Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the public policymaking process. The course introduces students to the fundamentals of policymaking, examines the nature of public policy, explores components of the public policymaking process, the structure and processes of the policymaking system, and policy analysis. The course also introduces policy specific studies examining a range of American public policy issues in depth, exploring historical context, political influences, and the current state of policy.

Required Text:


Student Evaluation and Policies:

Grades for the course are based on a student’s class participation, paper, and performance on three exams. Letter grades are determined on the following scale:

- **A** 90% - 100%
- **B** 80% - 89%
- **C** 70% - 79%
- **D** 60% - 69%
- **F** 0 - 59%

**Exams**

Two exams and one final consisting of 100 points each will be given. The final exam will focus on the last section of material covered; however, material covered earlier in the semester may be drawn upon as well. Please note that any readings not covered in class will still be on the exams. It is the student’s responsibility to complete all readings and be prepared to answer any questions about them on the exams.

On exam days, please bring a scantron form and a pencil to class. Scantrons are available for purchase in the bookstore.

Students are expected to show up on time for exams. Students who are late for exams will earn a 0 and will not be given the opportunity for a make-up exam.

Makeup exams are only provided for students who can produce a valid written excuse (serious illness, family crisis, etc.). For problems that can be anticipated, students must let me know in advance of the problem. For problems that crop up at the last minute, students should contact me as soon as is reasonably possible. *Students who do not meet these conditions will earn a 0 on the exam.* Note that it is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with me about makeup exams.
For students who have special needs or who require accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation. For accommodations involving the exams, please contact me about the necessary arrangements well in advance of the testing date.

The Final Exam schedule is posted on the University Registrar website. Students who have more than two exams scheduled for the same day may request – through their college – that an examination be rescheduled. According to published University Registrar guidelines any such requests must be made prior to 4:30 on Thursday, March 28th. Requests made after this date will NOT be considered.

Paper
There is an 8-10 page (double spaced, one inch margin, 12 point Times New Roman) paper due. The paper will consist of a critique of one of the policy issues covered in class. The bibliography (not counted in the page total) must consist of at least five sources. Web based sources are limited to TWO. In addition, THREE of your non-web based sources must be readings from outside the course. The paper is worth 100 points. The paper is due in class APRIL 16. No late papers will be accepted.

Class Participation
Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. I reserve the right to offer pop quizzes at any time during the semester.

Classroom Policy
Please be considerate of those around you who are trying to listen and take notes. Keep in mind that class will begin promptly at 6:00pm. Please be on time and seated prior to the beginning of class each day and leave early only for emergencies. Most importantly, do not talk during class. Use of cell phones is prohibited during class – turn off all cell phones prior to the beginning of class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave immediately.
Course Schedule:

January 15  Introduction to Course

January 22  Policy and Visions of Governance / Understanding Public Policy
            Chapter 1
            The Structure of Policymaking
            Chapter 2

January 29  Explaining Policy Choices/Agenda Setting
            Chapter 3
            Policy Formulation & Adoption
            Chapter 4

February 5  Policy Implementation
            Chapter 6
            Policy Evaluation
            Chapter 8

February 12 MARDI GRAS

February 19 EXAM 1

February 26 Legitimating Policy Choices
            Chapter 5

March 5    Budgeting
            Chapter 7

March 12   Economic Policy
            Chapter 9
            Tax Policy
            Chapter 10

March 19   Health Care Policy
            Chapter 11
            GUEST SPEAKER: Secretary Bruce Greenstein, DHH
March 26  EXAM 2

April 2  SPRING BREAK

April 9  Income Maintenance
         Chapter 12
         Education Policy
         Chapter 13

April 16  Energy & Environmental Policy
          Chapter 14
          PAPER DUE- IN CLASS- NO EXCEPTIONS

April 23  Protective Policies
          Chapter 15

April 30  Culture Wars
          Chapter 16

May 7    FINAL EXAM
          8:00pm – 10:00pm