Introduction to Public Policy

Political Science 2070-1
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Tues, Thurs 10:40-12:00
211 Tureaud
Office Hrs: by appointment or
Monday 9:30-11:30
Wednesday 2:00-3:00

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to public policy by examining 1) what is public policy 2) how markets and government policy interact and 3) how we determine if we need a particular policy and if a policy solution works.

Course Requirements

You are expected to come to class prepared to participate in the discussion of the day’s reading assignment. The textbook for the course is Introduction to Public Policy by Charles Wheelan. All students must abide by the Student Academic Honor Code. Cheating will not be tolerated. All electronic devices (cell phones, ipads, laptops, etc) must be placed inside a zipped backpack during exams. Failure to place electronic devices inside a zipped backpack will be considered cheating.

Exams

There are three exams in the course. Each exam is worth 120 points and will consist of 40 multiple choice questions (2 points each) and four short answer questions (10 points each). Exams are not cumulative. If you miss an exam, you may take the makeup exam the day of the final exam (immediately following the final exam). Makeup exams consist of two essay questions worth 60 pts each. You will need a scantron for each exam.

Quizzes

There will be 10 pop quizzes or assignments scattered throughout the course. Each quiz or assignment is worth 15 points. Only 8 quizzes/assignments will count towards your grade so if you take all 10, I will count the best 8 of the 10 grades. Quizzes may consist of information from the previous class lecture or the assigned reading. THERE ARE NO MAKEUPS ON QUIZZES/ASSIGNMENTS. There are no exceptions to this rule. Quizzes must be turned in the day the quiz is given. Assignments must be turned in during class on the day they are due.

Presidential Candidates’ Policy Stances

A 2 page single spaced paper (using Times New Roman 12 point font with one inch margins) will be due on October 27th. You may choose any Republican presidential candidate and any of
their policy stances on the following topics: job creation, health care, tax policy, fiscal responsibility, and foreign affairs. You must contrast their stance with that of President Obama in terms of 1) why government should or should not be involved in this policy arena and 2) whether or not Obama’s policies have been a success or failure in this particular policy area. This paper is worth 20 pts.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Assignments</th>
<th>Exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450-500</td>
<td>A 108-120</td>
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<tr>
<td>400-449</td>
<td>B 96-120</td>
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<tr>
<td>350-399</td>
<td>C 84-120</td>
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<tr>
<td>300-349</td>
<td>D 72-120</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-299</td>
<td>F 0-71</td>
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**Bonus Points**

Each of you starts the semester with 5 bonus points that are yours to lose. You lose them by emailing me and asking me a question the answer to which can readily be found on this syllabus or on LSU’s website.

**Reading Schedule**

- **August 23rd**: Introduction to Class
- **August 25th**: Chapter 1: Public Decision Making
- **August 30th**: Chapter 2: What Is It So Hard to Make the World A Better Place?
- **September 1st**: Chapter 3: Understanding Rational Man and Woman
- **September 6th**: Chapter 4: Understanding Group Behavior: Collective Action
- **September 8th**: Chapter 5: Evaluating Social Welfare
- **September 13th**: Chapter 5: Evaluating Social Welfare and Social Security (moodle reading)
- **September 15th**: Catch Up and Review
- **September 20th**: Exam One
- **September 22nd**: Chapter 6: The Political Process
- **September 27th**: Chapter 7: The Market System
- **September 29th**: Chapter 8: The Role of Government
October 4th  Chapter 8: The Role of Government
October 6th  Chapter 9: Gathering and Measuring Information
October 11th  Chapter 9: Gathering and Measuring Information
October 18th  Chapter 10: Basic Data Analysis
October 20th  Chapter 10: Basic Data Analysis
October 25th  Exam Two
October 27th  Chapter 11: Introduction to Regression Analysis/Paper Due
November 1st  Chapter 11: Introduction to Regression Analysis
November 3rd  Chapter 12: Cost-Benefit Analysis
November 8th  Chapter 12: Cost-Benefit Analysis
November 10th  Chapter 13: Program Evaluation
November 15th  Chapter 13: Program Evaluation
November 17th  Chapter 14: The Role of Institutions
November 22nd  Chapter 14: The Role of Institutions
November 29th  Chapter 15: Policy Design
December 1st  Review and Catch Up
December 7th  Exam Three (10-12) and Makeup Exams