Introductory Comments

- For this week you should have read:
  - The McCrary and Condrey article.
  - Mintrom, Chapter 1
  - Bardach, Section 1
- Reading for Next Week:
  - Mintrom, Chapter 2
  - Hill article on the CA Legislative Analyst’s Office (handout)

Topic Outline

- Brief Review
- Introduction to People Skills
- The World of the Policy Analyst
- Eightfold Path
- Policy Area: Legalized Gambling
  - Discuss McCrary and Condrey
  - Brandon presents lottery reading 2
  - Crystal presents casino reading
- Policy Process

Reviewing Last Week

- The course
  - People Skills
  - Policy Tools
  - Substantive Policy Areas
- Basic definitions
  - Policy, program, plan
  - What is policy analysis?

What are people skills?

- Habits we cultivate that allow us to make good use of our time, to work well with others, and to communicate our ideas so that they are influential.
- Rests on two assumptions:
  - “Policymaking is a deeply social enterprise”
  - People skills can be taught

A policy analyst according to Mintrom

- What is the difference between a policy analyst and a policy advocate?
- What is the difference between a policy analyst and an intellectual?
The World of the Policy Analyst

- Policy Analysts may take 3 views of their role:
  - Objective technician
  - Issue advocate
  - Client’s advocate

Who might act as a policy analyst?
- Economists
- Planners
- Program evaluators
- Budget analysts
- Statisticians
- Policy analysts

Where might they work?
- Federal state and local government agencies
  - Presidential advisors (NSC, OMB)
  - Staff members in federal agencies (EPA)
  - Congressional researchers (CBO)
  - Advisors to individual members of Congress
  - Similar roles in state government
  - Local government often has a person who does policy analysis along with his/her other duties

Consulting firms
- May work for government, or be hired out to the private sector
- Research institutions
- Interest groups
- Businesses

Bottom Line
- Most of you will be required to either: (1) analyze policy, or (2) evaluate analysis performed by others.
- For either, it’s useful to know the basics of policy analysis.

What is Policy Analysis?
- There are eight stages to analyzing policy:
  - Define the problem
  - Assemble some evidence
  - Construct the alternatives
  - Select the criteria
  - Project the outcomes
  - Confront the trade-offs
  - Decide!
  - Tell your story
A note on the “substantive policy areas”

- Why are we discussing them?
  - To learn about a specific policy area
  - More importantly—to see how the tools of policy analysis are applied to specific problems.

Lottery Article

- What were the questions?
- What were the conclusions?

What is a Theory?

- “Truly important and significant hypotheses will be found to have assumptions that are wildly inaccurate, descriptive representations of reality, and in general, the more significant the theory, the more unrealistic the assumption.”
- The true test of a theory lies not in the realism of its assumptions but in its ability to predict the future.

Be careful about what you can (and cannot) say

- “One problem with mathematical reasoning is that it often gives the impression of macho objectivity” (pg. 7).

Limits of Quantitative Analysis

1. We cannot prove or disprove our hypotheses with the precision of laboratory experiments
2. Our techniques may offer a limited view of reality
3. Our predilections, prejudices, and biases may cloud our judgment
4. We cannot eliminate uncertainty
5. We cannot define social values

Defining Concepts

- A city manager wants to make her city run efficiently—she tries to collect data and finds that she has trouble defining total number of city employees (full v. part time) (Gupta, pg. 11)
For Next Week

- Mintrom, Chapter 2
- Hill, “California Legislative Analyst’s Office: An Isle of Independence.”