

POLI 2070 (1)
T/Th 9-10:20
217 Old Forestry Bldg

Dr. Belinda Creel Davis
Office Hrs: Tues. 10:30-11:30
Wed. 10:00-11:00 & by appt.

Introduction to Public Policy Making

Course Description

This course is designed to teach you the basics of public policy making in the United States. You will learn about the various actors involved in the policy making process and explore various theoretical frameworks for explaining outcomes in policy making.

Course Requirements

You are expected to come to class prepared to participate in the discussion of the day's reading assignment. This means that you should read the day's assignment prior to class. A three hour course is associated with 9 total hours of work per week.

The textbook for this course is *Agendas and Instability in American Politics (2nd Edition)* by Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. In addition to the textbook, pdfs of readings and links to readings and videos can be located on the class Moodle page. All students must abide by the Student Academic Honor Code. Cheating will not be tolerated. All electronic devices (cell phones, ipads, laptops, etc) must be placed inside a zipped backpack during exams. Failure to place electronic devices inside a zipped backpack will be considered cheating.

Because the public policy climate in the United States is constantly changing, newspaper articles and videos may be placed on the class Moodle page that are not listed on the syllabus. These articles and videos will be chosen to illustrate the contemporary nature of the day's readings. When these posting are added, you will receive email notification.

Exams

There are three exams in the course. Each exam is worth 120 points and will consist of eight short answer questions (10 points each) and one essay question (40 points). Exams are not cumulative. Make up exams may be taken in emergency situations (illness, death in the family, etc.). If an exam is missed, I should be notified within 24 hours (unless you are locked up or in a coma) of the exam's scheduled time in order to discuss the makeup exam.

Homework

There are five homework assignments in the course. Each assignment is worth 40 points. Homework due dates are marked on the course outline. Late assignments are docked 5 points a day. If a homework assignment is missed due to an emergency, I should be contacted within 24 hours (unless you are locked up or in a coma) to discuss a revised due date.

Participation

Participation in class discussion is required. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Your class participation grade is worth 40 points. There are 23 non-exam class days. On at least 20 occasions, you should turn in an index card to me at the end of class that includes your name and how you contributed to that day's class discussion. If you did not contribute, you should still turn in a card indicating your attendance in class that day.

Grading Scale

579-600 A+	519-536 B+	559-476 C+	399-416 D+	356 and below F
555-578 A	495-518 B	435-458 C	381-398 D	
537-554 A-	477-494 B-	417-434 C-	357-380 D-	

Course Outline

- August 23 Introduction to Course
- August 25 <http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/waterslide-death-ferris-wheel-accident-prompt-ride-safety-concerns-741173315503>*
Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives (Chapter One)*
- August 30 Market Failures
Introduction to Public Policy (Chapters Three and Four)*
- September 1 Video: Here's to Flint
- September 6 Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives (Chapter Two)*
- HW #1 Due**
- September 8 Theories of the Policy Making Process/Short Term Change: Stages Model/Incrementalism
<https://books.google.com/books?id=vAbOBQAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=handbook+of+public+policy+analysis&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwizzc7f7NXOAhVDxWMKHag6BWQQ6AEIHjAA#v=onepage&q=handbook%20of%20public%20policy%20analysis&f=false> (pages 43-55)*
- September 13 Theories of the Policy Making Process/Short Term Change: Kingdon's Multiple Streams
Theories of the Policy Process (Chapter Four pages 73-78)*
<https://paulcainey.wordpress.com/2013/10/31/policy-concepts-in-1000-words-multiple-streams-analysis/>*

- September 15 Theories of the Policy Making Process: Institutional Rational Choice
<https://paulcairney.wordpress.com/2014/03/28/policy-concepts-in-1000-words-institutions-and-new-institutionalism/>*
- September 20 Catch Up and Review
- September 22 **Exam One**
- September 27 Theories of the Policy Making Process/Long Term Change: Advocacy Coalitions
Sabatier, Paul. 1988. "An Advocacy Coalition Framework of Policy Change and the Role of Policy-Oriented Learning Therein." Policy Sciences 21: 2/3*
- September 29 Theories of the Policy Making Process/Long Term Change: Innovation and Diffusion
Theories of the Policy Process (Chapter Seven pages 169-183)*
HW #2 Due
- October 4 Theories of the Policy Making Process
Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapters One and Two)
- October 6 Fall Break
- October 11 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Three)
Exploring the Agenda Database: <http://www.comparativeagendas.net/us>
- October 13 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Four)
- October 18 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Five)
- October 20 No Class
- October 25 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapters Six and Seven)
HW #3 Due
- October 27 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Eight)
- November 1 Catch Up and Review
- November 3 Exam Two
- November 8 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapters Nine and Ten)
- November 10 TBA

November 15 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapters Eleven)

HW #4 Due

November 17 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Twelve)

November 22 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Thirteen)

November 24 Thanksgiving Holiday

November 29 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Fourteen)

HW #5 Due

December 1 Catch Up and Review

December 8 Final Exam 3:00-5:00