

MPA 806: Analytical Tools for Policy Research
Course Syllabus
Spring/Summer Semester 2018
Instructor: Randall Boyes

April 27/28 1:00 – 4:00 PM
May 14 – 18 1:00 – 4:00 PM
June 6 – 10 8:30 – 11:30 AM

I will be available for discussion in my office for 1 hour after class each day and by appointment.

I. Course Description

This course introduces students to a range of quantitative and qualitative methods and helps them understand their uses and limitations in policy research. Students will apply selected techniques, interpret data, assess results and report findings relating to specific policy issues.

II. Course Objectives

1. To provide students with a practical understanding of the basic principles of statistics.
2. To enable students to understand, interpret, and apply policy research.
3. To teach students the skills required to critically assess research publications and make decisions based on conflicting research.

III. Course Evaluation

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Grading Weight</i>
Week 2 Project	45%
Week 1 Assignments	20%
Week 2 Assignments	20%
Participation	15%

IV. Course Schedule

The course will be divided into three sections. The first section will introduce the concept of measurement and introduce students to important concepts and measures used in the interpretation of data. The second block will teach students the foundations of hypothesis testing and explain concepts that are common to many different research methods. The third block will examine specific techniques used in policy research using specific examples to give students practical experience in the application of the principles learned earlier in the course.

V. Textbook

There is no mandatory textbook for this course. Evaluation will be based on the topics covered in lecture and the readings posted to the course website.