PPOL: PUBLIC POLICY
(GRADUATE)

PPOL 6005 Social & Public Policy Process (3 Credits)
This is a required course available for matriculated Social Policy students only. This course, taken along with the Social Policy Perspectives in the first term of study, introduces you to models of policy analysis and to debates about contemporary policy issues. All students will examine selected public policy issues in such areas as environmental or economic policy. Individual students will then study public policy issues which interest them, for example, education policy, social welfare policy, civil rights policy, tax policy or health-care policy, labor law reform, trade policy, occupational safety and health policy.

PPOL 6010 Social Policy Perspectives (3 Credits)
This course examines the development of American social policy. It considers definitions of social policy and a systematic framework for policy analysis of service delivery systems. We consider American individualism and its relationship to the development of social policy from the 1930s, through the Great Society programs of the 1960s, to contemporary social issues. This course was previously SOC-620501.

PPOL 6015 Policy Implementation (3 Credits)
This study of policy implementation deals with what happens after policy is formulated through legislation, executive action, or organizational governance. Implementation is often bureaucracy-driven, especially in the United States where virtually any domestic policy implementation is dependent upon multiple layers of federal, state and local governments and their agencies and where other types of organizations are hierarchically structured. The course includes the analysis of theories and their application to case studies in an effort to understand the reasons for the success and failure of implementation. This course was previously SOC-620501.

PPOL 6020 Research Methods (3 Credits)
Research in the public sector serves to inform new policies and evaluate existing ones. Conducting meaningful research is truly a process. This course will provide a framework for initiating, developing, and implementing research methodologies to answer context-appropriate policy questions. The course will focus on the fundamentals of quantitative and qualitative analysis and the elements of research design necessary to conduct policy-relevant public sector research. Quantitative and qualitative research approaches will be examined through the lenses of formulating a research question, research design, the identification of key variables, establishing appropriate measurement devices, and carrying out appropriate methods of data collection. The course will also discuss research ethics and help students identify and comply with ethical concerns in conducting research with human subjects. This course was previously RAM-620591.

PPOL 6025 Ethical Issues in Social Policy (3 Credits)
This course is designed to introduce students to the ethical principles underlying our social policies and social institutions. Students will read both classical and contemporary works in ethics and social policy, and examine how these theoretical models are applied to specific, ‘real life’ problems. Students are encouraged to select specific topics of interest related to their own careers or educational goals. Students will locate and read additional texts appropriate to their area of interest. This course was previously SOC-620540.

PPOL 6030 Public Policy Analysis (3 Credits)
The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the methods and techniques of analyzing, developing and evaluating public policies and programs. Emphasis will be given to benefit-cost and cost-effectiveness analysis and concepts of economic efficiency, equity and distribution. Methods will include problem solving, decision making and case studies. Examples will come from human resource, environmental and regulatory policy. This course was previously SOC-620565.

PPOL 6035 Advocacy in State & Community-level Government (3 Credits)
The emphasis of this course is on gaining the knowledge and skills required for effective advocacy in state and community-level government. Students will focus on learning activities that promote efficiency in individual and organizational advocacy for social change and meeting the needs of marginalized populations. The course will consist of a mini-study in state and local community government; case studies in community advocacy and experienced-based learning through participation as a volunteer or intern in a service learning project in a community organization. This course is required for the Advanced Certificate in Community Advocacy. This course was previously SOC-620518.

PPOL 6040 Advocacy for Mentally Disabled (3 Credits)
The purpose of this course is to provide students with the theoretical and practical tools required for the provision of advocacy services for mentally disabled populations residing within mental health facilities in New York state, as well as for the provision of advocacy services for those mentally disabled populations residing in the community. Students will be introduced to general information regarding the legal rights and entitlements due mentally disabled persons in New York state. Students will also become familiar with information regarding advocacy groups which provide community based support for this population. Students will gain familiarity with reading legal cases, statutes, regulations and items of mental health policy. This course is required for the Advanced Certificate in Community Advocacy. This course was previously SOC-620515.

PPOL 6045 Advocacy for Children (3 Credits)
Over time, children have gained many legal rights in this country. This course will introduce the student to an overview of these various rights and of the many legal, sociological, psychological and political issues involved in their development. In addition to an overview of these fundamental legal rights, students will become familiarized with the basics of the court system and the statutes and judicial decisions affecting children’s rights today. Some specific topics to be explored in this course are neglect and abuse of children, the legal, ethical and sociological effects of prenatal maternal substance abuse and children’s right to the effective assistance of counsel. This is a required course in the Child and Family Advocacy advanced certificate. This course was previously SOC-620569.
PPOL 6055 Human Services Policy (3 Credits)
In this course, students will examine how social policy influences, and is influenced by, the way in which human service functions, service populations, outcomes, and resources are publicly and privately defined, identified, secured, and measured. Students will examine the interactional effects of social policy and human services at organizational, and professional levels. For example, at the community level, local funding agencies such as the United Way often act as gatekeepers controlling community resources. At the organizational level, this might be expressed as a conflict between the stated mission of an organization and actual practices necessitated by the requirements of its funding sources. An example at the professional level is the socialization of human service workers which often includes membership in professional associations. These associations serve as interpreters of state-of-the-art practices and attitudes and lobby for their expression in social policy, law and regulation. By semester’s end, students should be capable of effectively analyzing or deconstructing any human services agency or concept in current social policy. This course is required for the Advanced Certificate in Community Advocacy and the Advanced Certificate in Child and Family Advocacy. This course was previously SOC-622535.

