

Introduction to Public Policy (POLI 2070)

Tues/Thurs 9:00-10:30; E134 Howe Russell E
Dr. Belinda Creel Davis (davisbe@lsu.edu)
221 Stubbs Hall (578-2533)
Office Hrs: Thurs. 1-2:30 and by appt.

Course Description

This course is designed to teach you the basics of public policy making in the United States. You will learn about the various actors involved in the policy making process and explore various theoretical frameworks for explaining outcomes in policy making.

Course Requirements

You are expected to come to class prepared to participate in the discussion of the day's reading assignment. This means that you should read the day's assignment prior to class. A three hour course is associated with 9 total hours of work per week.

The textbook for this course is *Agendas and Instability in American Politics (2nd Edition)* by Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. In addition to the textbook, pdfs of readings and links to readings and videos can be located on the class Moodle page. All students must abide by the Student Academic Honor Code. Cheating will not be tolerated.

Because the public policy climate in the United States is constantly changing, newspaper articles and videos may be placed on the class Moodle page that are not listed on the syllabus. These articles and videos will be chosen to illustrate the contemporary nature of the day's readings. When these posting are added, you will receive email notification.

Exams

There are three exams in the course. Each exam is worth 120 points and will consist of forty multiple choice questions (2 points each) and four short questions (40 points). Exams are not cumulative. Make up exams may be taken in emergency situations (illness, death in the family, etc.). If an exam is missed, I should be notified within 24 hours of the exam's scheduled time in order to discuss the makeup exam.

Homework

There are five homework assignments in the course. Each assignment is worth 40 points. Homework due dates are marked on the course outline. Late assignments are docked 5 points a day. If a homework assignment is missed due to an emergency, I should be contacted within 24 hours to discuss a revised due date.

Participation

Participation in class discussion is required. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Your class participation grade is worth 40 points. There are 25 non-exam class days. On at least 20 occasions, you should turn in an index card to me at the end of class that includes your name and how you contributed to that day's class discussion. If you did not contribute, you should still turn in a card indicating your attendance in class that day. If you are placed in quarantine, you should send me an email letting me know the days you anticipate missing. You can turn in a virtual index card via the chat.

Grading Scale

579-600 A+	519-536 B+	559-476 C+	399-416 D+	356 and below F
555-578 A	495-518 B	435-458 C	381-398 D	
537-554 A-	477-494 B-	417-434 C-	357-380 D-	

Course Outline

August 24	Introduction to Course
August 26	Why do we need public policy?
August 31	Agenda Setting
September 2	Agenda Setting
September 7	Formulation/Legitimation
	HW #1 Due
September 9	Implementation
September 14	Implementation/Evaluation
September 16	Evaluation
September 21	Theories of Policy Making
September 23	Theories of Policy Making
September 28	Criminal Justice Reform in Louisiana
September 30	Catch Up and Review
	HW #2 Due
October 5	Exam One
October 7	Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter One)

October 12 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Two)

October 14 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Three)

October 19 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Four)

HW # 3 Due

October 21 Fall Holiday

October 26 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Five)

October 28 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Six)

November 2 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapters Six)

HW #4 Due

November 4 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Eight)

November 9 **Exam Two**

November 11 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Nine)

November 16 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Ten)

November 18 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Eleven)

HW #5 Due

November 23 Agendas and Instability in American Politics (Chapter Twelve)

November 25 Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30 Special Topic

December 2 Special Topic

December 6 Final Exam 3:00-5:00