

POLITICAL SCIENCE 120
INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
SPRING 2016

CLASS TIME: MWF 12:30-1:20 PM BEERING 1245

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Course Description and Objectives

This course will be a rigorous introduction to the major themes, theories and concepts in public policy and administration. These include institutions, theories, the policy process, methods the role of the government in decision making.

By the end of the semester, you should be able to understand the major concepts in public policy. You will also have an understanding of multiple facets and variables that influence public policy. Most importantly, you should be able to think and write critically on public policy and administration.

This is not a traditional introduction to public policy. Many authors we will be covering in this course will offer unique and unconventional views on the policy process. This course also heavily draws from concepts in economic theory. Please remember that each concept is open to interpretation. If you keep an open mind, I am confident that this class will be a rewarding experience for you.

Welcome to the class and enjoy the semester!

Course Materials:

1. Charles Wheelan Introduction to Public Policy New York: W. W. Norton and Company
2. Online Articles (Can be Accessed Using JSTOR and Blackboard).
3. Current affairs will be incorporated into the lecture. It is necessary that you follow national popular news by reading from major newspapers such as *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune* or *The Wall Street Journal* to name a few to actively take part in class. This will serve to broaden your perspective on public policy. If there is a particular article I want you to read, it will be emailed to you before class.

Format

Each class will be taught in a lecture format. These lectures will draw upon multiple perspectives used to analyze the policy process. Throughout the lecture I will pose questions to students based upon the readings. These questions will be sent to you before each class. Some, but not all, will be asked to facilitate discussion. After each lecture I will post major concepts and notes from the class online. This practice will help guide you through the material to study for the exams. Do not, however, expect to rely solely on these notes for the exam. It is imperative that you take notes in class and pay particular attention to the readings.

Course Requirements

Class Participation- 10%: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. I will do my absolute best to remember your names as soon as possible. Unless there is a documented reason from the Dean of Students Office why you cannot attend class, excused absences will generally not be granted. Remember class participation is more than just showing up. You will be expected to contribute to class discussion by drawing upon daily reading assignments so please come to class prepared. Your final participation grade will be a combination of how well you attend class and participate in discussion. If you miss class you will be expected to receive missed notes from your classmates, not the instructor. If you do not follow these guidelines, your grades will be lowered.

Do not be rude to other students in class conversations. Respect for your classmates is of utmost importance. Anything less will not be tolerated. On a final note, please remember to shut off all electronic devices before coming into class.

We will be conducting policy simulations throughout the class. Students will be subdivided into “legislatures” where they will enact the part of city councilors, state legislators, and US Senators. These simulations will be scattered throughout the semester. They will not be regularly scheduled. Rather, they will be used at various times to demonstrate particular class concepts when appropriate.

Midterm- 15% Each: The midterms are scheduled for March 2nd and April 15th. This exam will all short answer questions. Each exam will test your knowledge on the readings, in class lectures, and your critical thinking abilities. Unless there is a documented emergency (the yellow PUSH card will not count), students will not be able to take the exam at a later or earlier time. Because this class had only twenty instruction days, the midterm will occur during the first half of the class with lecture following it. You should have ample time to finish the exam within the hour. For the record, I do not care if you use pen or pencil. Please be certain that I will be able to read your writing.

Final Exam- 30%: The midterm will similarly be all short answer questions. The exam will be cumulative.

Analytical Essay- 30%: You will be expected to write a 6-7 page essay on a specific policy in the United States. This essay should be argumentative with a clearly defined position. You are to discuss why you think the policy is successful or not and what alternatives may exist (if speaking against the policy). This argument must be based upon facts and evidence, not just your own opinion. Before you get started on this paper, you must clear a topic with me by **JANUARY 27th**. Be sure to identify the appropriate actors, institutions, and outcomes in the paper.