PPOL 6070 Race Class & Gender in US Public Policy (3 Credits)
This course is designed to develop understanding of the implications of race, class, and gender for U.S. public policy. We will consider both social structural and cultural dimensions of this question, and we will examine a range of policy areas from domestic policy and civil rights to international affairs and foreign policy. We will investigate the political and theoretical basis of policymaking as it reflects and affects social-structural relations between social groups, especially relations of gender, race, and class. We will seek to understand the social relations that systematically disadvantage some social groups and privilege others. We will explore how these social relations shape policy processes and how this influences how governments respond to public problems.

PPOL 6075 Family Policy (3 Credits)
In this course, students examine the institution of the family through the lens of cultural values and as an area for policy decisions. More generally, this course will explore the reciprocal linkages between family functioning and public and private policies in this country. Topics raised in the course consider how the family unit has evolved over time, the cultural values that shape not only how family is viewed but also how that view shapes policy decisions that affect the family and the impact that these policy decisions have upon both families and the larger society. This course is required for the Advanced Certificate in Child and Family Advocacy.

PPOL 6080 Citizen & State: Contemporary American Ideologies & Politic (3 Credits)
Citizen and State explores the political ideas that have affected and continue to affect American society, politics, and public policy from the end of World War II to the present. The emphasis will be on the fundamental changes that have occurred in the way key social groups have come to view their relations to the state and the role that the state should play in their private and public lives. Through an examination of historical events, movements, and leaders, students will explore the development of the deep social, cultural, and ideological cleavages that have come to divide American society and politics and affect domestic and foreign policies. The emphasis will be on the post WWII evolution of liberalism and conservatism. This course is required for the Work and Public Policy Advanced Certificate program. This course was previously SOC-620554.

PPOL 6085 Public Administration (3 Credits)
This graduate level course provides a historical, case-study, and theoretical approach to the study of public administration. Students of social and public policy, organized labor, human services, higher education and business examine the history of the field and its most prominent theorists and practitioners. The course traces the modern development of the field beginning in the 19th Century with the work of Max Weber and examines its evolution during the 20th Century through the works of Frederick W. Taylor, Mary Parker Follett, Chester Bernard, Herbert Simon, Charles Lindbloom and others. Concepts and theory are understood through reading, researching, and writing about significant case studies in various realms of public administration. Students conduct independent research on topics relevant to their own professional development and career objectives. Students interested in the public, private, or not-for-profit sectors interact during the course through structured, focused discussion. Students from any graduate program benefit equally from the study of public administration as applied to their field of study. The course is especially useful for those who aspire to management or supervisory positions.

PPOL 6090 Quantitative Methods (3 Credits)
The overwhelming majority of studies that test hypotheses, empirically fit models, produce predictions, or estimate policy impacts are based upon some form of quantitative or statistical analysis. The goal of this course is to prepare students to analyze public policy issues using statistics. The course will provide a solid foundation in descriptive and inferential statistics and computer analysis of data, with an emphasis on practical application of statistical methods and interpretation of statistical results. The goal is to enable students to become competent producers of basic statistical research in the public sector. Students will learn how to identify research problems, define research questions and hypotheses, identify data collection methods, select appropriate statistical methods, conduct quantitative analyses of survey and other data using SPSS, provide interpretation of results of statistical analysis, write a research report, and present results of quantitative research. This course was previously SOC-620603.

PPOL 6100 Health, Aging and Social Policy (3 Credits)
This study examines social policy regarding the aged in American society. Students examine the social construction of aging in American society and current policies applying to the aged at both the federal and local levels. Among specific policies considered are those related to employment and retirement, income maintenance, health insurance, health care, institutionalization and family support systems. Cross-cultural national and historical variations in social policy are also considered.

PPOL 6110 Military & Veteran Culture: Developing Cultural Competency (3 Credits)
This course is highly recommended for students, such as social workers, with prior background and/or training in human services but with no previous experience working with military or veteran populations. Topics include the reasons for enlisting in the military, the effects of military training, formal and informal military structures, military hierarchy, military terminology, active duty military and veterans in work and educational environments, and the effects of military service on later life. This course is required for the Veterans Services advanced certificate program. This course was previously POL-623004.
PPOL 6120 Veteran Outreach Services & Advocacy (3 Credits)
This course provides grounding in the psychosocial landscape within which veteran services are offered and puts veteran services within the broad context of the experience of war and the challenge of coming home. It identifies the challenges facing returning veterans, including re-integrating into the community, reconnecting with family, reorienting to the less structured character of civilian life and, in some cases, adjusting to life with a disability. Special attention is also paid to the family system and to the challenges facing the families of veterans, to the effects of multiple and extended deployments, to the specific issues facing women veterans, to generational differences among veterans, and to veterans as they age. Finally, the course identifies strategies for reaching out to veterans, explores existing models for such outreach and service delivery, and addresses the question of how to advocate for veterans across multiple communities and multiple political and social perspectives. This course is required for the Veterans Services advanced certificate program. This course was previously POL-623001.

