POLITICAL SCIENCE 2070  
PUBLIC POLICY MAKING: AN INTRODUCTION  
Fall 2012

Dr. Renée L.A. Renegar  
POLI 2070, Section 1  
MWF 1:30 – 2:20  
213 Tureaud

Office Hours:  
Tuesday 12:30 – 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 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. 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 2. 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 NOVEMBER 16. 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 15 pop quizzes and participation in class discussions. Up to 40 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 1:30. 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 December 3. 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 20  Introduction to Course/
            Policy and Visions of Governance

August 22  Policy and Visions of Governance /
            Understanding Public Policy
            Chapter 1

August 24  Understanding Public Policy
            Chapter 1

August 27  The Structure of Policymaking
            Chapter 2

August 29  The Structure of Policymaking
            Chapter 2

August 31  Explaining Policy Choices
            Chapter 3

September 3 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

September 5 Explaining Policy Choices/
            Agenda Setting
            Chapter 3 & Chapter 4, pages 63-78

September 7 Policy Formulation & Adoption
            Chapter 4, pages 78-91

September 10 Policy Implementation
             Chapter 6

September 12 Policy Implementation
             Chapter 6

September 14 Policy Evaluation
            Chapter 8

September 17 Policy Evaluation/
            Legitimating Policy Choices
            Chapter 8 & Chapter 5

September 19 Legitimating Policy Choices
            Chapter 5

September 21 EXAM I

September 24 Budgeting
            Chapter 7

September 26 Budgeting
            Chapter 7

September 28 Budgeting
            Chapter 7
October 1  Economic Policy
          Chapter 9

October 3  Economic Policy
          Chapter 9

October 5  Economic Policy
          Chapter 9

October 8  Tax Policy
          Chapter 10

October 10  Tax Policy
           Chapter 10

October 12  Income Maintenance
          Chapter 12

October 15  Income Maintenance
           Chapter 12

October 17  Income Maintenance
           Chapter 12

October 19  FALL BREAK

October 22  Health Care Policy
           Chapter 11

October 24  Health Care Policy
           Chapter 11

October 26  Health Care Policy
           Chapter 11

October 29  EXAM II

October 31  Education Policy
           Chapter 13

November 2  Education Policy
           Chapter 13

November 5  Education Policy
           Chapter 13

November 7  Energy & Environmental Policy
           Chapter 14

November 9  Energy & Environmental Policy
           Chapter 14

November 12  Energy & Environmental Policy
           Chapter 14
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