NARRATIVE POLICY FRAMEWORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Spring 2026

Narrative policy framework –

This course provides a foundation for students to understand how narratives play an important role in policymaking and how they can assist policymakers in dealing with difficult policy issues. The major challenge for policymakers is dealing with existing wicked and complex problems for which there are no clear answers or solutions available. These problems include criminal behavior, environmental degradation, natural disaster management, and effective responses to health pandemics. Narratives and stories are an important part of human existence because stories are inherent in humans and always influence collective action or policy outcomes. The stories also allow us to connect in new ways to policy issues concerning health, environment, economics, politics and gender, as well as how different policy tools can be used in tandem to solve a policy problem. The Narrative Policy Framework is about gathering and collecting stories from people involved in current policy issues. For example, in recent years, leadership of large nations has been about setting direction, sense making, and selling the influencing narrative to their supporters, as a result of which leadership narratives have been strongly convinced by populist appeals and identity politics. Thus these stories and convincing narratives from relevant stakeholders can provide a better perspective of how a problem is interpreted and subsequently addressed. To mitigate the negative effects of these evil and complex problems leaders, advocates, policy scientists, and scholars recognize the importance of persuasive narratives derived from the Narrative Policy Framework and sense making for initiating policy reform. This course will also teach students about narrative economics and how policy scientists can effectively make major economic decisions using narratives from major economic players around the world. In addition to understanding how narratives play a central role in policy making,this course would demonstrate how qualitative and quantitative data is used together in addressing a policy problem.

Who should take this course? This course is intended for post graduate level students.

Learning outcomes:

- A brief learning about Narrative Policy Framework its methodology and applications in public policy.
- Using narratives to understand wicked and complex policy problems and how their negative consequences can be mitigated.
- Engaging students in an interactive learning process to gain a basic understanding of how stories play an important role in resolving the complexities of a policy issue.
- Understanding Narrative Economics, its tools for collecting narratives and applications in economic policies, and how narrations about some major economic decisions could have changed some major financial crises around the world..

- Analyze the applications of narratives in various sectors such as health, education, gender, and climate change to understand the difference in policy decisions made after collecting stories from stakeholders versus those made without the narratives.

Week No.	Lecture No.	Topic	Instructor	Date
1	1	Introduction to Narrative Policy Framework		
	2	Role of Narratives in Policy making		
2	3	Methodologies of conducting the research		
	4	Stakeholder analysis of a concerned policy problem		
3	5	How to design a narrative questionnaire		
	6	Extraction of data from the collected stories		
4	7	Limitations to narrative policy		
	8	Video Film presentation and class discussion		
5	9	Introduction to Narrative economics		
	10	Case studies on narrative economics		
6	11	Tools and methodologies of narrative economics		
	12	Video Film presentation and class discussions		
7	13	How different policy tools can be used in conducting the study		
	14	Role of technology in advancement of NPF		
8	15	Student Presentations for Assignment 1	Student led	
	16	Student Presentations for Assignment 1	Student led	
9	17	How the world is using narratives in policy making		
	18	Use of narratives in Indian policy studies		
10	19	Student Presentations for Assignment 1	Student led	
	20	Student Presentations for Assignment 1	Student led	
11	21	Case studies on different topics on Narrative Policy frame work		
	22	Case study 1- Health		
12	23	Case Study 2-Environment		
	24	Case Study 3- Gender		
13	25	Case Study 4- Finance		
	26	Case Study 5-Politics		
14	27	Guest Lecture –Tamseel Hussain –Founder of let me breathe (blog on environment stories)		
	28	Guest Lecture -Deserai Crow, PhD		

		Professor Program Director, Doctor of Philosophy in Public Affairs		
15	29	Class discussion		
	30	Class discussion		

LIST OF SOURCES:

Lecture 1 -2

Jones, Michael D., Mark K. McBeth, and Elizabeth A. Shanahan. "Introducing the narrative policy framework." *The science of stories.* Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2014. 1-25.

Jungrav-Gieorgica, Natalia. "Narrative Policy Framework–public policy as a battle of narratives."

