

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 the link displaying "Item #4: Analytical Essays (20 points)," and submit in a single document file your responses to the two separate prompts. The assignment is due Friday, April 24th 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.

Just so everyone is clear, citing lecture is necessary in the analytical essays, just like you would cite one of the course readings. Since you will likely be citing multiple lectures, you will use a lowercase letter after the year to distinguish between the different lectures. The lecture that gets cited first receives the (a) letter assignment, the second lecture that gets cited receives the (b) letter assignment, the third lecture that gets cited receives the (c) letter assignment, and so on. You should do a separate lettering order for each essay prompt.

Within the text of an essay you can do the following:

Olds (2015a) discusses the several stages of the policy process model: issue emergence, agenda setting, alternative selection, enactment, implementation, and evaluation. Models like the policy process stages model try to interpret events that occur based on the premise that phenomena can occur in a systematic pattern (Olds 2015b).

Then, in the works cited list, you would distinguish the works by lecture title and an appropriate date:

Olds, Christopher. 2015a. Introducing the Policy Process. January 12. Lecture presented for the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Olds, Christopher. 2015b. Elements of the Policymaking System. January 19. Lecture presented for the University of South Florida, Tampa.

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

Prompt One (Ten Points)

What is the incremental approach to decision-making? Describe the perceived strengths and limitations discussed in the course materials regarding the incremental approach to policy decisions. Based on your analysis of the course materials, in what ways can an incremental approach to policy decisions simplify policy implementation and policy evaluation? In what ways can an incremental approach to policy decisions complicate policy implementation and policy evaluation?

Prompt Two (Ten Points)

Do Downs and Kingdon have similar or different theoretical proposals as to how agenda setting takes place? Explain why you believe their proposals are either similar or different. Is punctuated equilibrium theory in any way making a prediction about agenda setting that is distinct from Downs and/or Kingdon? In providing all of this analysis, you must explain what is meant by the agenda setting stage of the traditional public policy process stages model, and describe the role agenda setting is believed to have within the traditional public policy process stages model.