EDPO 604/POGO 750– Education Policy Implementation
3 Credits, Summer 2024

Faculty
Name: Dr. Elizabeth Davis
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Location: ONLINE
Cell Phone:
Email Address: edavis32@gmu.edu
Zoom:

Prerequisites/Corequisites
None.

University Catalog Course Description
Focuses on the implementation stage of the policy process and examines the interactions among education policies, stakeholders, and places. Provides students with an understanding of the contexts and factors that impede or promote the implementation of education policies and considers strategies for effectively achieving the desired policy objectives. Offered by Graduate School of Education. May not be repeated for credit.

Course Overview
Implementation failure is often why well-intentioned education policies do not yield the results expected. However, implementation is a complex change process that operates within several contexts, occurs at multiple levels, and involves a set of dynamic interactions among many policy actors, organizations, and school and district settings. This course examines the importance of implementation in the education policy process, as well as its complexities and subtleties, and focuses on the critical factors that impede or promote ability of educational agencies and communities to accomplish the objectives of adopted public policies. By looking closely at the "who, what, why, how, and for whom" and tracking the evolution of policy implementation in education, this course will identify and analyze areas for potential improvement, discuss lessons learned to inform education policy design, and explore the implications for policy and practice.

Course Delivery Method
This is a seminar course.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives
This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Gain an understanding of the contexts of implementation and its relation to policy.
2. Interrogate and examine the role of politics and stakeholders in the policymaking process.
3. Gain an understanding of the evolution of policy implementation in education.
4. Hone critical thinking skills through class discussions and writing assignments.

Professional Standards
Not Applicable.

Required Texts

Russakoff, D. (2015). *The prize: Who's in charge of America's schools?* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Additional reading assignments are loaded in the Content section of Blackboard.

Course Performance Evaluation
Students are expected to submit all assignments on time via Blackboard, including Power Point presentations and discussion questions.

Assignment Overview

Additional details and a grading rubric for each assignment are in the last section of the syllabus.

Other Requirements
1. Students are expected to attend all virtual classes with cameras active. Please provide advance notice, when possible, if you must miss a class. On these occasions, please get notes and handouts from a colleague.
2. Students are expected to read all assignments prior to class and have them accessible during class.
3. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions and activities and to treat one another with respect, both in class and on-line.
4. All assignments must be submitted on time. Unless prior arrangements are made, late work will be penalized by 2pt/day.
5. Other online requirements and expectations will be discussed the first day of class.

Grading
This course uses the university-wide system for grading graduate courses. See http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/ Cumulative points corresponding to each grade are as follows:

Professional Dispositions
See https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see https://ds.gmu.edu/).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit

our website https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/.