Roe, Emery. *Narrative policy analysis: Theory and practice.* Duke University Press, 1994.

Lecture 3

Jones, Michael, Elizabeth Shanahan, and Mark McBeth, eds. *The science of stories: Applications of the narrative policy framework in public policy analysis.* Springer, 2014.

Shanahan, Elizabeth A., Michael D. Jones, and Mark K. McBeth. "How to conduct a Narrative Policy Framework study." *The Social Science Journal* 55.3 (2018): 332-345.

Kaplan, Thomas J. "Reading policy narratives: Beginnings, middles, and ends." *Argument Turn Policy Anal Plan*. Routledge, 2002. 175-193.

Lecture 4

Jones, Michael D., and Mark K. McBeth. "A narrative policy framework: Clear enough to be wrong?." *Policy studies journal* 38.2 (2010): 329-353.

Jones, M. D., & Radaelli, C. M. (2015). The narrative policy framework: Child or monster?. *Critical Policy Studies*, *9*(3), 339-355.

Lecture 5-6

Shiller, Robert J. *Narrative economics.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019.

Tubadji, Annie, Frederic Boy, and D. Webber. "Narrative economics, public policy and mental health." *Center for Economic Policy Research* 20 (2020): 109-131.(optional)

Lecture 7-8

Veselková, M. (2017). Narrative Policy Framework: Narratives as heuristics in the policy process. *Human Affairs*, *27*(2), 178-191

Shanahan, Elizabeth A., Michael D. Jones, and Mark K. McBeth. "Policy narratives and policy processes." *Policy studies journal* 39.3 (2011): 535-561.

Research Papers on the use of Narrative Policy Framework with different policy tools to conduct study on specific complex and wicked policy issues .

1. **Mangin, E. J. (2021).** *A Narrative Policy Framework and Feminist Critical Policy Analysis of the Welfare Reform Acts, and the Higher Education of Single Welfare Mothers* **(Doctoral dissertation, Walden University)**

2. **O'Leary, R., Borland, R., Stockwell, T., & MacDonald, M. (2017).** *International Journal of Drug Policy*, *44*, **31-40.**

3. **Peterson, H. L. (2021). Narrative policy images: Intersecting narrative & attention in presidential stories about the environment.** *Policy Studies Journal*.

4. **Nisbett, N. (2017). A narrative analysis of the political economy shaping policy on child under nutrition in India.** *Development and Change*, *48*(2), **312-338**.

5. **Gupta, K., Ripberger, J., & Wehde, W. (2018). Advocacy group messaging on social media: Using the narrative policy framework to study Twitter messages about nuclear energy policy in the United States.** *Policy studies journal*, *46*(1), **119-136.**

6. **Huda, J. (2019). Policy narratives across two languages: A comparative study using the Narrative Policy Framework.** *Review of Policy Research*, *36*(4), **523-546.**

7. **McBeth, M. K., & Lybecker, D. L. (2018). The narrative policy framework, agendas, and sanctuary cities: The construction of a public problem.** *Policy Studies Journal*, *46*(4), **868-893.**

8. **Crow, D. A., & Berggren, J. (2014). Using the narrative policy framework to understand stakeholder strategy and effectiveness: A multi-case analysis. In** *The science of stories* **(pp. 131-156). Palgrave Macmillan, New York.**

9. **Gray, G., & Jones, M. D. (2016). A qualitative narrative policy framework? Examining the policy narratives of US campaign finance regulatory reform.** *Public Policy and Administration*, *31*(3), 193-220.

Scheme of Evaluation and Assessment:

All students who opt to take this Elective Course must aim to attend all the classes. They are encouraged to maintain attendance above 75 percent.

There are two components of assessment/grading:

A) Internal: 70 percent
B) Final Examination: 30 percent

Internal assessment will be in the form of writing a long paper (seven pages, single-spaced, properly referenced hyperlinks or APA or Chicago style citation). This could be a research project where students are expected to apply ideas of Narrative Policy Framework to given policy problems.

Internal assessment will also be based on taking part in in-class debates and discussions, oral responses and participating in quizzes.

There will be a Mid-term Examination.