POLITICAL SCIENCE 2070
PUBLIC POLICY MAKING: AN INTRODUCTION
Fall 2009

Dr. Renée L.A. Renegar
POLI 2070, Section 1
MW 4:30 – 6:00
218 Coates

Office Hours:
MW 1:00 – 1:30 or by appointment
114 David Boyd Hall
Telephone: 578-1128
Email: reneg1@lsu.edu

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 Texts:

Two texts are required for this course:


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. Makeups are generally scheduled for the Friday following the date of the missed exam.
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 Friday, November 6. 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 seven 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 November 23. No late papers will be accepted.

Class Participation
Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Class participation will be assessed by performance on daily quizzes and participation in class discussions. Up to 30 points can be earned for class participation.

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 4:40. 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.

Extra Credit - Voter Registration
Students may earn two (2) points added to their final, raw score. Proof of registration is due November 30. Register to vote and submit a copy of your voter registration card. (This copy will be returned to protect your privacy.) Students who are already registered to vote need only submit their current copy of their registration card.
Course Schedule:

August 24  Introduction to Course
August 26  Policy and Visions of Governance
August 31  Understanding Public Policy
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 1*
September 2  The Structure of Policymaking
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 2*
September 7  **Labor Day Holiday**
September 9  **Class Canceled**
September 14  Agenda Setting
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 3, pgs. 47-61*
September 16  Policy Formulation & Adoption
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 3, pgs. 62-74*
September 21  Policy Implementation
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 5*
September 23  Policy Evaluation
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 7*
September 28  Legitimation
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 4*
September 30  **Exam 1**
October 5   Budgeting I
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 6, pgs. 123-135*
            *Issues for Debate, The National Debt*
October 7   Budgeting II
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 6, pgs. 136-161*
October 12  Economic Policy I
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 8, pgs. 185-198*
            *Issues for Debate, Financial Bailout*
October 14  Economic Policy II
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 8, pgs. 198-215*
            *Issues for Debate, Public-Works Projects*
October 19  Tax Policy
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 9*
            *Issues for Debate, Stimulating the Economy*
October 21  Income Maintenance
            *American Public Policy, Chapter 11*
            *Issues for Debate, Straining the Safety Net*
October 26
Culture Wars I
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 15
*Issues for Debate*, Abortion Showdowns

October 28
Culture Wars II
*Issues for Debate*, Gay Marriage Showdowns
*Issues for Debate*, Gun Rights Debates

November 2
EXAM 2

November 4
Education Policy I
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 12, pgs. 319-334
*Issues for Debate*, No Child Left Behind

November 9
Education Policy II
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 12, pgs. 334-349
*Issues for Debate*, Student Aid

November 11
Health Care Policy I
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 10, pgs. 241-265
*Issues for Debate*, Rising Health Costs

November 16
Health Care Policy II
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 10, pgs. 265-280
*Issues for Debate*, Universal Coverage

November 18
Energy & Environmental Policy I
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 13, pgs. 350-363
*Issues for Debate*, Oil Jitters

November 23
Energy & Environmental Policy II
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 13, pgs. 363-381
*Issues for Debate*, Energy & Climate
PAPER DUE – NO EXCEPTIONS

November 25
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 30
Protective Policy I: Defense
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 14, pgs. 382-403
*Issues for Debate*, Homeland Security

December 2
Protective Policy II: Law Enforcement
*American Public Policy*, Chapter 14, pgs. 403-414
*Issues for Debate*, Wrongful Convictions

December 9
FINAL EXAM
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.
IN THIS ROOM