POLI 2070: Introduction to Public Policymaking
Section 02, Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:30-2:20/ Coates 218
Fall 2013

Instructor: Leah Voisin
Contact Information: lvoisi1@tigers.lsu.edu
Office Hours: Stubbs 233, MWF 3-5

Course Description:
This course is designed as an introduction to the study of public policymaking. Understanding the different aspects of policymaking as well as different areas of policy is important in both the academic as well as the non-academic spheres. What will be learned in this course can prepare students for continued academic pursuit within the realm of political science, and it can also assists students in becoming more informed citizens—citizens who understand more about the political processes governing theirs and who are more likely to successfully participate in that process.

As can be seen below by the calendar, this course will address an understanding of what public policy encompasses, how it is made, changed and implemented, the impact of policy and how to evaluate this impact, and a detailed examination of each of the major areas of public policy. This information will allow the student to better examine current policy issues and ultimately the student will be asked to investigate a major policy area.

Textbook and Required Reading:

This text is available through the university bookstores as well as online. It is a required text and each student must acquire a copy. Additional required readings will be given as an assignment in class at least the class before it is required. They will be announced in class and an email and posting on myLSU will follow. Do not ignore additional required readings. The information will be included on examinations.

Course Requirements:
Grades are based on the following breakdown:

Exams: Exams will be given as detailed in the in the syllabus schedule. The material covered in these exams will include material from class lectures, discussions, and additional readings (even if these readings are not discussed in class). The parameters for each will be discussed in class a week before the exam is administered. The format of the
exams will include multiple choice style questions as well as short answer questions (about 70-75% multiple choice and the remainder short answer). This format should be considered when studying for these exams. Make-up exams will only be given with instructor approval on the last day of class.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be given during their designated time, as is detailed in the syllabus schedule. The material covered in this exam will include material from class lectures, discussions, and readings as in the two exams during the semester, but it will have cumulative elements unlike the previous exams. Basic information discussed throughout the semester will most likely make an appearance on the final exam. Difficulty in understanding the information in the earlier exams should be addressed promptly. As with previous exams, the parameters will be discussed in class a week before the exam is administered. As with previous exams, the format of the exams may include multiple choice style questions as well as essay and short answer questions. No make-ups will be given for the final unless authorized by the dean. Otherwise, a missed exam will be counted as a zero toward the final grade.

**Research Assignment:** This paper will be approximately 7 to 10 pages in length before the references list. Papers should be written in a consistent style and must be coherent, well-organized, grammatically correct, and cited. Topics will be approved by the instructor and to avoid excessive repetition, topics can be declined. If a student has a passion for anything in particular, he or she should claim the topic early. Any further instruction concerning the parameters of the assignment will be addressed in an additional handout. This assignment is designed to allow the students to more thoroughly investigate a policy area as well as to critically exam current trends within this policy area. To prepare for this assignment, students should be attentive to interesting news and should also participate and note any class discussion that might relate to their chosen topic. Please note that additional research will be required to complete the assignment. Do not rely solely on class discussion. Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade per day (not class period) late.

**Grading Scale:**
- A: 90%-100%
- B: 80%-89.9%
- C: 70%-79.9%
- D: 60%-69.9%
- F: 0-59.9%

**Policies:**
It is important for the members of the class to understand the following policies:

**Attendance:** Attendance is important for the following reasons: participation is useful for understanding and applying this understanding, and class discussions may make appearances on examinations. It is not the instructor’s responsibility to provide notes or outside explanation to students who are not regularly attending class. Reading the assigned chapters and articles is also important. Class time provides opportunities to clarify any confusion. It also provides time to bring up current issues within the policymaking realm. For all these reasons, attend class regularly and prepared to discuss the topic at hand.
**Office Hours:** Because of other duties that I may have within the department, I am generally in my office at some point most weekdays (except Tuesday). If you have any questions, please feel free to visit during my office hours or if you can catch me between hours in my office, but note that if another student has arrived before you, please be patient. I am also available through email. If you choose to contact me through email, please allow at least a day for a response before attempting to contact me again.

**Changes to the Syllabus:** I reserve the right to change the syllabus anytime during the semester. This includes the assignment schedule as well as any requirements or policies. (For example, if I feel that participation is lacking or attendance is not at an appropriate level, I could decide to include quizzes as part of the grade calculation.)

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated in any form. Those students found to be in violation of the LSU Student Code of Conduct will be reported and from this point, the situation will no longer be in my hands. Failing grades as well as probation and other punitive measures can be assigned to students found guilty of plagiarism. Ignorance of policy is not an excuse for non-compliance. The LSU Code of Conduct is available online. Academic dishonesty includes working as a group when such group work is not authorized. As a personal note, an earned C or D is better than an F.

**Cell Phones and Personal Computers:** Cell phones must be turned on silent or off. If vibrating cell phones become distracting, you will be asked to turn them completely off. Personal computers should be used to take notes. They should not be used for any other purpose unless it is improved by the instructor. If I find them distracting to either you or those around you, I will ask you to turn in typed notes as a quiz grade.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who are working with the Office of Disabilities Services will be accommodated to the best of my abilities. Please inform me of needs as soon as possible.

### Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>General Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment and Other Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td>Review Syllabus and Discuss Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>What Is Public Policy?</td>
<td>*Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>Structure of Policymaking</td>
<td>*Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.  2</td>
<td>No Class</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.  4</td>
<td>Explaining Policy Choices</td>
<td>*Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.  6</td>
<td>Summarize and Expand***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.  9</td>
<td>Agenda Setting</td>
<td>*Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.11</td>
<td>Agenda Setting</td>
<td>*Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Legitimating Policy Choices</td>
<td>*Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Organizations and Implementation</td>
<td>*Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Organizations and Implementation</td>
<td>*Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>Wrap up and Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Budgeting</td>
<td>*Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Budgeting</td>
<td>*Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Evaluation and Policy Change</td>
<td>*Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Summarize and Expand***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Economic Policy</td>
<td>*Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Economic Policy</td>
<td>*Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>Tax Policy</td>
<td>*Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Tax Policy</td>
<td>*Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>Health Care Policy</td>
<td>*Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Health Care Policy</td>
<td>*Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Summarize and Expand***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Library and Research Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Wrap up and Review/ Discuss Ideas for Research Assignments</td>
<td>Research Topic Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Income Maintenance</td>
<td>*Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Income Maintenance</td>
<td>*Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Education Policy</td>
<td>*Chapter 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Education Policy</td>
<td>*Chapter 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Energy and the Environment</td>
<td>*Chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Energy and the Environment</td>
<td>*Chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Protective Policies</td>
<td>*Chapter 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Protective Policies</td>
<td>*Chapter 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Culture Wars</td>
<td>*Chapter 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>Culture Wars</td>
<td>*Chapter 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Summarize and Expand***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Film or Discussion/Review Day</td>
<td>Research Assignments Due**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Policy Analysis</td>
<td>*Chapter 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Wrap up and Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Make-Up Exams</td>
<td>Make-Up Exams (No Class Otherwise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam 3:00-5:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


** Please note: ** Print copies as well as electronic copies must be submitted. Print copies will be collected in class. Electronic copies must be emailed by the end of the day and they must match the print copy submitted.

***Article Discussion Days: ** Articles will be assigned that address the topics from the previous section. The class will discuss the contents in a guided seminar style. The material discussed in class will be included on the exams.