The grading for this paper will be based upon your ability to clearly articulate your thoughts and your ability to think critically and analyze the topic. To do this it is vital to write a clear and well defined thesis statement. If you do not have a thesis statement, or if it is difficult to understand what the paper is arguing, your grade will inevitably suffer. Also, be sure that the essay is coherent and well-constructed. Avoid stray thoughts and make sure the essay flows.

You will be expected to uphold proper research standards. This means you must use academic sources as your evidence. At minimum this essay should include AT LEAST five sources. You will be required to move beyond class material to be successful on this assignment. Be careful not to include questionable sources from the internet. If you have a question if a particular source is appropriate or not, please come and see me. In class I will go over how to use Purdue's databases so you can utilize them for this course. Be sure to cite all your sources within the text! Also, you will be required to provide a reference page so I know which sources you used while grading.

The format of this paper should follow APSA guidelines. The guide for APSA can easily be found online at <https://library.tamu.edu/help/help-yourself/citing-sources/files/Using%20APSA%20Format.pdf>. The paper is to be double spaced using 12 point times new roman font. Standard one inch margins should also be used. Be sure to number your pages and clearly place your name on the paper. If I cannot tell which paper is yours, you will fail the assignment

This paper is due **APRIL 13th**! These papers will graded and back to you before the final exam. If you are unsure about your topic or if you have general questions on the assignment, please do not hesitate to come and see me for guidance. I also suggest visiting the Purdue Writing Center for guidance. I will be giving you more details about this paper in class.

Grading

Grades will be assigned using the following grading scale: A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, F: <60. Plusses and minuses will be assigned to your grade where the top two percentage points for each grade will receive a plus, while the bottom 3 percentage points for each letter will receive a minus. Gradual improvement in the class will be considered for calculating the final grade. For example, a 92 would be an A-, while an 88 would be a B+.

All final grades will be calculated through a converted 4.0 scale. For example, a B+ on the midterm will be converted to a 3.3 and multiplied by .15. These grades will then be added together to give a score out of 4.0, and converted back to a letter grade.

Amendments to the Syllabus

As the course moves on, it may be necessary to change the syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. For example, this may include major campus emergencies which will inevitably cause assignment due dates, test dates, and reading assignments to change. Because of this, I reserve the right to change the syllabus as needed. I will do everything possible to adhere to the course schedule as outlined in this syllabus.

Academic Honesty

The University policy is that “the commitment of the acts of cheating, lying and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of ghost written papers, the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations), is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest.” (University Senate Document 2-18. December 15th 1972. Students who partake in such behaviors WILL FAIL THIS COURSE and will be referred to the university administration for further disciplinary action. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes as academic dishonesty. For further information, please see the Academic Integrity brochure on the Dean of Students Office at <https://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academic-integrity-brochure/>.

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities must be registered with the Disability Resource Center in the Office of the Dean of Students before classroom accommodations can be provided. If you are eligible for academic accommodations because you have a documented disability that will impact your work

in this class, please schedule an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs.

Emergency Statement

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. To get information about changes in this course, email the instructor.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1-Defining Public Policy (January 10th)

Read: Chapter 1 of Wheelan

Rocheffort, David A. 1993. "Problem Definition, Agenda Access, and Policy Choice", Policy Studies Journal, 21:1 Spring p.56

WEEK 2- What Makes Policy so Difficult? (January 17th)- NO CLASS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18th!!!

Read: Chapter 2 of Wheelan

- Chapter 10 of Calculus of Consent by Buchanan and Tullock

WEEK 3- Models, Rationality and Individual Behavior (January 24th)

Read: Chapter 3 of Wheelan

- "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," Graham T. Allison. 1969. American Political Science Review: 689-718.*

WEEK 4- Understanding Group Behavior: Collective Action (January 31st)

Read: Chapter 4 of Wheelan

-Chapter 1 and 2 of Logic of Collective Action

WEEK 5- Political Process (February 7th)

Read: Chapter 6 of Wheelan

-Strolovitch Dara. 2007. "Do Interest Groups Represent the Disadvantaged?" Journal of Politics 68 (4)*

WEEK 6- Political Process II (February 14th)

-Skelcher, C., Mathur, N. and Smith, M. (2005) "The Public Governance of Collaborative Spaces: Discourse, Design and Democracy." Public Administration, 83(3), pp. 573–596.

