# Presentation Title: Policy Analysis

Slide 1:  
Policy Analysis  
POSC 315  
Week 9

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Slide 2:  
Overview  
General Concepts of Policy Analysis  
Outputs and Outcomes  
Role of Policy Analysis in the Policy Process  
Causation  
Brief History of Policy Analysis  
Role of the Policy Analyst  
Modern Policy Analysis  
Let's Try It!

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Slide 3:  
General Concepts of Policy Analysis

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Slide 4:  
Outputs and Outcomes  
Outputs  
The  
measurable  
things an agency or org. produces  
The effort gov't expends to address problems  
e.g., # of traffic signals installed, # of people served by a program, # of people arrested  
e.g., laws, regulations, programs, services, etc.  
Outcomes  
The  
intended  
or  
unintended  
consequences of gov't action  
The  
effect  
of gov't action on the problem  
Difficult to measure and hard to quantify  
e.g., reduction in traffic accidents, reduction in crime, reduction in poverty

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Slide 5:  
Policy Analysis in the Policy Process  
The use of analytic tools, often from operations research, statistics, and economics, in order to assess the consequences of policy alternatives—to predict outcomes from expended outputs.  
Useful to predict how a policy may adapt to new conditions and changing circumstances and interests.  
It asks, "How does the effort expended  
cause  
a particular outcome?"

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Slide 6:  
Causation  
Causation  
is the relationship between cause and effect.  
Conditions for Cause and Effect  
Cause must precede effect  
Cause and effect must be related  
No other factor can explain the relationship  
Causation  
Positive and Negative Relationships  
Positive relationship  
: the higher the value of one variable, the higher the value of the other variable  
Negative relationship  
: the higher the value of one variable, the lower the value of the other variable  
No relationship  
: the value of one variable does not affect the value of the other variable

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Slide 9:  
A Brief History of Policy Analysis  
Muller v. Oregon  
(1908)  
The liberty protected by Due Process of the Fourteenth Amendment is not a bar to Oregon's compelling interest in protecting women's health through restricted working hours.  
What does this have to do with policy analysis?  
Empirical knowledge for gov't policy expanded as social science disciplines and law were professionalized in the early 20th century.  
Increase in policy advisors in the 1930s and 1940s and especially after WWII.  
A Brief History of Policy Analysis  
Harold Laswell on the Principles of Policy Science  
Orientation toward problem solving based in theory and empiricism  
Policy sciences are multidisciplinary  
Politics matter because  
values matter  
"[In] a democracy, decisions are made in a  
political  
system in which values are as important as neutrally derived facts."  
A Brief History of Policy Analysis  
A Policy Science  
An applied science  
Deals with major policy issues  
Requires interdisciplinary inquiry  
Empirical and based in sophisticated theory  
Dedicated to improving public policy through improved information and policy discourse  
A Brief History of Policy Analysis  
Analysts were in high demand by the time of the Great Society programs of the 1960s.  
Practitioners drew from a wide range of academic disciplines, especially economics.  
... for a "rational" way of making policy to overcome the "messiness, contingency, and sometimes irrationality fo politics as a system for defining problems and framing solutions."  
Computers were employed to assist in forecasting and modeling.

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Slide 14:  
Role of the Policy Analyst  
Analytical Integrity                                     Responsibility to Clients                                   Adherence to One's Concept of Good  
Objective Technician  
Let analysis speak for itself. Primary focus should be predicting consequences of alternative policies.  
Clients are necessary evils; their political fortunes should be secondary considerations. Keep distance from clients; select institutional clients whenever possible.  
Relevant values should be identified but trade-offs among them should be left to clients. Objective advice promotes good in the long run.  
Client's Advocate  
Analysis rarely produces definitive conclusions. Take advantage of ambiguity to advise clients' positions.  
Clients provide analysts with legitimacy. Loyalty should be given in return for access to privileged information and to political processes.  
Select clients with compatible value systems; use long-term relationships to change clients' conceptions of good.  
Issue Advocate  
Analysis rarely produces definitive conclusions. Emphasize ambiguity and excluded values when analysis does not support advocacy.  
Clients provide an opportunity for advocacy. Select them opportunistically; change clients to further personal policy agenda.  
Analysis should be an instrument for progress towards ones' conception of the good society.  
Role of the Policy Analyst  
Eugene Bardach's Eightfold Path  
Define the problem  
Assemble some evidence  
Construct the alternatives  
Select the criteria  
Project the outcomes  
Confront the trade-offs  
Decide  
Tell your story

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Slide 17:  
Modern Policy Analysis  
Two Logics of Policy Making  
Economic Rationality of Policy Analysts  
Application of economic logic to political phenomena as a way to bypass the "messiness" of politics  
Transparent assumptions  
Consistent methods to compare alternatives  
Modern Policy Analysis  
Two Logics of Policy Making  
Political Rationality of Policy Makers  
Policy makers are not rational actors  
Strategic use of information  
Release favorable information and suppress unfavorable information  
Modern Policy Analysis  
Two Logics of Policy Making  
Which is Right?  
Both are right, but they are not the same  
Policy makers are not rational actors, but they are not irrational either  
Policy makers are not always strategic, but they are not always naive either  
Politics is full of paradoxes and contradictions that are not amenable to economic logic  
Modern Policy Analysis  
A Need to Understand the Political Context  
It can explain policy outcomes that might not otherwise make sense  
It can help to design effective democratic institutions or refine existing ones  
Analysts can operate more effectively if they understand the political context  
Modern Policy Analysis  
Analysis as a Profession  
The field has evolved over the past 50 years  
The field is now more professionalized and specialized  
The field is more diverse and interdisciplinary  
Technical skills are still essential but no longer the leading motivation driving the field  
Analysts are active participants in the policy process

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Slide 23:  
Let's Try It!  
"Horse Rich and Dirt Poor"  
The problem: "Horse rich and dirt poor"  
The goals:  
The alternatives:  
The criteria:  
Observed outcomes:  
Policy performance:

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The problem: "Horse rich and dirt poor"  
The goals:  
The alternatives:  
The criteria:  
Observed outcomes:  
Policy performance:

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Slide 25:

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Slide 26:  
That's all for today!  
Next Time: Guest Speaker Assemblymember Phillip Chen and book author Bill Wong  
Also Next Time: Review for Test Two

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