Policy analyses in the public sphere differs from the private because of the political context and process. Core of the course is understanding the importance of how a problem is defined and then comparing and evaluating alternative approaches to solve public problems. This course will help students to better understand, design, implement and evaluate policies and programs. Various forms of analyses are used including economic, quantitative, political and historical.

B. Course Effective Dates: 08/15/2010 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Understand the institutional context within which public policy is made and remade;
2. Understand how public policy analysis is different from other writing about public policy that appears in a variety of venues and publications;
3. Acquire familiarity with the tools, techniques, and methods that are used to conduct policy analysis in a variety of settings at all levels of government;
4. Identify an extensive array of resources (e.g., publications, websites, databases) that are essential for producing credible policy analysis for government decision makers;
5. Define and elaborate on a public policy problem, craft policy alternatives to address it, utilize quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze the problem and its proposed solutions, and recommend the best course of action; and
6. Apply knowledge of the public policy process, institutions of public policy-making, and techniques and methods of policy analysis to analyze and debate contemporary public policy issues and controversies (e.g., expanding health care, developing a more coherent energy policy).

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

This contains no goal areas.

G. Special Information

None