-McCubbins, Noll and Weingast (1989) "Structure and Process, Politics and Policy-Administrative Arrangements and the Political Control of Agencies." *Virginia Law Review* 75 431-483.

WEEK 7- Role of Institutions I (February 21st)

Read Chapter 14 of Wheelan

-Hall, Peter A. and Rosemary C. R. Taylor. 1996. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." *Political Studies*: 936-957.

-Carey, JM. 2000. "Parchment, Equilibria and Institutions." *Comparative Political Studies* 33 (7): 735-761.

-Ostrom, Elinor. 2007. "Institutional Rational Choice" Sabatier ed. *Theories of Policy Process*

WEEK 8- Role of Institutions II (February 28th)

-Schmidt, Vivien. 2008. "Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11: 303-326.

MIDTERM EXAM March 2nd

WEEK 9- The Market System (March 6th)

Read: Chapter 7 of Weelan

Barry R. Weingast and William J. Marshall. 1988. "The Industrial Organization of Congress; or, Why Legislatures, Like Firms, Are Not Organized as Markets." *Journal of Political Economy*: 132-163.

WEEK 10- Evaluating Social Welfare (March 13th)- SPRING BREAK

Read: Chapter 5 of Wheelan

-Pierson, Paul. 1996. "New Politics of the Welfare State". *World Politics* 48 143-179.

-Mares and Carnes. 2009. "Social Policy in Developing Countries" *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 12: 93-113 (June 2009)

WEEK 11- Evaluating Social Welfare II/Program Evaluation (Mach 20th)

Read: Chapter 13 of Wheelan

-Korpi, W. (2000). *Faces of Inequality: Gender, Class, and Patterns of Inequalities in Different Types of Welfare States*. *Social Politics*, 7(2), 127- 191.

WEEK 12- Program Evaluation II (March 27th)

-Birkland, T. A. (2009). *Disasters, Catastrophes, and Policy Failure in the Homeland Security Area*. *Review of Policy Research*, 26, 423-437.

-Koehler, D. A. 2007. *The Effectiveness of Voluntary Environmental Programs—A policy at a Crossroads?* *Policy Studies Journal* 35:689–722.

WEEK 13- Methods (April 3rd) NO CLASS April 8th!

Read Chapter 10, 11 and 12 of Wheelan

WEEK 14- Policy Design I (April 10th)-Read Chapter 15 of Wheelan

-James, Thomas E., and Paul D. Jorgensen. 2009. "Policy Knowledge, Policy Formulation, and Change: Revisiting a Foundational Question." *Policy Studies Journal* 37 (1): 141–162.

MIDTERM APRIL 15th

WEEK 15- Policy Design II (April 17th)

-Schneider, Ann and Mara Sidney. 2009. "What Is Next for Policy Design and Social Construction Theory?" *The Policy Studies Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 103-119.

-Montpetit, E 2008. Policy Design for Legitimacy: expert Knowledge, Citizens, Time and Inclusion in the United Kingdom's Biotechnology sector. *Public Administration*, 86(1), 259–277.

WEEK 16th- Role of Society and Final Exam Review (April 24th)

-Fehr, Ernst, Erich Kirchler, Andreas Weichbold and Simon Gächter. "When Social Norms Overpower Competition: Gift Exchange in Experimental Labor Markets." *Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Apr., 1998), pp. 324-351

-Elster, Jon "Social Norms and Economic Theory" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 3, No. 4 (Autumn, 1989), pp. 99-117 (on Jstor)

FINAL EXAM WEEK MAY 1st -7th