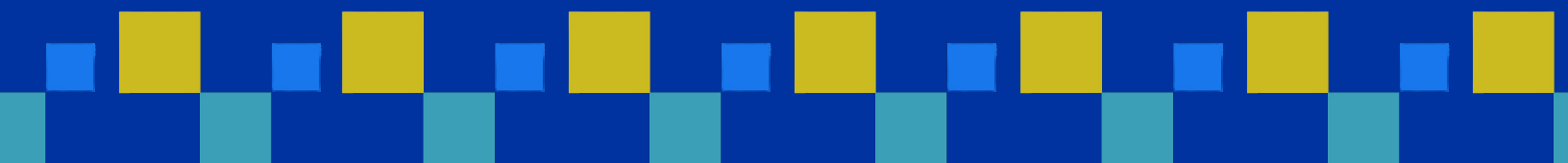


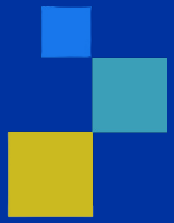
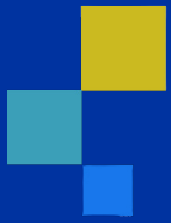
FALL 2025

COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET FOR PUBLIC POLICY



Martin School of Public
Policy and Administration





Fall 2025
Course Description Booklet for Public Policy

PPL 201 Introduction to Public Policy

PPL 251 Social Policy

PPL 301 Economics of Public Policy

PPL 302 Political Context of Public Policy

PPL 306 Ethics and Civic Leadership

PPL 380 Access to Healthcare (Special Topics in Public Policy & Core Elective)

PPL 399 Internship in Public Policy

PPL 405 Program Evaluation for Public and Nonprofit Organizations

PPL 434 Public Policy Capstone

PPL 201 Introduction to Public Policy

with Dr. Cory Curl

TR 12:30-1:45

The College of Law Rm. 399

In this UK Core - Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences course, we explore the science and strategy of problem-solving in the public interest. Students learn how to use data and evidence to understand the causes and consequences of problems that they care about - in housing, environment, health, education, energy, technology, whatever strikes their interest. From there, they use a policy analysis framework to evaluate potential solutions to those problems. Students learn how to communicate with clarity and credibility to decision-makers and other influential people in government, nonprofit organizations, and well beyond.

PPL 251 Social Policy

with Instructor Dexter Horne

TR 11-12:15

Miller Hall, floor 3

PPL 251 analyzes how public policies influence social inequality in the United States. Students will examine empirical evidence on disparities in wealth, education, health, and other key outcomes across a range of identities. Through case studies of major institutions—including families, neighborhoods, labor markets, the welfare system, and criminal justice—students will develop frameworks for understanding how policy decisions shape social outcomes across different communities.

PPL 301 Economics of Public Policy

with Dr. Caroline Weber

TR 11-12:15 p.m.

B&E Rm 199

Have economic policy questions you've always wondered about or are in the news lately? Come discuss them in my class! This course analyzes the impact of public policy on the allocation of resources in the economy by using economic principles. You will learn how to use economic tools and empirical methods to answer the following questions:

- Why might government intervene in the economy?
- How should the government intervene in the economy?
- What is the impact of government interventions on outcomes of interest?

We think about these questions using real world policy applications; last fall, we considered topics such as plastic bag bans, minimum wages, tariffs, market power, affordable housing, income, carbon, and cannabis taxation, taxes on tips, and health insurance.

PPL 302 Political Context of Public Policy

with Dr. Jordan McAllister

TR 9:30-10:45

Miller Hall, floor 3

This course examines the important role of political context in the policy process. It equips students with the skills necessary to conduct effective public policy analysis from a political perspective and provides an understanding of the major actors and institutions involved in policymaking. We will begin with a broad discussion of the political institutions and policy actors in the policy process. Next, we will cover different stages of the policy process while focusing on the role of political institutions and actors in each one. In the end, we will apply the theories and perspectives to analyze the political context of various policy areas.

PPL 306 Ethics and Civic Leadership

with Dr. Cory Curl

MWF 10-10:50

Miller Hall, floor 3

This class introduces students to a variety of ethical perspectives and decision-making frameworks to help them make collaborative, ethical decisions designed to solve problems in their own communities. Each fall semester, PPL 306 students identify a critical issue facing students at UK and then host a policy roundtable event to illuminate a variety of perspectives on the issue. We also learn from compelling and courageous government, nonprofit, philanthropic, and business leaders in the local community.

PPL 380 Access to Healthcare (Special Topics in Public Policy)

with Dr. Joe Benitez

MW 3-4:15

Miller Hall, floor 3

In this course, we review research related to measuring healthcare access and evaluate studies of policy solutions to address healthcare access. We will explore local, state, and federal policy access to address healthcare access, and we will examine social, economic, and policy contexts that influenced healthcare reforms in the United States. We will pay special attention to public policies to directly and indirectly improve access to healthcare within the US healthcare system. This course will include extensive discussion of the determinants of access to healthcare as well as a discussion of the dimensions of access to healthcare—particularly affordability, availability, accessibility, accommodation, and acceptability.

PPL 399 Internship in Public Policy

Ready to have hands on experience in Public Policy? This course is for students participating in a public policy internship. To register for the course, students must work with their internship supervisor and Dr. Curl to complete a departmental learning contract. Students will submit a final paper at the end of the internship. May be repeated for a maximum of six credit hours.

PPL 405 Program Evaluation for Public and Nonprofit Organizations

with Dr. Taha Hameduddin

TR 12:30-1:45

Miller Hall, floor 3

Program Evaluation is a social science activity aimed at collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and communicating information about the effectiveness of social programs. The course serves as an introduction on how to evaluate the need for public programs, implement existing programs, and assess their intended impact across a wide variety of policy arenas.

Students will gain literacy in a wide variety of methods, conceptual models, and analytical tools that can be used to formulate and evaluate policy options and finally make policy recommendations across a number of political, social, and cultural contexts. These practical skills and evaluation tools can be readily applied to a wide variety of business, non-profit, and governmental contexts.

Students will have an opportunity to use these skills to develop and present their own program evaluation projects in the local community and receive feedback from their classmates and instructors.

Through the course, students will learn about the real-world implications of evaluation research, ways to manage program evaluation projects, and their role in formulating public policies and making policy recommendations.

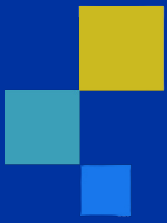
PPL 434 Public Policy Capstone

with Dr. Cory Curl

MWF 11-11:50

Miller Hall, floor 3

This class meets the UK Graduate Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) for Public Policy majors. Students use a policy analysis framework to tackle a problem that they care about and communicate their analysis through a professional policy brief. We emphasize the power of feedback and revision to create a well-structured brief with concise, clear writing and appealing data visualizations. Students share their work through a celebratory poster symposium at the conclusion of the fall semester.



STUDENT RESOURCES

ASK US!



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859-257-5052

VISIT US!

scan to schedule



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