Fulbright Economics Teaching Program
Academic year 2014-2016
Summer Semester

RESEARCH METHODS FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

Teaching Team

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Class Meetings

14 lectures, Mon and Wed (1.30-3.00PM)

       29/6-31/7: 2 lectures on Fri (31/7)

       03/08-16/08: No lecture

       17-19/8: 2 lectures

Office Hours

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Huynh The Du		15:30-17:00		15:30-17:00	
Pham Duy Nghia					13:30-15:00
Le Viet Phu	15:30-17:00				15:30-17:00

Members of the teaching team are also available at other times by appointment.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to prepare students to write their thesis, which is in essence a public policy analysis exercise. It introduces the conceptual foundation for and the process of doing policy analysis. It also reviews and introduces the methods, models, and tools used in the analysis of public policy so that at the end of the course, students are equipped with sufficient methodological grounding to undertake the thesis.

Course Description

The first session of the course is devoted to a general introduction of the analytical framework for and the process of doing public policy analysis. The course then introduces the process of undertaking a policy analysis exercise, from identifying and structuring a public policy problem to designing a strategy to address that policy problem. This strategy should specify the approach (i.e., quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods), sources of data/information, models

and tools that will be used to formulate and evaluate policy options and finally make policy recommendations.

The first half of the course ends with general guidelines on how to write and present a policy analysis paper effectively. This section also raises the issue of research ethics and discusses situations in which there exist conflicts of values and/or interests.

In the second half of the course, students will be divided into three groups according to their thesis areas. Students are then introduced to methods, models, and tools that are more specific to their policy analysis areas. They also have opportunities to present their policy research ideas and methodology and receive feedback from their classmates and lecturers.

Readings and software

There is no single text book for this course. Required and suggested readings are selected from books and other sources. Required readings are marked with an asterisk (*) in the course outline below. Students are expected to read the required readings prior to coming to class. Suggested readings, which are not necessarily translated into Vietnamese, will also be provided. The following books, which are on reserve in the library, are useful references:

*Vu Thanh Tu Anh (2009). *Guidelines on writing a policy analysis paper*, FETP.

* HKS (2002). *Policy analysis exercise: Handbook*.

* FETP (2015). *From analysis to dialogue: a collection of public policy analysis papers*, Social Sciences Publishing House.

*Hoang Thi Hong Loc (2014). *Analysis of factors affecting the motivation of civil servants and public officials: a case study of Ninh Kieu district, Can Tho City*, MPP Thesis, FETP.
Berg, Bruce L. (2006). *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*, 6th edition, Pearson.

Creswell, John W. (2003). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 2nd edition. Sage Publications.

Dunn, William N. (2008). *Public Policy Analysis: an Introduction*, 4th edition, Pearson: Prentice Hall

Hoyle, Rick, Monica Harris, and Charles Jud (2002). *Research methods in social relations*, 7th edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, Belmont Drive, CA, USA.

Huynh The Du (2012). Transformation in Ho Chi Minh City: Issues of growth management. Chapter 6, Doctorate Thesis, Harvard University.

Pham Duy Nghia (2014). *Research method in law*, Public Security Publishing House, Hanoi.
Stokey, Edith and Richard Zeckhauser (1978). *A Primer for Policy Analysis*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

Nguyen Dinh Tho (2011). *Scientific Research Method in Business.* Society & Labour Publishing House.

The Mendeley software will be applied for automatic citation and reference. Students are required to install this software before the first lecture at:

Mendeley (2015). Getting started with Mendeley, Accessed on 23 June 2015 at: http://desktop-download.mendeley.com/download/Getting_Started_Guide.pdf

Requirements

Students are required to attend class regularly, read the assigned readings before class, actively participate in class discussions and complete all course requirements. Grades are given based on the research outline and presentations of students to the committee. Students can submit the detailed outline after feedbacks by the committee within a month after the end of the course. The result of the course will also be considered for reviewing students' thesis which is unlikely to pass the graduation requirements. Students are encouraged to develop the research outline into the master thesis. Those who finish their thesis early may be allowed to conduct the thesis defense by the 2016 summer.

Learning evaluation and grade
Student's learning outcome will be graded based on his individual preparation, presentation and final research outline, with the following weights:

	Weight
Preparation and Presentation	50%
Research Outline	50%

Key timelines
29 June 2015:   Working on the research topic
15 July 2015:   Submission of preliminary research outline
22 July 2015:   Presentation of research topic
21 September 2015: Submission of detailed research outline

COURSE OUTLINE

Part I: Introduction to and Conceptual Foundation of Policy Analysis

1. **[29 June] Introduction to Policy Analysis (Huynh The Du)**

    Readings:

    *Vu Thanh Tu Anh (2009)

    * HKS (2002)

    Nguyen Dinh Tho (2011), Chapter 1
    Mendeley (2015)

2. **[01 July] Identifying a Public Policy Issue (Huynh The Du)**

    Readings:

    * Hoang Thi Hong Loc (2014), *Chapter 1*

3. **[6 July] Overview of Conceptual Foundation and Analysis Framework (Huynh The Du)**

    Readings:

    * Hoang Thi Hong Loc (2014), *Chapter 2*
    * Huynh The Du (2012)

4. **[8 July] Method and Model in Policy Analysis (Huynh The Du)**

    Readings:

    * Hoang Thi Hong Loc (2014), *Ch3 & 4.*
    * Huynh The Du (2012)

    Creswell (2003), Ch 1, 7, 9, 10 & 11
    Berg (2006), Ch. 2
    Stokey & Zeckhauser (1978), Ch. 2&3

5. **[10 July] Quantitative Research and Finding Presentation (Le Viet Phu)**

    Readings:

    Hoyle et al (2002), Ch. 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20

6. **[13 July] Introduction to Models and Databases for Quantitative Analysis (Le Viet Phu)**
    Readings:

    Research papers referenced in the appendix of the lecture

7. [15 July] Qualitative Research in Law and Public Governance (Pham Duy Nghia)

Readings:

Pham Duy Nghia (2014)

8. [20 July] Writing, Citation and Ethical Considerations in Doing Policy Analysis (Pham Duy Nghia)

Readings:

Pham Duy Nghia (2014)

*Vu Thanh Tu Anh (2009)

9. Part II. Student Presentation of Research Outline

Students can choose a topic in the following areas: Government and business policies, development policies, Regional and local economic development, Macroeconomic policies, Public governance, Public finance and Public investment appraisal.

Timelines:

22nd July: Presentation of research topic (to Teaching Team)

27th July: Presentation of research topic after feedbacks (to Teaching Team)

29th July: Presentation of theoretical foundation and framework analysis (to Teaching Team)

31st July: Presentation of theoretical foundation and framework analysis after feedbacks of the committee (Teaching Team)

17th August: Presentation of research method (to Teaching Team)

19th August: Presentation of research method after feedbacks of the committee (Teaching Team)

21 September: Submission of the detailed outline after feedbacks.