Case Teaching and Case Study Writing for Public Policy

This workshop course is designed to develop skills that faculty in policy-focused universities and training institutions can use both to develop interactive and participant-centered teaching styles and to help faculty develop skills in case writing. It can be offered in multiple formats, with differing degrees of emphasis on case teaching and case writing.

In multi-day formats that include both case teaching and case writing, the first two days mostly involve "how to" lessons on both teaching and writing, interspersed with activities where the participants work in teams to do things like prepare case teaching plans and class openings that they present to all of the participants. The initial emphasis is on case teaching, since before participants can write a successful case, they must understand how learning in a case-oriented classroom takes place. The workshop includes case discussions on several existing cases, combined with a "post-mortem" of what worked and what did not in both the written case and the case discussion. We discuss core teaching strategies including development of time management plans, whiteboard management plans, how to pose opening questions, "cold-calling" versus "warm calling," and how to close a case-discussion class with "Take-Aways."

In discussing case-writing, the course addresses issues such as how to decide on a case theme and learning objectives, what material should be included and left out (or relegated to appendices), and how to build participant engagement into the way a case is written. Later workshop sessions will include topics such as how to write multi-player simulation exercises that have students play roles of participants in the policy situation.

Beginning on the first day of multi-day case writing workshops, participants spend some time working on cases of their own choosing, and it is expected that many of the participants will come to the workshop with very rough drafts of potential cases. By the middle of Day 3, the emphasis shifts more to the cases that they are working on preparing themselves. On the final day, participants will have an opportunity to present preliminary versions of their cases and get feedback from the entire group.

Topics for Individual Sessions:
- Introduction to Case Teaching and Participant-Centered Learning
- Leading a Participant- Oriented Discussion 1: Opening and closing class sessions, whiteboard and time management plans
- Leading a Participant Oriented Discussion 2: Encouraging classroom participation with class votes, stakeholder matrices and other techniques
- Using Simulations and Role-Plays in Case Discussions
- Using Alternative Materials (e.g., journal articles, newspaper articles and primary documents) in Case Teaching
- Multi-Case Discussions in the Classroom

- Managing Diversity in Participants
- Group Activity: Preparing a Case Discussion
- Introduction to Case Writing: Case Structure and Style
- Refining Case Writing Skills: Preparing a Teaching Note

Course Duration: One or two days (case teaching only) to five days (case writing and case teaching). When case writing is included, participants are expected to come to the course with case ideas and outlines. The last two days of the course are spent primarily in working on and refining case plans and presentation of draft cases. The workshop can also be done in a split format, with three days of introductory sessions followed by a break of a month or more, concluding with another two-day session in which participants present more polished versions of cases that they have written.

Course Leaders: Mary Hilderbrand and Kent Weaver

Countries where course has been offered: India, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States

SAMPLE SCHEDULE FOR A FIVE-DAY "CASE TEACHING AND CASE STUDY WRITING FOR PUBLIC POLICY" COURSE

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Session 1	Introduction to Case Teaching and Participant-Centered Learning	Leading a Participant-Oriented Discussion 1	Leading a Participant Oriented Discussion 2	Using Alternative Materials in Case Teaching	Case Development Session
Session 2	Case Discussion and Review of Discussion	Group Activity: Preparing a Case Discussion	Using Simulations and Role-Plays in Case Discussions	Multi-Case Discussions	Presentation of Cases by Participants
Session 3	Introduction to Case Writing	Refining Case Writing Skills	Presentation of Cases and Lesson Plans	Planning a Case-Base Course	Presentation of Cases by Participants
Session 4	Case Development Session	Case Development Session	Case Development Session	Case Development Session	Wrap-Up Discussion and Take-Aways