**PSCI 2106: Public Policy Analysis**

**Syllabus**

Online

**Instructor:** Josalyn Williams

**Dr. Williams Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:00 AM- 11:00 AM, Friday 9:00 AM- 10:00 AM

**Course Description**

This course studies policymaking processes in American government, factors shaping public decision, and issues and questions relevant to political inquiry.

**Course Format**

This course meets completely online in an asynchronous format. This means we will have no scheduled meeting time. Rather there are weekly modules for you to work through. This includes a course materials list which includes weekly assigned readings, podcasts, and documentaries. Additionally, I will post a 2-4 micro lectures each week. Micro lectures will be 30 minutes or less and build on and clarify the course material. You are expected to complete all the posted course material each week. Finally, most weeks there will be an online discussion and weekly assessment to complete. Although readings will be posted earlier, all other weekly module material will be posted, at 9:00 AM MST on Monday each week. I will send out a weekly course emails by 5:00 PM MST each Monday going over the week’s work and expectations. Please also reference the syllabus for the work of each module.

**Course Grading**

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| **Course Component** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Midterm | *20%* |
| Final Exam | *20%* |
| Weekly Assessment | *20%* |
| Discussion Boards | *20%* |
| Writing Assignment 1 | *10%* |
| Writing Assignment 2 | *10%* |

**Exams…40%**

You will have 2 exams throughout this course. Each exam will be 1 hour long, on Canvas, and open note.

The exams are non-cumulative. This means that after you take an exam you will not be tested on the same material again throughout the course.

Each exam is worth **20%** percent of your final grade.

**Weekly Assessments (20%)**

You will be required to complete 12 weekly assessments in this course. There will not be weekly assessments in the first two weeks of class or on exam weeks.

Your 10 highest scores will count towards your final grade (your lowest grade will be dropped). Together your top 10 highest scores will account for 20% of your final grade

Each assessment will be a multiple-choice exam that is open note. You will have one opportunity to complete the assessment.

The assessments will be about the material covered in the week’s module.

**Discussion Boards (20%)**

In 9 of the week’s there will be discussion boards that you are required to participate in. You will be expected to write an original response post the discussion prompt that is approximately 8 sentences or 2 paragraphs long. You will also be expected to respond to 2 other people’s posts with responses that are approximately 4 sentences long or a paragraph.

There will be additional instructions unique to each discussion post assignment.

Your top highest 7 scores for discussion posts will count towards your Discussion Board grade which is 20% of your overall grade.

**Writing Assignments**

You will be required to complete two 3-page response papers in this class. Each response paper is worth 10% of your grade. The first response paper is due on 10/19/20. The second response paper is due on 11/25/20.

**Grading**

Grading will follow the traditional grading scale:

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| **Letter Grade** | **Points** |
| A | 94-100 |
| A- | 90-93.9 |
| B+ | 87-89.9 |
| B | 84-86.9 |
| B- | 80-84.9 |
| C+ | 77-79.9 |
| C | 74-76.9 |
| C- | 70-73.9 |
| D+ | 67-69.9 |
| D | 64-66.9 |
| D- | 60-63.9 |
| F | 0-59 |

If there is a dispute regarding the grade on an assignment or exam, the student is required to meet zoom meeting with me or. Due to university policies, I will not discuss grades via email. Additionally, you must wait 24 hours after receiving a grade to communicate with me.

**Course Policies**

**Course Communication**

Students are required to regularly check their @colorado.edu email (I recommend at least once a

day) for important announcements about the course. Students are responsible for receiving any

messages sent by the instructor to the class email list, or individually to the student. In addition,

students are responsible for checking the Canvas site for the course regularly.

**Contacting the Instructor**

Please feel free to contact me with questions about the course. The best ways to reach me are to

come by office hours or to email. I always try to answer emails within 24 hours during the work week, so if you do not receive a reply within 48 hours, I did not get your email and you should try to contact me again.

**Technology Issues**

We all know that technology breaks: computers crash, wifi stops working, servers go down, files

become corrupt, etc. In a technological world these problems are an annoying but everyday occurrence and are not legitimate excuses for missing or late work. Except in the case of extenuating

circumstances or prior approval, I will not accept any late assignments.

When submitting work to Canvas, assignments must be turned in as a PDF or Microsoft Word document. Papers turned in in other forms, including but not limited to Pages or GoogleDocs, will be considered late until they are turned in the accepted format.

**University Policies**

**Special Accommodations**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

**Religious Observances**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal

reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with

scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please review the syllabus

closely to see if you have conflicts with any of the assignments. By the third week of class please

inform me about your concerns either during office hours, via email, or after class.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

**Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/).

**Discrimination and Harassment**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

**Academic Integrity**

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

**Course Reading**

*Required Texts and Media Purchase Or Rent*.

1. Michael Kraft and Scott Furlong, Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives, 7th edition

Along with the readings from the required media, there will be some additional readings not found in the books. In the syllabus these readings will be signified with an asterisk. These readings can be found on Canvas.

Reading course materials is essential for a strong performance in this course. I expect you to complete the required readings, listen to any required podcasts, watch any required films or lecture videos.

