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# Policy Studies Research Colloquium BPOLST 591

Fall 2007

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**Instructor:** Nives Dolšak

**Class Time:** Thursdays, 4:00-5:30 PM

**Room:** UW2 040

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 12:00 – 2:00 PM and by appointment

**Office:** UW2-332;

**Voice:** 425-352-3492;

**E-mail:** [ndolsak@uwb.edu](mailto:ndolsak@uwb.edu)

## Course Description

This seminar course addresses a range of topics in public policy research and analysis. It provides a venue for students and faculty with interest in policy issues to exchange their research ideas, present their findings, discuss their analytical methods and tools, and evaluate policy implications of the presented research. Topics addressed each quarter vary depending on the research interests of the class and the presenters, reflecting current policy debates. There are no course prerequisites for this course.

This quarter, we will explore the use of quantitative methods in policy research and analysis. We will hear from our faculty and graduate students about their use of quantitative methods in their research in health policy, education policy, and environmental policy.

## Online Course Communication and File Exchange

To be able to access the BPOLST 591 Blackboard site, you first have to enroll in this class on the UWB blackboard site. Please see the guidelines on how to enroll at [http://www.bothell.washington.edu/edtech/resources/blackboard\\_student\\_enroll.html](http://www.bothell.washington.edu/edtech/resources/blackboard_student_enroll.html). If you have any problems accessing Blackboard site, contact the UWB Information Systems at 425-352-5275 or [helpdesk@bothell.washington.edu](mailto:helpdesk@bothell.washington.edu).

## Assignments, Evaluation, and Grading

This is a variable credit course with credit/no credit grade. Attendance of presentations and active participation in the discussion of the presented work is essential for this course. Please see the class Discussion board for more detailed information. Further, you are expected to attend the presentations and actively participate in the discussion following the presentations.

If you registered for one credit, you are expected to read the paper provided by each presenter prior to the presentation, if it is made available, and reflect on it. If the paper is not provided, you are expected to follow current policy debates on the topic to be presented, so that you can propose 2 discussion questions for each talk. You will post the

discussion questions electronically on the BPOLST591 Blackboard site by 9:00 PM on Monday, the day before the presentation.

If you registered for two credits, in addition to the work outlined above, you are expected to read another research paper on the topic presented at the colloquium. You will identify this paper yourself. You will write a one-page (800 word maximum) memo juxtaposing the presented research and the paper you identified and read. In this memo, you will address the research approach taken by the two authors and the findings of the two respective approaches. Where do papers overlap Where do they differ? How does the difference in the research approach lead to different findings.

### Students with Disabilities

If you believe that you have a disability and would like academic accommodations, please contact the Disability Support Services at the University of Washington, Bothell: 425.325.5307, 425.352.5303 TDD, 425.352.5455 FAX or at [dss@uwb.edu](mailto:dss@uwb.edu). You will need to provide documentation of your disability as part of the review process.

### Weekly Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Presenters</b>
9/27/07	Introduction
10/04/07	<p><i>“Epidemiology as a tool for health policy: Youth drug use trends that inform prevention.”</i>            Andrea Stone, MAPS, IAS, UWB</p>
10/18/07	<p>“What Matters in College Students’ Attitudes about Small Groups: A Factor Analysis.”            Cinnamon Hillyard, MAPS, IAS, UWB (collaborative project with Peter Littig and Diane Gillespie, IAS, UWB)</p>
11/1/07	<p><i>“The Supply and Demand of Unequal Education: The case of part-time faculty”</i>            Dan Jacoby, MAPS, IAS, UWB</p>
11/15/07	<p><i>“Where is Conservation Science in Local Land Use Planning?”</i>            Hannah Baweya and Harpa Magnusdottir, MAPS, IAS, UWB            (collaborative project with Martha Groom and David Stokes, IAS, UWB)</p>