

UNC Public Policy Capstone: Building Strong Teams for Real-World Work

CFE Faculty Showcase on Teaching
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THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL





Public Policy Capstone Course (PLCY 698)

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	PHASE 1: LAUNCH	Aug. 24: Building Strong Teams for Real-World Work
	Aug. 22: Introductions	Due: Assignment #1, Individual Self-Assessment and Learning Goals
Aug. 27: Defining Real-World Problems Due: Assignment #2, Administrative documents Due: Assignment #3, Team MOU	Aug. 29: Tools for Applied Policy Research	Aug. 31: Project Planning Due: Assignment #4, Client Background Assignment
Sept 3: No Class; Labor Day	Sept. 5: TT or Client meeting	Sept. 7: TT or Client meeting
Sept. 10: TT or Client meeting	PHASE 2: RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS	Sept. 14: Class Canceled
	Sept. 12: Class Canceled	
Sept. 17: Class Canceled	Sept. 19: Post-Florence check-in; TT	Sept. 21: Professional Presentation of Information; Giving and Receiving Feedback and TT
Sept. 24: TT	Sept. 26: Qualitative Research Strategies	Sept. 28: TT
Oct. 1: TT Due: Assignment #6, 360 assessment	Oct. 3: TT	Oct. 5: Data Visualization and TT
Oct. 8: Mid-term check-in or TT	Oct. 10: Mid-term check-in or TT	Oct. 12: Mid-term check-in or TT
Oct. 15: TT (Second client meetings around now)	Oct. 17: Careers in Public Policy I	Oct. 19: No Class; Fall Break



Course components: pre-semester survey

Students answer questions such as:

- Indicate your degree of experience working in teams in a professional or academic setting
- Indicate your level of comfort working in teams
- Rate your skill level in: oral communication, written communication, research design, quantitative analysis, qualitative methods
- Coursework or internships/jobs relevant to project choices
- Other relevant skills or other information you want to share with instructors



Course components: self-assessment (Day 1)

- What do you hope to take away from this class?
- Best/work experiences working in a team? What did team members do in those teams?
- What are the biggest priorities competing for your attention this semester?
- Working styles and preferences



Lecture on teamwork & advice from former students (Day 2)

- “Get to know your team – this is imperative. You don’t have to be best friends, but you have to be able to work with each other for long periods of time.”
- “Be sure to figure out the strengths and weaknesses of each student team member.”
- “My piece of advice is to find your team chemistry and learn to adapt to different working styles.”
- “Be open with your team. The success of your project depends on your willingness to be flexible with your teammates.”



Course components: Team MOU (Day 2-3)

- What types of questions or conversations merit in-person discussion versus digital communication?
- What is the plan if you cannot come to consensus?
- How will you maintain focus during meetings?
- Describe how your group plans to capitalize on strengths, navigate areas of weakness, and support each other in developing new skills.
- What areas do you anticipate may create conflict?
- What is your plan of action if a team member isn't pulling his or her weight?
- What is your plan to do at least two fun things together early in the semester, to build and maintain positive working relationships?



Course components: 360 feedback (Week 6-8)

- Team feedback: What is your group doing well? How have you navigated challenges in teamwork?
- Self-evaluation: Revisit early semester goal-setting and assess progress. What could you change now to reach your goals? How have you reacted to professional challenges, and how else could you plan to react?
- Peer evaluation: Rubric and comments

Questions?

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