PAD 5310: Public Policy Process and Institutions

University of Texas at El Paso
MPA Program
Fall 2017 Syllabus

Instructor: Daniel Scheller, Ph.D. Time: W 17:00 - 20:00 (Through Dec. 13, 2017)
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Course Description & Learning Objectives

This course is an introduction to public policy in the American democratic system. The course is both theoretical and applied in its approach to the study of public policy in the U.S. We will study the logic of American policymaking through the lenses of American politics and American political institutions. Processes and theories will then be applied to historical and current issues in public policy. Much of the focus will be on the importance of the “politics” surrounding public policy. The design of the course is not meant to make students experts in any single policy area. The goal of this course is to introduce students to the theories and processes of policymaking within the U.S. and to have them apply that knowledge to substantive policy problems and issues.

The main learning objectives are for students to better understand the intricacies of public policymaking in the U.S. context and applicable policy theories. By the end of the course, students should be able to understand the main theories of public policy and how they apply to the political institutions and norms in the U.S. system. Through written and oral communication, students should be able to analyze policies from their inception to passage, understanding the political reasons behind adoptions and/or failures.

Required Text


Locations for readings not from the main textbook are indicated in the syllabus.

Course Requirements

1. Online Quizzes (120 pts.): Most weeks, there will be an online quiz over the week’s materials (in-class readings, in-class PowerPoints/lectures, Hybrid readings, Hybrid PowerPoints, handouts). Quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer. There will be 6 quizzes worth 20 points each. They should be completed during the week of the readings (no later than Sunday at 11:59 PM of the week indicated in the syllabus). Quizzes are timed (20-40 minutes depending upon length), so once you begin a quiz, you will not be able to come back at a later time to finish them. Quizzes should not be completed with other students.
2. Midterm (100): The midterm will cover material from the beginning of the course up until the date of the midterm. It will be a take-home exam. I will give you the prompts a week before it is due. There is no required number of pages - you should do whatever it takes to adequately answer the prompts. Be sure to type your answers and turn in through Blackboard or in hard copy form on the due date. You may use your book, notes, and outside resources, but not fellow students. If you use outside sources other than the textbook, be sure to cite appropriately.

3. Policy Presentation (100 pts.): In teams of 2, you and a partner will research a current public policy or a potential public policy facing the U.S. Given the new Trump Administration, there are ample number of potential public policies to study (immigration, defense, foreign policy, abortion, environmental regulations, etc.). If you are doing a current policy, you should track its history through its current status. Where and by whom did it originate? What processes did it go through? What institutions? What political factors led to its passage? If you want to study a potential policy in the new administration, you should track how it can become policy from its inception (idea phase) to its passage. Where can it successfully pass? What steps must it go through? What political factors must be taken into consideration for it to become policy?

Grade Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>320</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Grading Scale

- A = 90% - 100% (288-320)
- B = 80% - 89.99% (256-287)
- C = 70% - 79.9% (224-255)
- D = 60% - 69.99% (192-223)
- F = <60% (<192)

Course Expectations & Policies

**Courtesy**
Comments and language in class should be civil and of an academic nature.

**Late Work Policy & Make-Up Exams and Assignments**
Since you have ample notice of the due dates of the assignments, and their requirements, no extensions will be given for assignments, unless there is approved professional, familial, medical, legal (jury duty), USASMA, or university documentation. Materials turned in after the indicated due date and time will automatically receive a 10% deduction. Late work will receive an additional 15% deduction for each additional 24 hours that pass in which the assignment is not turned in.
in. I make no guarantees that late work submitted to my office mailbox or assignments slid under my door are actually delivered to me. It is your responsibility to ensure that I receive your materials.

