Introduction to Public Policy

Political Science 2070-1
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Tues, Thurs 9:10-10:30
228 Tureaud
Office Hrs: by appointment
Monday 9:30-11:30
Thursday 2:00-3:00

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to public policy by examining 1) the actors who participate in making public policy and 2) how the structure of our government shapes the policies produced. After our discussion of how actors and governmental structures interact, we will expand your knowledge of policymaking to particular areas by examining major policy issues such as education, welfare, and health policy.

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 American Public Policy: Promise and Performance by B. Guy Peters, Eighth Edition. 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 twenty-five multiple choice questions (2 points each) and seven short answer questions (10 points each). If you miss an exam, you may take a makeup exam the first Tuesday after the regular exam at 7:30 am in my office. If you cannot take the makeup exam on that Tuesday at 7:30 am, I require a doctor’s note or obituary in order for you to schedule another time. Makeup exams consist of two essay questions worth 60 pts each.

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.

Interest Group Assignment
Each student will be assigned a particular policy topic (tax, economic, law enforcement, defense, welfare, social security, etc). A major interest group dealing with the particular topic must be identified. A one page paper (one inch margins, single spaced, times new roman font) answering the following questions must be turned in on the date the topic is discussed in class.

1) What is the mission of the interest group? Whom do they represent?
2) How does this group overcome the free rider problem?
3) What resources do they have/use to achieve their policy goals?
The answers to these questions must be in an essay format. In other words, the answers to the questions must be integrated into a single essay. This assignment is worth 20 pts.

**Bonus**
Each of you starts out with 5 bonus points. These 5 points are yours to lose. You lose these points by emailing me and asking me questions that are answered on the syllabus or that can answered using LSU’s website. Some examples are “Where is your office?” “When are your office hours?” etc.

**Readings Schedule and Topic Outline**

*Section One: What is public policy and how is it made?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24th</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 26th</td>
<td>What is public policy? Peters Chapters 1</td>
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<td>August 31st</td>
<td>Structure of policymaking Peters Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2nd</td>
<td>Explaining Policy Choices Peters Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7th</td>
<td>Explaining Policy Choices Peters Chapter 3</td>
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<td>September 9th</td>
<td>Behavioral Assumptions of Policy Tools</td>
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<td>September 14th</td>
<td>Agenda Setting Peters Chapter 4</td>
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<td>September 16th</td>
<td>Agenda Setting Peters Chapter 4</td>
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<td>September 21st</td>
<td>Legitimation Peters Chapter 5</td>
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<td>September 23rd</td>
<td><strong>Exam One</strong></td>
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<td>September 28th</td>
<td>Organizations and Implementation Peters Chapter 6</td>
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<td>September 30th</td>
<td>Budgeting Peters Chapter 7</td>
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October 5th Evaluation  
Peters Chapter 8

Section Two: Applications to Specific Policy Areas

October 7th Economic Policy  
Peters Chapter 9

October 12th Tax Policy  
Peters Chapter 10

October 14th Health Care  
Peters Chapter 11

October 19th Energy and the Environment  
Peters Chapter 14

October 26th Exam II

November 2nd Social Security  
Peters Chapter 12

November 4th Welfare  
Peters Chapter 12

November 9th Welfare/Education  
Peters Chapter 12 & 13

November 16th Education  
Peters Chapter 13

November 18th Defense and Law Enforcement  
Peters Chapter 15

November 23rd Culture Wars  
Peters Chapter 16

November 30th Policy Analysis  
Peters Chapter 17

December 1st Policy Analysis  
Peters Chapter 17

December 8th Exam III; 3:00