

Course Syllabus



Course EPPS 4300.001
Course Title EPPS Policy Lab: Casinos – Policy and Consequences
Professor Dr. Timothy M. Bray
Dr. Natalia Lamberova
Term Fall 2025
Meetings Monday 10:00 AM – 12:45 PM
GR 4.208

Professor's Contact Information

	Dr. Bray	Dr. Lamberova
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Office Hours	TBD	
Other Information		

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions Consent of Instructor Required

Course Description Intended to provide students with an action-based academic experience that offers important "hands-on" learning opportunities to analyze, develop, advocate for, and help drive the execution of effective policy solutions in a real-world context, involving actual client organizations. In addition, the EPPS Policy Lab is intended to strengthen and expand students' professional experience, professional skills development, and professional networks in the public policy sector. Students effectively serve as policy consultants, working in interdisciplinary teams to conduct research, analyze complex data, and engage with clients and other experts to produce a set of solution-oriented final deliverables. In addition to gaining first-hand experience on a specific policy issue, students hone other skills that prepare them for policy careers such as working with imperfect data, navigating team dynamics, and communicating complex analyses and policy recommendations to a client's leadership. Each Lab will focus on a particular policy area or set of policy tools and engage one or more different client organizations.

Learning Outcomes By the end of the course, undergraduate students will be able to:

- Explain the policy and legal landscape surrounding casino gaming in Texas and comparable regions.
- Identify and assess key stakeholders and social issues linked to casino gaming (e.g., addiction, crime, economic development).
- Collect and analyze publicly available data to assess community impacts of legalized gambling.
- Work in teams to develop evidence-based policy proposals for a real-world client or policymaking audience.
- Deliver professional-grade presentations and memos summarizing findings and recommendations in a clear, persuasive manner.
- Reflect on professional development, including teamwork, communication, and the challenges of working with real clients and imperfect data.

Required Texts & Materials TBD

Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials TBD

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Your grade in this class will come from your performance on these graded items.

Literature Review (200 Points)

Your group will be assigned a topic related to the social impact of legalized casino gaming. You will individually produce an annotated bibliography on eight (8) sources. Collectively, your group will produce a five- to seven-page summary of the readings, demonstrating an understanding of the major findings and areas of consensus and disagreement. Your work will be graded on comprehension and coverage of the material.

Regional Application Memo (200 Points)

With your group, you will write a four- to five-page policy memo that maps the issues identified in your literature review onto North Texas base data, including crime rates, population, taxes, and other relevant factors sources from two to three sources.

Social Impact Projection Analysis (200 Points)

With your group, you will identify two comparable geographic regions where casino gaming is legal. Gathering available data for North Texas and your comparable regions, you will conduct a projection depicting potential social outcomes based on various assigned gaming legalization scenarios.

Group Presentations and Final Report (200 Points)

With your group, you will assemble your literature review, regional application memo, and social impact projection analysis into a single report. As a group, you will present this report to a classroom audience.

Professional Communications Portfolio (100 Points)

You will prepare a weekly e-mail, addressing your instructors as a client, summarizing your group's progress on the project to date. You will assemble these e-mails together with your presentations and reports. These materials will be graded for clarity, tone, and formatting.

Teamwork and Collaboration (100 Points)

Members of your team will assess your participation in the group portions of the assignments, and you will write a brief, one-page reflection essay on the teamwork components.

Course Calendar

Week	Topic
Week 1 August 25, 2025	Orientation and Team Formation
Week 2 September 1, 2025	NO CLASS
Week 3 September 8, 2025	Literature Review Discussions
Week 4 September 15, 2025	Begin Regional Application Memo Literature Review Due 9/22 11:59 PM
Week 5 September 22, 2025	
Week 6 September 29, 2025	Regional Application Memo Discussions Begin Social Impact Projection Analysis
Week 7 October 6, 2025	Regional Application Memo Due 10/6 11:59 PM
Week 8 October 13, 2025	Social Impact Projection Analysis Discussions
Week 9 October 20, 2025	Begin Final Report Drafting Social Impact Projection Analysis Due 10/27 11:59 PM
Week 10 October 27, 2025	
Week 11 November 3, 2025	Final Report Discussions
Week 12 November 10, 2025	Final Report Due 11/17 11:59 PM
November 17, 2025	
November 24, 2025	NO CLASS
Week 15 December 1, 2025	Final Group Presentations
Week 16 December 8, 2025	Recap and Synthesis Professional Communications Portfolio Due 12/8 11:59 PM

Key Due Dates

9/22	Literature Review Assignment
10/6	Regional Application Memo Assignment
10/27	Social Impact Projection Analysis Assignment
11/17	Final Report Assignment
12/8	Professional Communications Portfolio Due

Course Policies

Class Materials	The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct .												
Class Attendance	Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly invite scholastic difficulty.												
Class Participation	<p>Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly invite scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class, specifically in group activities. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures. Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Texas Senate Bill 17, the recent law that prohibits diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and activities at public universities in Texas, does not in any way apply to academic course instruction.</p>												
Class Recordings	<p>Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.</p>												
Grading Criteria	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="526 1604 1062 1646">Assignment</th> <th data-bbox="1062 1604 1383 1646">Points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="526 1646 1062 1688">Literature Review Activity</td> <td data-bbox="1062 1646 1383 1688">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="526 1688 1062 1730">Regional Application Memo</td> <td data-bbox="1062 1688 1383 1730">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="526 1730 1062 1772">Social Impact Projection Analysis</td> <td data-bbox="1062 1730 1383 1772">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="526 1772 1062 1814">Group Presentation and Final Report</td> <td data-bbox="1062 1772 1383 1814">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="526 1814 1062 1881">Professional Communications Portfolio</td> <td data-bbox="1062 1814 1383 1881">100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Assignment	Points	Literature Review Activity	200	Regional Application Memo	200	Social Impact Projection Analysis	200	Group Presentation and Final Report	200	Professional Communications Portfolio	100
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	Teamwork and Collaboration	100
	Total	1,000
Make-up Exams	There are no make-up exams in this class.	
Extra Credit	There is no extra credit in this class.	
Late Work	Late work will be penalized 10 points for each day after the due date.	
Special Assignments	There are no special assignments.	
Classroom Citizenship	This course addresses complex and potentially sensitive topics, including addiction, poverty, crime, and community vulnerability. Students are expected to engage with these issues thoughtfully and respectfully, honoring the dignity and lived experiences of affected individuals and communities. Diverse perspectives are welcome and essential to our work. Disagreement is natural, but personal attacks or dismissive language will not be tolerated. Please approach all discussions with intellectual humility, active listening, and a commitment to collaborative inquiry.	
Comet Creed	<p><i>This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:</i></p> <p><i>“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”</i></p>	
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities	Please review the section within the UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures webpage.	
Academic Support Resources	Please visit the Academic Support Resources page to view the University’s academic support resources for all students.	
UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures	<p>Please visit the Syllabus Policies page to view the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</p> <p>Please review the catalog sections regarding the credit/no credit or pass/fail grading option and withdrawal from class.</p>	

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.