

Introduction to Public Policy (POLI 2070: 01)

Allen Hall

Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-10:20

Office: 221 Stubbs Hall

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10-11 and by appointment

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.

There is no textbook for this course. 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. <https://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/codeofconduct.php>

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 two exams in the course. Each exam is worth 100 points and will consist of twenty multiple choice questions (2 points each) and six short answer questions (10 points each). 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, if at all possible, of the exam's scheduled time in order to discuss the makeup exam.

Homework

There are five homework assignments in the course for a total of 100 points. The details of each homework assignment can be found on Moodle, and each assignment will be turned in via Moodle. 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, if at all possible, 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 25 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 in order to receive one point towards your participation grade. Students who missed class due to illness may send me an email with their excuse along with a comment on that day's topic or reading. These should be sent to me within 48 hours of the missed class.

Short Paper

A four to five page paper (worth 60 points) focusing on the passage of the Affordable Care Act is required. The paper should be double spaced, with one inch margins and Times New Roman font. You will watch a video documenting the behind scenes work on the legislation and read several news articles about the ACA. The paper will address how the Obama Administration brought opposing coalitions together to craft a piece of legislation that they could all live with. In addition, you will decide whether or not you think the advocacy coalition framework or punctuated equilibrium theory best explains the successful passage of the bill. The due date for the paper is Sunday, November 27th by 11:59pm.

Grading Scale

483-500 A+	433-447 B+	383-397 C+	333-347 D+	297 and below F
463-482 A	413-432 B	368-382 C	318-332 D	
448-462 A-	398-412 B-	348-367 C-	298-317 D-	

August 23: Video Course Introduction (no in person class)

August 25: What is public policy? Why is it needed?

August 30: Who are the actors in public policy making?

September 1: Agenda Setting

September 6: Agenda Setting

September 8: Formulation

September 13: Legitimation

September 15: Implementation

September 20: Implementation

September 22: Evaluation

September 27: Evaluation

September 29: School Based Medicaid

October 4: School Based Medicaid

October 6: Review for Exam One

October 11: Exam One

October 18: Advocacy Coalition Framework

October 20: Advocacy Coalition Framework

October 25: Punctuated Equilibrium

October 27: Punctuated Equilibrium

November 1: Punctuated Equilibrium

November 3: Punctuated Equilibrium

November 8: Louisiana and the Unanimous Jury Project

November 10: Louisiana and the Unanimous Jury Project

November 15: Policy Topic Chosen by Class

November 17: Policy Topic Chosen by Class

November 22: Video

November 29: Policy Topic Chosen by Class

December 1: Review for Exam Two

December 5: Final Exam 3:00 to 5:00