

Introduction to Public Policymaking MWF 8:30-9:20 AM

Instructor: Dr. Kim Nguyen
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Office Hours: By appointment only
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Course Description and Objectives:

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of American public policymaking. We will examine the process behind the crafting of legislation, primarily at the national level. By examining the individual steps--from identifying a problem, to agenda setting, to evaluation, revision, or termination of a policy--students are able to see how different factors influence the creation of policy. The course has two related objectives. First, it aims to help students understand how and why government and citizens make the policy decisions that can affect, positively or negatively, their own lives. Second, while we both know something about policy areas that are of interest to us, learning the *tools* one uses to understand and analyze policy is the important objective of a student and analyst of public policy. Note that this course is not a survey of current events, although some sense of current events is useful to any student of public policy.

Required/Recommended Readings:

1. James E. Anderson. *Public Policymaking, 8th Edition* (Cengage Learning, 2015; Publication Date: January 1, 2014; ISBN-10: 1285735285; ISBN-13: 978-1285735283).
2. Additional course readings throughout the semester which are provided as handouts may be used to complement the lectures and your textbook.
3. Current events make up an important component of this course and are valuable supplements to the materials covered in the lectures and in your textbook. Hence, students are highly recommended to stay informed about the current major (American national government) events making news. This can be done through several mediums:
 - Accessing the websites of major media organizations, such as CNN (cnn.com), New York Times (nytimes.com), The Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), Fox News (foxnews.com), USA Today (www.usatoday.com), etc.
 - Watching the news on television or listening to the news on the radio
 - Reading national and/or local newspapers

Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis, in a timely manner, for the duration of the class, and without disruption to other students. Those students who do not adhere to these attendance rules will notice that their final grade will reflect failure to follow attendance etiquette. In addition, during class, students are expected to turn off their electronic devices, such as laptops, tablets, and cell phones (cell phones can be put in vibrating/silent mode).

In the event of an absence, it is the responsibility of the student to identify assignments and collect lecture notes. If you have missed a class, please find a classmate willing to share his/her notes and confirm directly with me, via e-mail, any assignments you might have missed.

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and prepared for a discussion of the relevant topic(s). Students are also encouraged to ask any questions about the readings or current events.

In accordance with the philosophy of an institution for higher learning, our classroom will be a place where people can feel comfortable expressing diverse opinions without fear of ridicule or

intimidation. Thus, it is expected that students will remain respectful of others, regardless of whether or not they share similar opinions and beliefs.

Grading:

Exam #1 (tentatively Friday, February 7)	40
Exam #2 (tentatively Wednesday, February 26)	40
Exam #3 (tentatively Friday, March 21)	40
Exam #4 (tentatively Wednesday, April 9)	40
Final Exam (Thursday, May 8, 5:30-7:30 PM)	40

Note: The lowest grade exam will be dropped and not counted toward your final grade.

Total for final grade	160 points
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Grading Scale

A:	90% and above
B:	80% – 89.9%
C:	70% – 79.9%
D:	60% – 69.9%
F:	Less than 60%

Exams:

The exams will consist of short/long answer questions and will cover materials from both the lectures and readings. All five exams are NOT cumulative.

Because each student is allowed to drop one exam, there will be no exam make-ups - NO EXCEPTIONS.

Course Drops:

We will follow the University's drop deadlines/procedures. The last day to drop the course without receiving a grade of "W" is **Friday, January 24, 2014**, and the final day to drop the course with a grade of "W" is **Friday April 4, 2014**. Students must initiate the drop procedure. Simply failing to attend and to take the examinations does NOT constitute a drop; those students who fail to drop officially are likely to receive a grade of "F" for the course.

Academic Honesty:

The work done in this course is expected to be solely the effort of each individual student. Plagiarism (copying the work of another without giving proper credit) and cheating will not be tolerated. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the course (regardless of prior class achievement) and will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Topics and Tentative Schedule of Readings:

January 15 (W)	Introduction to course
January 17 (F)	Economic Policy
January 20 (M)	NO CLASS Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
January 22 (W)	Economic Policy (continued)
January 24 (F), 27 (M)	Environmental Policy
January 29-31 (WF)	Health Policy
February 3-5 (MW)	Foreign Policy
February 7 (F)	Exam #1 (covers Economic, Environmental, Health, and Foreign Policies)
February 10-14 (MWF)	What Is Public Policy: Definition, Categories, Study Anderson, Chapter 1
February 17-21 (MWF)	Policy-Makers and Their Environment Anderson, Chapter 2
February 24 (M)	Policy-Makers and Their Environment (continued)
February 26 (W)	Exam #2 (covers What Is Public Policy to Policy-Makers)
February 28 (F)	Policy Formation: Problems, Agendas, and Formulation Anderson, Chapter 3
March 3-5 (MW)	NO CLASS Mardi Gras Holiday
March 7 (F), 10 (M)	Policy Formation: Problems, Agendas, and Formulation (continued)
March 12-14 (WF), 17-19 (MW)	Policy Adoption Anderson, Chapter 4
March 21 (F)	Exam #3 (covers Policy Formation to Policy Adoption)
March 24-28 (MWF)	Budgeting and Public Policy Anderson, Chapter 5
March 31 (M)	Policy Implementation Anderson, Chapter 6
April 2-4 (WF), 7 (M)	Policy Implementation (continued)
April 9 (W)	Exam #4 (covers Budgeting and Public Policy to Policy Implementation)
April 14-18 (MWF)	NO CLASS Spring Break
April 21-25 (MWF), 28 (M)	Policy Impact, Evaluation, and Change Anderson, Chapter 7
April 30 (W), May 2 (F)	Reflections & Observations on Policymaking Anderson, Chapter 8
May 8 (Th)	Final Exam, 5:30-7:30 PM (covers Policy Impact, Evaluation, and Change to Reflections & Observations on Policymaking)