

## REM 644: PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS AND ADMINISTRATION

Fall 2015

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Seminars: Monday 3:30 – 7:20 p.m. Room: TASCII-7520  
Office hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Office: TASCI-8429

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**Purpose:** This course provides an introduction to public policy and policy analysis, with a focus on problems in resource and environmental management. In addition to building an understanding of what public policy is and how policy analysis works, the course will examine:

- Theories and models of the policy process and how they can be used to study the development and fate of policies;
- The nature of policy problems and the role of problem definition in policy making;
- The relationship between science and policy;
- Phases or functions in the policy-making process and the participants and practices commonly associated with each;
- The instruments that are available for achieving policy aims;
- Methods and criteria for evaluating policy processes and outcomes;
- Conceptual frameworks for analyzing and organizing knowledge about policy and socio-ecological systems.

The course will help you to improve your critical thinking skills, especially your ability to assess policies, critique the rationales offered in support of policies, and evaluate the means through which policies are developed and implemented. You will learn how to analyze and effectively intervene in policy processes, and how to integrate knowledge from other REM courses into policy analysis and design. You will also have the opportunity to use your policy skills to analyze and recommend strategies to deal with a particular resource management problem.

### Format:

Classes will combine lectures with seminar discussions based on assigned readings. I expect you to read and be prepared to discuss the required readings for each class. You will be asked (in small groups) to summarize, critique, and lead discussion about a set of papers or chapters from the readings. There will also be two short written assignments and a written and oral “policy brief” assignment.

In the last few weeks of the course you will prepare and present a policy brief to “Cabinet” about a resource management or environmental problem of your choice. Other class members will act as the Cabinet, and will discuss and critique the brief. The policy brief will form the basis for the term project, a detailed policy analysis and evaluation of proposed alternatives for dealing with the problem (to be handed in at the end of the semester).

### Grading:

Summarize reading and lead discussion	10%	Policy brief	
Written assignment #1	10%	Oral presentation	20%
- Due week 5		Written submission	30%
Written assignment #2	20%		
- Due week 8			
Class participation	10%		

### Required Textbooks:

Howlett, M., M. Ramesh, and A. Perl. 2009. *Studying public policy: Policy cycles and policy subsystems*. Third Edition. Oxford, U.K: Oxford University Press. (On order at the SFU Bookstore)  
Bardach, E. 2011. *A practical guide for policy analysis: The eightfold path to more effective problem solving*. Fourth Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. (On order at the SFU Bookstore)