

PADM 5781
Speaking Notes
Week 2
August 22, 2022

WHERE WE ARE

- This is our second class meeting.
- Last week I explained that we are going to take a systems perspective to this.
- We talked about the concept of wicked problems.
- I asked you to read and think about several articles available at Wikipedia.org.
- I made the distinction between “merely” complicated problems and complex social problems.
- I hope by now you have the textbook and have read the first couple of chapters.

There is a Discussion Forum 1 assignment (original post) due September 4.

Discussion Forum 1

Immigration and homelessness are among the wicked problems that policy makers face in the United States and beyond. Explain what each of these problems are and identify three likely root causes of each of them. How might these problems be related to one another?

Rubric (original post):

Evidence of original thought – not merely repeating what other students have written.

Reasonable explanation of what immigration is and why it can be a modern problem in the United States and elsewhere. (one solid paragraph)

Reasonable identification and explanation of three root causes of immigration. (one solid paragraph)

Reasonable explanation of what homelessness is and why it is a modern problem in the United States. (one solid paragraph)

Reasonable identification and explanation of three root causes of homelessness in the United States. (one solid paragraph)

Reasonable explanation of how immigration and homelessness may be related to one another. (one solid paragraph)

Rubric (reply to another student’s original post):

Specific identification of something of interest in the other student’s original post.

SUBSTANTIAL/MEANINGFUL commentary about that point or an extension of that point.

This, again, is the required textbook.

Systems Thinking for Social Change
 David Peter Stroh
 Chelsea Green Publishing
 ISBN-13: 978-1603585804

ACTIVITY	PERCENT	POINTS	DUE DATE
Discussion forum 1	10%	100	Sunday Sept. 4
Opportunity to resubmit Discussion forum 1			Sunday Sept. 11
Discussion forum 1 Follow up	10%	100	Sunday Sept. 18
Midterm Exam	20%	200	Sunday October 2
Discussion forum 2	10%	100	Sunday October 23
Discussion forum 2 Follow up	10%	100	Sunday October 30
Activity	10%	100	Sunday Nov. 6
Opportunity to resubmit Activity			Sunday Nov. 13
Portfolio Assignment	10%	100	Sunday Nov. 20
Final Exam	20%	200	Sunday Dec. 4

		Week begins . . .	Week ends . . .	Assignment due . . .
Week 1		Monday August 15	Sunday August 21	
Week 2		Monday August 22	Sunday August 28	
Week 3	Discussion 1	Monday August 29	Sunday Sept. 4	Sunday Sept. 4
Week 4	Opportunity to redo and resubmit Discussion 1	Monday Sept. 5	Sunday Sept. 11	Sunday Sept. 11
Week 5	Discussion 1 follow up	Monday Sept. 12	Sunday Sept. 18	Sunday Sept. 18
Week 6		Monday Sept. 19	Sunday Sept. 25	
Week 7	MIDTERM	Monday Sept. 26	Sunday October 2	Sunday October

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Week 8		Monday October 3 Midterm report to be reported to Registrar's Office on Oct. 6	Sunday October 9	
Week 9	FALL BREAK	Monday October 10 Last day to withdraw without academic penalty Oct. 14	Sunday October 16	
Week 10	Discussion 2	Monday October 17	Sunday October 23	Sunday October 23
Week 11	Discussion 2 follow up	Monday October 24	Sunday October 30	Sunday October 30
Week 12	ACTIVITY	Monday October 31	Sunday Nov. 6	Sunday Nov. 6
Week 13	Opportunity to redo and resubmit ACTIVITY	Monday Nov. 7	Sunday Nov. 13	Sunday Nov. 13
Week 14	ePortfolio assignment	Monday Nov. 14	Sunday Nov. 20	Sunday Nov. 20
Week 15	THANKSGIVING WEEK	Monday Nov. 21	Sunday Nov. 27	
Week 16	FINAL EXAMS	Monday, Nov. 28	Last day of classes, Dec. 1	Sunday Dec. 4
Week 17	Final grades submitted to Registrar's Office Monday, Dec. 12	Monday, Dec. 5		

QUICK REVIEW

Last week I explained what a “wicked social problem” is and that explained that the COMPLEXITY of wicked social problem lies in the fact that factors (causes) are themselves interrelated to one another. It is not a matter of swatting one fly. It is not a matter of “swatting twenty flies.”

NEW MATERIAL

"Systems theory" is huge and (in my opinion) does not get enough attention in public policy and in the study of public administration.

PA should be a design science!

We should be planning the future! We should be masters of SYSTEMS THINKING.

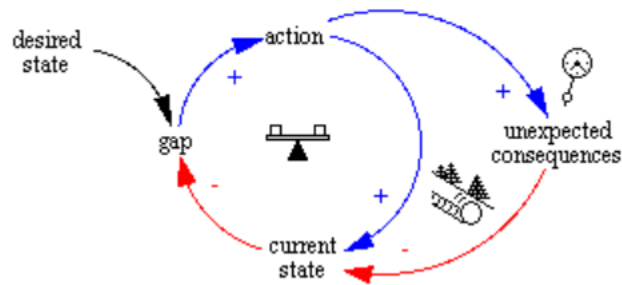
Systems thinking will not solve all problems. But it will help us get beyond often short-sighted political thinking.

BASICALLY, everything connects to everything (directly or indirectly) and when you start modifying a system, you better know what you are doing.

Things done with the best of intentions can come back to bite you, usually after a delay.

In systems thinking, this "archetype" is known as "Fixes that Backfire" or fixes that fail.

<http://www.systems-thinking.org/theWay/sff/ff.htm>



If that "Fixes that Fail" is the only pattern (systems archetype) you learn in this course, you will have gained one important insight that many leaders do not realize explicitly.

<http://www.systems-thinking.org/theWay/sba/ba.htm>

<http://www.systems-thinking.org/theWay/sre/re.htm>

From a systems perspective, EVERYTHING MOVES. (Think of a solar system or the ecology of a swamp.)

Economic cycles, for example, are cyclical. They move up and down, but we don't know when they will turn.

Weather systems are also DYNAMIC patterns. We can usually forecast the weather now because we know what to look for. We can also run powerful computer simulations that project multiple PROBABLE FUTURES.

Public policy is about ANTICIPATING AND ATTEMPTING TO MANAGE DYNAMIC SYSTEMS.

It is not about killing the system. It is about trying to nudge it one way or another.



Source: Earl Wilcox via unsplash.com

But in public policy, the pot is always evolving -- always being shaped.