Course Description
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 various theories of how public policy ideas are formed and the process by which ideas become actual policies in the U.S. These theories will then be applied to historical and current issues in public policy including policies in the arenas of the environment, welfare, health care, education, etc. 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 of the policymaking process and to have them apply that knowledge to substantive policy problems and issues.

Required Text


All readings will be based upon the indicated edition of the text. There is no guarantee that older editions will contain the same information.

All readings not in the e-Book are located on Blackboard or hyperlinked on the syllabus.

Course Requirements

1. Discussion Questions (70 pts.): Beginning with the readings for the second week of the course, and for each week thereafter, submit 2-3 discussion questions for the Wednesday’s readings for discussion during class. These should be submitted by 11:59 PM the Monday before class. This will give me time to compile them on Tuesday and include them in the lecture and/or Powerpoint. For example, on Monday, January 16, please submit discussion questions for the readings listed under Wednesday, January 18. You do not need to do discussion questions for the Hybrid Days. Each week will be worth 10 points. To earn all points, be sure to engage the readings and offer thoughtful questions for the class.

2. Policy Memos (200 pts.): Four times throughout the course I will provide a prompt
for you to answer. You should write a short policy memo fully answering the prompt. I will pro-
vide you a rubric of grading and requirements. Most memos will be between 2-3 double-spaced
pages and grading will be based upon analysis, organization, and grammar. Each memo will be
worth 50 points.

3. Policy Report (100 pts.): The policy report is simply an extended policy memo con-
cerning a policy of your interest. It will be the same format and grading, but approximately 4-6
pages. In the memo, you should address the political, economic, demographic, etc., factors that
have led to your policy being considered and/or adopted. Be sure to incorporate any relevant
theories discussed in the course.

Grade Components - Graduate Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Memos</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Report</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100% (333-370)
B = 80% - 89.99% (296-332)
C = 70% - 79.9% (259-295)
D = 60% - 69.9% (222-258)
F = <60% (<222)

Course Expectations & Policies

**Courtesy**
Comments and language in the discussion board 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), 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. 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 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

Jan. 13: Introduction and Policy Typologies
What is Public Policy?

Policy Typologies

Hybrid Day
Policy Typology Example
https://reason.com/archives/2000/12/01/the-hassle-factor

Jan. 20: Policy Making in Congress
Policy Memo 1 Due.
- “Bridge to Nowhere” http://www.reuters.com/article/us-alaska-bridge-idUSKCN0SI00120151024

Hybrid Day

Jan. 27: Policy Streams
Policy Memo 2 Due.
- e-Book: Ch. 2, pp. 25-50.

Hybrid Day

Feb. 3: Punctuated Equilibrium
- e-Book: Ch. 3, pp. 59-91.

Hybrid Day
Feb. 10: Social Construction Theory
Policy Memo 3 Due
-e-Book: Ch. 4, pp. 105-132.

Group & Elite Theory

Hybrid Day
-“The G.O.P.’s Immigration Problem.” The New Yorker.
  www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/11/16/harsh-talk
-“The Race is on for the Latino Vote.” The Washington Post. http://wapo.st/1H8Ldvf

Feb. 17: Tiebout-Sorting
-Policy Memo 4 Due.
-Tiebout, Charles M. 1956. “A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures.” The
  Journal of Political Economy. 64.5: 416-424.

Hybrid Day
Advocacy Coalition Framework
-e-Book: Ch. 6, pp. 183-210.

Feb. 24: Policy Innovation and Diffusion
-e-Book: Ch. 9, pp. 307-338.

Hybrid Day
-Email topic and basic logic of policy report.

Mar. 2: Institutional Analysis
  162: 1243-1248.
-e-Book: Ch. 8, pp. 267-298.

Mar. 4: Policy Report Due