Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should <u>not</u> be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

EDUC 845
POLICY ANALYSIS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the contemporary educational policy issues. Candidates will be required to assess and evaluate current education policies and implications for education effectiveness.

RATIONALE

The main goal of the course is to help the candidate think systematically, critically, and creatively in giving policy advice to decision-makers in institutions of education. Upon completion of this course, the candidate should be better prepared to contribute to policy analysis conversations, have the tools and processes needed to analyze current and future policies, and provide both verbal and written communication about best or "smart" practices concerning any given policy or needed policy decision.

I. PREREQUISITES

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment

B. Internet access (broadband recommended)

C. Blackboard recommended browsers

D. Microsoft Office

E. Audio/Visual Recording Device

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the candidate will be able to:

A. Understand how a problem is identified and defined in higher education.

B. Develop skills in crafting policy options for addressing the problem.

C. Analyze assorted options for solving the problem that has been identified.

D. Integrate a biblical worldview perspective into his/her client's problem/policy analysis report.

E. Persuasively communicate policy advice to multiple and diverse clients in written and verbal form.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the candidate will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (2)

Discussion boards are meant to be collaborative and reflective in nature which will assist the candidate with understanding and comprehending course material. The thread will be a well-written submission of at least 500 words. Along with the thread, 2 replies of at least 150 words each will also be submitted by the module/week's end. The thread must contain at least 2 in-text citations from at least 1 authoritative source, and the replies must contain at least 1 in-text citation from at least 1 authoritative source. (MLO: D)

D. Group Discussion Board Forums (5)

The candidates will be divided into groups of 3 members each. Each group member will submit a thread of at least 500 words to the group. The other group members will provide constructive replies of at least 150 words each to 2 of their classmates. Constructive feedback should be offered based on the Eightfold Path guide. The thread must contain at least 1–2 in-text citations from at least 2 authoritative sources, and the replies must contain at least 1 in-text citation from at least 1 authoritative source (the need for in-text citations, for the thread or replies, is dependent on that module/week's assignment instructions). (MLO: A, B, C)

E. Policy Analysis Project (MLO: A, B, C, D, E)

1. Define the Problem

The candidate will choose 1 topic from a list provided in Blackboard and begin the policy analysis process as described in the Eightfold Path. The candidate will submit a well-written paper of at least 500 words.

2. Assemble Some Evidence

The candidate will continue with reviewing the Eightfold Path guide and will assemble at least 3 pieces of evidence to support his/her analysis problem. The candidate will submit a well-written paper of at least 500 words using at least 2 authoritative sources to support the claims and conclusions.

3.   Construct the Alternative & Select the Criteria

Building off the previous 2 steps in the Eightfold Path, the candidate will submit a well-written paper of at least 750 words describing alternatives and criteria the client needs to know to make a policy decision.

4.   Project the Outcomes & Confront the Trade-Offs

In the final steps of the Eightfold Path, the candidate will submit a well-written APA formatted paper of at 750 words that provides the client with useful outcomes and needed insight into what trade-offs must be considered in making a policy decision.

5.   Written Report

The candidate will submit a well-written APA-formatted policy analysis paper of at least 1,750 words (the reference section is not included in the 1,750-minimum word count). The paper will be the culmination of the policy analysis writing principles as described in the Eightfold Path. The paper must include at least 6 authoritative sources (3 being peer-reviewed, empirical journal articles written within the past 5 years) following current APA formatting requirements for any in-text citations and sources listed in the report and special formatting requirements as found in the Policy Analysis Report template.

6.   Oral Presentation

The candidate will present an oral presentation of his/her policy analysis to the client. The **recorded** presentation will be no less than 9 minutes and no more than 11 minutes in length and must contain a visual aspect of no fewer than 6 visuals.

VI.   COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A.   Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 50 pts. ea)	100
Group Discussion Board Forums (5 at 50 pts ea)	250
Policy Analysis Project:	
Define the Problem	50
Assemble Some Evidence	50
Construct the Alternatives & Select the Criteria	100
Project the Outcomes & Confront the Trade-Offs	100
Written Report	150
Oral Presentation	200
Total	1010

A.   Scale

A = 960–1010   A- = 940–959   B+ = 920–939   B = 900–919   B- = 880–899

C+ = 860–879   C = 840–859   C- = 820–839   D+ = 800–819   D = 780–799

D- = 760–779   F = 0–759

B.   LiveText Submission Policy

All LiveText assignments must be submitted to Blackboard and LiveText in order for the candidate to receive credit. **LiveText Submission Exception:** Candidates pursuing the following programs: M.Ed. in Higher Education, Ed.S. in Higher Education Administration, the Ph.D. in Education, and the Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, are not required to submit this assignment in LiveText, but must submit this assignment in Blackboard.

C.   Disability Assistance

Candidates with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

EDUC 845

Textbooks: Weimer & Vining, *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice* (2017).
Bardach & Patashnik, *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis* (2016).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Weimer & Vining: chs. 1–3 Bardach & Patashnik: pp. 141–154 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Advising Guide Acknowledgement DB Forum 1	10 0 0 50
2	Weimer & Vining: chs. 4–8 Bardach & Patashnik: Introduction, pp. 1–12 2 presentations	Group DB Forum 1 Policy Analysis Project: Define the Problem	50 50
3	Weimer & Vining: chs. 10–11 Bardach & Patashnik: pp. 18–46, 113–122 2 presentations	Group DB Forum 2 Policy Analysis Project: Assemble Some Evidence	50 50
4	Weimer & Vining: chs. 14–15 Bardach & Patashnik: pp. 12–18, 83–112 1 presentation	Group DB Forum 3 Policy Analysis Project: Construct the Alternatives & Select the Criteria	50 100
5	Weimer & Vining: chs. 12–13 Bardach & Patashnik: pp. 46–71, 125–139 1 presentation	Group DB Forum 4 Policy Analysis Project: Project the Outcomes & Confront the Trade-Offs	50 100
6	Weimer & Vining: ch. 9 Bardach & Patashnik: pp. 71–82, 125–139 1 presentation	Group DB Forum 5 Policy Analysis Project: Written Report	50 150
7	1 presentation 2 websites	Policy Analysis Project: Oral Presentation	200
8	Exodus 18, Numbers 11:11-17 3 presentations	DB Forum 2	50
		TOTAL	1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.