Public Policy: The Search for Meaningful Indicators (2nd ed.). New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.  
Introduction to the Transaction edition,  
"Understanding the alliance of knowledge and policy," pp. 1-47.

**Week 6            May 11            Framing**

Rein, M. and Schön, D. (1993). Reframing policy discourses. In F. Fischer and J. Forester (Eds.), The Argumentative Turn in Policy Analysis and Planning (pp. 145-166). Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Schön, D.A. and Rein, M. (1994). Frame Reflection: Toward the Resolution of Intractable Policy Controversies. New York: Basic Books.  
"Introduction," pp. xi-xx.  
Chapter 1, "Intractable policy controversies," pp. 3-22.  
Chapter 2, "Policy controversies as frame conflicts," pp. 23-36.  
Chapter 3, "Rationality, reframing, and frame reflection," pp. 37-58.  
Chapter 7, "Design rationality revisited," pp. 165-187.

**Week 7            May 18                            Information Policy**  
**[Take-home exam distributed in class and online]**

Braman, S. (1990). The unique characteristics of information policy and their U.S. consequences. In V. Blake and R. Tjoumas (Eds.), Information Literacies for the Twenty-First Century (pp. 47-77). Boston, MA: G.K. Hall.

Burger, R.H. (1993). Information Policy: A Framework for Evaluation and Policy Research. Norwood, NJ: Ablex.

Chapter 1, "Information policy in the public policy arena," pp. 3-22.

Chapter 9, "Conclusion," pp. 159-181.

**Week 8            May 25                            [No class meeting, instructor out of town]**

**Week 9            June 1                                Equity and Public Goods Approaches**  
**[Take-home exam due 12:00 noon]**

Kaul, I., Grunberg, I., and Stern, M.A. (Eds.) (1999). Global Public Goods: International Cooperation in the 21st Century. New York: Oxford University Press, published for the United Nations Development Programme.

Introduction, pp. xix-xxxviii.

"Defining global public goods," pp. 2-19.

"Global public goods: Concepts, policies and strategies," pp. 450-507.

Ostrom, E. (1990). Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chapter 1, "Reflections on the commons," pp. 1-28 (notes pp. 217-220).

**Week 10          June 8                                Information & ICTs as Public Goods**

Introna, L.D. and Nissenbaum, H. (2000). Shaping the Web: Why the politics of search engines matters. The Information Society, 16(3), July-September, 169-185.

Kaul, I., Grunberg, I., and Stern, M.A. (Eds.) (1999). Global Public Goods: International Cooperation in the 21st Century. New York: Oxford University Press, published for the United Nations Development Programme.

Serageldin, I. "Cultural heritage as public good: Economic analysis applied to historic cities," pp. 240-263.

Stiglitz, J.E. "Knowledge as a global public good," pp. 308-325.

Sy, J.H., "Global communications for a more equitable world," pp. 326-343.

Spar, D.L., "The public face of cyberspace," pp. 344-362.