**Extra Credit**
No extra credit will be offered in this course.

**Incompletes**
Incompletes will only be given in the most extreme and extenuating circumstances.

**Student Privacy**
Per regulations outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), I will not discuss your grades, class performance, or any issues dealing with your personal circumstances as they relate to this course with another party that cannot legally access your collegiate records or legally obtain such information. I will not field phone calls from your parents concerning your performance or circumstances related to this course. Your performance may be discussed with other members of the faculty as it pertains to your progress in the program, consideration for awards/funding, and as it is relevant to other university and department-related considerations.

**Student Disability Services**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the university regarding services for students with disabilities.

**Academic Misconduct**
Any student found guilty of academic misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

1. Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other forms of academic dishonesty.

2. Plagiarism is using another person’s work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one’s own. Any ideas, words, pictures, or other source must be acknowledged in a citation that gives credit to the source. This is true no matter where the material comes from, including the internet, other student’s work, unpublished materials, or oral sources. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct. It is the responsibility of the student submitting the work in question to know, understand, and comply with this policy. If no citation is given, then borrowing any of the following would be an example of plagiarism: a) An idea or opinion, even when put into one’s own words (paraphrase); b) A few well-said words, if these are a unique insight; c) Many words, even if one changes most of them; d) Materials assembled by others, for instance quotes or a bibliography; e) An argument; f) A pattern of idea; g) Graphs, pictures, or other illustrations; h) Facts; i) All or part of an existing paper or other resource.

3. Unauthorized possession of examinations, reserve library materials, laboratory materials, or other course-related materials.

4. Unauthorized changing of grades on an examination, in an instructor’s grade book, or on a grade report; or unauthorized access to academic computer records.
5. Nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records in, or for, academic departments or colleges.

The current Student Code of Conduct definition of plagiarism can be found at: http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386

**Syllabus Change Policy**
The contents of this course syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.
Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction and Policy Typologies  
For Class on Oct. 18:
  - BRS. Ch. 1. pp. 11-19
    https://reason.com/archives/2000/12/01/the-hassle-factor

For Hybrid Day: Policy Formulation
  - BRS. Ch. 1. pp. 19-43.
  - Quiz 1 over week’s materials due by Oct. 22 @ 11:59 PM.

Week 2: Individual Behavior, Social Problems & Market Analysis  
For Class on Oct. 25:
  - BRS. Ch. 2. pp. 57-68; 71-78.
  - BRS. Ch. 3. pp. 80-89.

For Hybrid Day: More on Policy and Markets
  - BRS. Ch. 3. pp. 93-103.
  - Watch YouTube online lecture.
  - Quiz 2 over week’s materials due Oct. 29 @ 11:59 PM.

Week 3: Environmental Policy  
For Class on Nov. 1:
  - BRS. Ch. 6. pp. 194-236.

For Hybrid Day: Environmental Policy
  - Quiz 3 over week’s materials due by Nov. 5 @ 11:59 PM.

Week 4: Health Care Policy & Policymaking in Congress  
For Class on Nov. 8:
  - BRS. Ch. 7. pp. 240-269.

For Hybrid Day: Foreign and Defense Policy
  - BRS. Ch. 13. pp. 446-468.
  - Quiz 4 over week’s materials due by Nov. 12 @ 11:59 PM.

Week 5: Economy and Income Security  
For Class on Nov. 15:
  - BRS. Ch. 5. pp. 148-165; 167-172; 175-190.

For Hybrid Day:
  - Midterm due by Nov. 19 @ 11:59 PM.

Week 6: No Class on Nov. 20 due to USASMA closing for Thanksgiving
Week 7: Immigration
   For Class on Nov. 29:
   For Hybrid Day: Homeland Security
       - BRS. Ch. 11. pp. 387-407.
       - Quiz 5 over week’s materials due by Dec. 3 @ 11:59 PM.

Week 8: Education & Crime
   For Class on Dec. 6:
       - BRS. Ch. 8. pp. 273-289; 293-312.
   For Hybrid Day:
       - Quiz 6 over week’s materials due by Dec. 10 @ 11:59 PM.

Week 9: Presentations
   For Class on Dec. 13:
       - In Class Presentations.