PPOL 6125 Veteran Programs & Benefits (3 Credits)
This course provides students with broad knowledge of specific veteran benefits and programs, including health care, education, employment, criminal justice, and housing. Topics include needs assessment, the mesh of services and service providers, and case- and claims- management, review, and appeal. Students will gain practice in identifying the benefits available to specific veterans and groups of veterans, explore issues concerning access and eligibility and consider both the functional and the challenging aspects of the system of benefits. Following a broad overview of these topics, students have the opportunity to do further work in a topic of particular interest. This course is required for the Veterans Services advanced certificate program. This course was previously POL-623002.

PPOL 6130 Veteran Services & Public Policy (3 Credits)
This course provides a holistic overview of the policy framework within which federal, state, community-based, and other veteran services are offered. Following an exploration of the figure of the warrior in society and culture, students will examine the evolution of public policy concerning veterans, critique current gaps and problems in the system, and develop an understanding of how policy frameworks and service-delivery interface. The course includes an historical perspective on veterans’ issues and public policy as well as addressing the need for continued advocacy regarding new policies, benefits, and technologies. This course is required for the Veterans Services advanced certificate program. This course was previously POL-623000.

PPOL 6155 New York State Government & Politics (3 Credits)
This course explores the structure and function of political institutions in New York State government and political activity at the state and local levels, including the state legislature, the governor, state agencies, the court system, and intergovernmental/federalism relationships with particular focus on the policy making process. This course was previously SOC-620543.

PPOL 6170 Public Finance (3 Credits)
The objective of this course is for students to gain a comprehensive understanding of the nature and scope of governments’ role in the economy. This course will provide students with knowledge and an analytical toolset to comprehend concepts and trade offs entailed in public finance policy alternatives. Topics covered: Public Goods and Externalities; Cost-Benefit Analysis of Government Expenditures; Social Security, Health Insurance and Welfare; and Taxation’s Impact and Efficiency.

PPOL 6175 Public Sector Decision-making (3 Credits)
This study explores various decision making models that are applicable to public sector decision making, including, but not limited to: rational choice, organizational process, and bureaucratic politics models of decision-making. The course is intended to highlight political and governmental influences on decisions and to distinguish where applicable the differences between public policy decisions and private sector decision-making.

PPOL 6180 State & Local Government (3 Credits)
State and Local Government is an introductory level graduate course designed for students interested in professional development in public administration, public affairs and public policy. The course focuses on politics and administration at the state level and on the relationships between states and the federal government and states and local governments. The concept of federalism is central to the study and specifically the dynamics of intergovernmental relations relevant to specific areas of public policy in which state funding is derived from and directed by the federal government.

PPOL 6998 Individualized Studies in Public Policy (PPOL) (1-8 Credits)
Students have the opportunity to develop individualized studies with their mentor/advisor in Public Policy (PPOL). Please contact your mentor/advisor for more details.

PPOL 7010 Final Project - Professional Project: Social and Public Policy (3 Credits)
As the concluding study in this Master of Arts program, the student will complete a culminating project, in which he/she engages in a sustained examination of a critical question or issue related to this program. The final project will take the form of a policy memorandum. This course is designed to guide the student through the implementation of a policy memorandum. Policy Memorandums are not published in the ProQuest/UMI service. Prerequisites: PPOL-6005, PPOL-6010, PPOL-6020, and PPOL-6030.

PPOL 7015 Final Project - Thesis: Social and Public Policy (3 Credits)
As the concluding study in the masters’ program, students will complete a culminating independent research project in the form of an academic thesis, in which they engage in a sustained examination of a critical question or issue related to their program. In a thesis, the student is expected to make a contribution to the current body of knowledge in a scholarly field. To do that, students may conduct an original investigation or develop an original interpretation of existing research and/or literature. A thesis is a scholarly piece of work that systematically and analytically explores a specific topic or question. It is an in-depth investigation that contributes new knowledge to a field, and can be either theoretical or empirical. Writers of theses make appropriate inferences based on a deep analysis of the chosen topic or question. The thesis is the best choice of final project for students with plans to continue their studies toward a doctorate. Completion of the thesis requires an oral defense. All theses are published in the ProQuest/UMI service. Pre-Requisite: All required core courses and PPOL-7005 This course was previously SOC-620595.

PPOL 7998 Individualized Studies in Public Policy (PPOL) (1-8 Credits)
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