

PUP 4002 - Public Policy Analytical Essays

Directions

The essays are open note and open book, but you cannot collaborate with anyone in completing the responses. All essays must be typed in a word-processing computer program and follow specific formatting rules (12-pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced, and one inch margins on all sides). Microsoft Word .doc files are preferred. Students will be expected to avoid frequent spelling and grammatical errors when writing their essays. Each essay must have a clear beginning, middle, and end. The student should cite all resources used when constructing their responses using guidelines presented in the American Political Science Association Style Manual. Every submission must be checked for academic integrity by submitting the document to TurnItIn's plagiarism monitor via Canvas.

You must go to the "Assignments" link on Canvas, click on "Analytical Essays," and submit in a single document file your responses to the three separate prompts. The assignment is due Thursday, May 1st at 11:59 p.m. You should only be using resources assigned or discussed in class, not outside sources. That means only lecture slides and readings assigned in the course should be used in constructing responses. These essays are not intended to be full research papers. The goal is to display your mastery of the course materials.

Each prompt is worth five points. You write a separate essay response for each prompt. The best responses will accurately integrate both lecture and reading materials together.

Prompt One

What is the reasoning behind taking an incremental approach to policymaking? Why would political actors adopt an incremental approach, rather than the rational comprehensive approach to policymaking? How does punctuated equilibrium theory relate to the incremental approach to policymaking?

Prompt Two

What is commonly perceived to occur during the implementation stage of the policy process? In regards to both horizontal and vertical implementation of policy, how does the delegation of authority to individual bureaucratic agencies complicate implementation? What would proponents of the elitist model say in regards to the top-down approach and the bottom-up approach to implementation?

Prompt Three

To many individuals, a fundamental purpose of government is to advance the interests that all individuals in a society share. This is perceived as necessary by some critics of pure capitalist systems, since the way people consume goods and engage in the marketplace can produce problems that are believed to warrant government policy intervention. Discuss some of the factors that increase the likelihood of government policy intervention in the United States. What are some things U.S. government policy attempts to encourage, and what are some things U.S. government policy attempts to discourage? What can interest groups do in an attempt to influence the policy decisions that formal government actors make?