Social Policy (SPOL)

Courses

SPOL 588. Special Topics in Social Policy and Social Research. 1-5 Units.
Reviews current knowledge and/or research methodologies in specified areas of social policy and social research.

SPOL 599. Independent Study. 1-8 Units.
Limited to Ph.D. degree students who wish to pursue independent investigations in social policy and/or social research under the direction of a department faculty member.

SPOL 600. Colloquium. 1 Unit.
Provides students with an academic seminar to explore and discuss relevant topics in the field of social policy and social research. Prerequisite: Program prerequisite in interviewing and counseling.

SPOL 610. Diversity Theory in Practice and Research. 3 Units.
Contemporary theories of diversity examined from a critical perspective that also includes intersectionality. Opportunity to apply these theories using a cultural humility framework for engaging diverse populations in policy practice and research.

SPOL 613. Social Science Concepts I. 4 Units.
Part one of a two-part sequence. Reviews key theories, writers, conceptual frameworks, and seminal ideas from social science at-large (economics, sociology, psychology, geography, political science, social work) that have laid the foundation for contemporary social policy analysis and social research—particularly applied social science. Students expected to read a wide selection of material under faculty guidance; and extract concepts, tools, methods, and applications useful to social policy analysis or practice. Multiple faculty and guests lead in the discussion and reading, as well as critique writing.

SPOL 614. Social Science Concepts II. 4 Units.
Part two of a two-part sequence. Reviews key theories, writers, conceptual frameworks, and seminal ideas from social science at-large (economics, sociology, psychology, geography, political science, social work) that have laid the foundation for contemporary social policy analysis and social research—particularly applied social science. Students expected to read a wide selection of material under faculty guidance; and extract concepts, tools, methods, and applications useful to social policy analysis or practice. Multiple faculty and guests lead in the discussion and reading, as well as critique writing. Prerequisite: SPOL 613.

SPOL 615. Economic Theory and Social Policy. 4 Units.
Presents the basic ideas and concepts of macroeconomic theory and applies them to understanding current and recent developments in social policy. Students learn to evaluate macroeconomic conditions—such as unemployment, inflation, growth wages, and income distribution—and gain understanding of how such conditions impact the provision of health and human services.

SPOL 654. Research Methods I. 4 Units.
Advanced quantitative research methods. Emphasizes experimental and quasi-experimental designs, and examines specific methodologies used in conducting research in the area of social policy and social research. Topics include measurement issues, research design, sampling, and statistical interpretation. Addresses survey research, time-series designs, and more advanced techniques.

SPOL 655. Research Methods II. 4 Units.
Advanced course in qualitative and mixed research methods. Emphasizes selected qualitative and mixed research methodologies specific to social policy and clinical and health services research. Topics covered include theoretical bases for conducting qualitative research; research design; data gathering, including interviewing, observation, archival and historical research, and data analysis and writing. Introduces various methods for integrating qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

SPOL 656. Organizational Theory and Policy. 3 Units.
Explores the complexities of large organizations; how organizations are born, evolve, and survive. Examines bureaucratic systems, formal and informal structures, communication patterns, and philosophical approaches that influence effectiveness and efficiency of services delivery. Implications of these on the development and implementation of social policies explored.

SPOL 658. Methods of Policy Analysis and Research. 4 Units.
Examines approaches to policy analysis and assesses the strengths and limitations of various methods. Explores a range of theoretical frameworks and analytical methods used for understanding and analyzing contemporary policy challenges. Addresses ethical issues and the role of values in shaping analysis. Incorporates the empirical methods used to support policy analysis and structure policy research.

SPOL 664. Applied Research for Social Policy. 2 Units.
Provides students with a series of formal exercises simulating primary applied social research strategies used in the development of social policy. Explores the contributions of social research to social policy through studies of public records and data bases; clinical contexts; social experimentation; program planning, development, and evaluation; and action research.

SPOL 671. Applied/Structured Research I. 2-4 Units.
Provides students the opportunity to advance knowledge and skills in a specialized area of study. Part of a year-long sequence that culminates in an applied research product at the end of SPOL 673. Research mentor develops with the student a plan for the year, with objectives for each quarter. Research plan approved by the Program Committee. Evaluation based on accomplishment of quarterly objective(s).

SPOL 672. Applied/Structured Research II. 2-4 Units.
Provides students the opportunity to advance knowledge and skills in a specialized area of study. Part of a year-long sequence that culminates in an applied research product at the end of SPOL 673. Research mentor develops with the student a plan for the year, with objectives for each quarter. Research plan approved by the Program Committee. Evaluation based on accomplishment of quarterly objectives.

SPOL 673. Applied/Structured Research III. 2-4 Units.
Provides students the opportunity to advance knowledge and skills in a specialized area of study. Part of a year-long sequence that culminates in an applied research product at the end of SPOL 673. Research mentor develops with the student a plan for the year, with objectives for each quarter. Research plan approved by the Program Committee. Evaluation based on accomplishment of quarterly objectives.

SPOL 681. Dissertation Proposal I. 2 Units.
Development of the dissertation proposal. Research advisor develops with the student mutually agreed-upon objectives. Evaluation based on accomplishment of these objectives.

SPOL 682. Dissertation Proposal II. 2 Units.
Development of the dissertation proposal. Research advisor develops with the student mutually agreed-upon objectives. Evaluation based on accomplishment of these objectives. Prerequisite: SPOL 681.
SPOL 683. Dissertation Proposal III. 2 Units.
Development of the dissertation proposal. Research advisor develops with the student mutually agreed-upon objectives. Evaluation based on accomplishment of these objectives. In addition, student must successfully defend a dissertation proposal according to program and Faculty of Graduate Studies guidelines. Prerequisite: SPOL 681, SPOL 682.

SPOL 697. Research. 4,8 Units.
Credit for dissertation research. Total of 20 units required. May be repeated for credit.

SPOL 699. Dissertation. 4-12 Units.
Should be taken during the last quarter of registration prior to completion and defense.