About the Course
This course is organized around three learning components: didactic sessions, interactive sessions, and a service-learning project that is responsive to partner organizations’ needs. The didactic and interactive class components introduce students to the theories, structures, and skills that define the policy formulation process.

Students will apply the class lessons and skills to service-learning experiences that are responsive to the policy needs of partner organizations. Students will work in small teams (3-5 people) on the project from October 26 – December 18, 2020.

This course will focus on a pre-identified policy need by the organization. The project and the course will provide students with the opportunity to:

1. Critically assess factors that affect whether issues move onto the policy agenda and what solutions are adopted by stakeholders and why
2. Identify policy options to address social problems and discern how different options align with stakeholder interests
3. Produce policy documents (written testimony, policy memo, summary of available evidence) about a policy issue that reflects a partner’s position and is responsive to their needs
4. Work effectively as a part of a team to address a partner organization’s policy needs
5. Practice effective partnering that can be applied to future public health initiatives

Project Details
As a part of this course, the community-based organization will be expected to identify a policy priority that will focus the students’ service-learning project. Based on that priority and the organization’s needs, the students will work with the organization to identify what kind of policy document will be useful to the organization.

Past project examples include:

- **School-based mental health services:** Students created a white paper that explained the current policy in Baltimore City Public Schools, described current unmet need, and recommend policy changes
- **Survivor rights legislation review:** Students reviewed current policies in other states with respect to human trafficking and survivor rights laws. After reviewing legislation in other
states, students developed a report with recommendations about policy changes in Maryland, and relevant educational materials

**Expectations of the Community-Based Organization (CBO)**

- Identify a policy priority that will focus the students’ service-learning project
- Provide a contact with basic knowledge about the policy initiative and with the ability to oversee the students’ project throughout the course
- Meet (virtually) with students at least three times during the term the course is offered (October 26 – December 18, 2020) – likely through the Zoom platform
  - First meeting: introduce the organization and staff; explain the selected policy topic; identify policy document(s) for the group to complete; and answer student questions
  - Second meeting: discuss a draft of the policy document(s) provided by the students; provide feedback to the students
  - Third meeting: review the final policy document(s) and complete a reflective evaluation with the student group.
- Arrange a time to meet with the course instructor about the organization’s history and mission, and to discuss course and project objectives
- Be available to answer follow up questions that students might have regarding the project
- Participate with the students in reflective activities
- Organize a debriefing meeting with organization staff and clients who contributed to the student projects - provide students with feedback, and allow students to provide a summary of the project
- *If possible,* attend the final class presentation via Zoom

**Product/Deliverable**

The partner CBO will receive one or more products from the students (who are supervised by a JHSPH faculty member) that **address a policy selected by the partner organization.** The partner organization will serve as the “client” in this relationship and direct the type of policy document(s) produced by the students, as well as provide input about the content and formatting of the students’ product(s).

Students will be required to provide both a written and an oral policy product that is responsive to the partner organization’s position on their selected policy topic as a part of the academic portion of their course. This product could include a policy memo, a written testimony reflecting the organization’s position, and/or a policy pitch.

**Project proposal submissions are due by Wed, October 8, 2020**

To propose a project, complete the short online form here. The form collects contact information, and a description of your desired project and deliverables.

**Questions?** Please contact Mindi Levin, SOURCE Founder and Director, at mlevin@jhu.edu or by cell phone 443-801-3038.