

**PAF 200: Introduction to Public Affairs (ASU Prison Education Program)**

**Introduction to this course**

This gateway course in public affairs and public policy concentrates on three areas: (1) defining public service and public policy, (2) explaining the policy process and important actors in that process, and (3) outlining the role of government and nonprofit organizations in shaping public service and policy. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the diverse range of topics that pertain to public affairs and substantive public policy issues.

This course focuses on helping students understand how public policy is made and what institutions and decision makers play a part in that process. We will explore how the divergent agendas of public policy-makers, policy analysts, public administrators, nonprofit workers, advocates, politicians, and citizens combine to create public policy and promote the common good. *By the end of the class, students will be able to identify and describe the policy process and the role of nonprofit and public organizations in public service and policy.*



In this course, we will align the following course objectives with teaching and learning activities through lecture, writing activities, discussion, and in-class activities.

**Course Objectives**



1. Learn key concepts such as differences between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors; policy process; interest groups; advocacy; and public service
2. Understand basic theories and concepts regarding the policy process and the major players and their motivations
3. Learn how to write a short policy brief
4. Develop critical thinking skills regarding the identification and alleviation of public policy problems