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| **Week 1 Module: Monday, August 24 – Sunday, August 30**  *Public Policy and Politics* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 1 Public Policy Analysis and Politics\*  2. Read: Hardin: The Tragedy of the Commons\*  3. Watch: Making Public Policy More Fun\* ( https://youtu.be/wXYSsA5yVSY) |
| **Required Course Work**  None |

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| **Week 2 Module: Monday, August 31- Sunday, September 6**  *Understanding Public Policy* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 3 Understanding Public Policy  2. Read: Heikkila and Paul Cairnet: Comparison of Theories of the Policy Process\*  3. Listen: Appalachia Miners Lobby Congress For Black Lung Disability Trust Fund\*  <https://www.npr.org/2019/07/23/744574963/appalachia-miners-lobby-congress-for-black-lung-disability-trust-fund> |
| **Required Course Work**  None |

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| **Week 3 Module: Monday, September 7- Sunday, September 13**  *Political Actors: Federalism* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 2 Government Institutions and Policy Actors (pp. 34-48 (Stop readings at start of Separation of Powers section)  2. Read: Federalist 10 and Federalist 51\*  3. Read: Tiebout: A Pure Theory of Local Expenditure\*  4. Listen: Our American States: Contract Tracing, the CDC and the States\* |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion post instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST 09/13/20**  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 09/13/20** |

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| **Week 4 Module: Monday, September 14 -Sunday, September 20**  *Political Actors: Separation of Powers* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 2: Government Institutions and Policy Actors (pp. 48-58 (Start at Separation of Powers section-Stop at Informal Policy Actors and Policy Capacity Section))  2. Read: Binder: Can Congress Legislate for the Future?\*  3. Read: Cameron: The Presidential Veto\*  4. Watch: How Loving v. Virginina Led to Legalized Interracial Marriage\* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-qlS_J4Mho>) |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion post instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST 09/20/20**  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 09/20/20** |

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| **Week 5 Module: Monday, September 21- Sunday, September 27**  *Political Actors: Informal Policy Actors* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong Chapter 2: Government Institutions and Policy Actors (pp.58-68 (Start at Informal Policy Actors and Policy Capacity Section-Stop at Policy Subgovernments and Issue Networks))  2. Watch: 4 Videos in Section 1 Hope for the Future\*  (<https://www.communityconcernfilms.org/the-long-view-workshop-tools/2018/6/21/section-1>)  3. Read: Prokop. Politicians listen to rich people, not to you.\*  4. Read: Baumgartner et al: Chapter 1: Advocacy, Public Policy, and Policy Change\* |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion post instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST 09/27/20**  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 09/27/20** |

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| **Week 6 Module: Monday, September 28 -Sunday, October 4**  *Policy Actors: The Bureaucracy* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 2: Government Institutions and Policy Actors (pp. 68-end of chapter (Start at Policy Subgovernments and Issue Networks))  2. Read: Wilson: The Rise of the Bureaucratic State  3. Read: Wallach: Washington’s Marijuana Legalization Grows Knowledge, Not Just Pot: A Report on the State’s Strategy to Assess Reform |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Module Completion Discussion  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 10/11/20** |

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| **Week 7 Module: Monday, October 5 -Sunday October 11**  *Policy Analysis: Part 1* |
| **Course Material** |
| 1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 4: Policy Analysis, An Introduction (Read from Beginning of Chapter to End of Political Approaches Section)  2. Read Chapter 5: Rationality and Incrementalism |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion Post Instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST on 10/11/20** 2. |

***Writing Assignment 1 Due***

See canvas for prompt details

Due 10/11/20 on Canvas at 11:59 PM MST

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| **Week 8 Module: 10/12/20 - 10/18/20**  *Policy Analysis Part 2* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 4: Policy Analysis, An Introduction, Read from What Kind of Analysis is Needed to End of Chapter)  2. Additional Readings TBD |
| **Required Coursework**  *None* |

***Midterm Exam***

Open Note

1 Opportunity to Take

1 hour time limit

Available from 9:00 AM MST on 10/14/2020- 11:59 PM MST 10/18/2020

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| **Week 9 Module: 10/19/20 – 10/25/20**  *Public Problems and Policy Alternatives (Part 1)* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 5: Public Problems and Policy Alternatives (Read from Start of Chapter through the end of How to Find Information)  2. Additional Readings TBD |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion post instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST 10/25/20**  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 10/25/20** |

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| **Week 10 Module: Monday 10/26/20 – Sunday, 11/01/20**  *Public Problems and Policy Alternatives (Part 2)* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 5: Public Problems and Policy Alternatives (Read from start of Constructing Alternatives to end of Chapter)  2. Additional Readings TBD |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion post instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/01/20**  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/01/20** |

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| **Week 11 Module: Monday 11/2/20 – Sunday, 11/8/20**  *Assessing Policy Alternatives (Part 1)* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 6: Assessing Policy Alternatives (Read from start of Chapter through Economic Approaches Section)  2. Additional Readings TBD |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion post instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/8/20**  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/8/20** |

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| **Week 12 Module: Monday, November 8- Sunday, November 15**  *Assessing Policy Alternatives (Part 2)* |
| **Course Material**  1. Read: Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 6: Assessing Policy Alternatives (Read from Decision Making and Impacts to End of Chapter)  2. Additional Readings TBD |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion post instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/15/20**  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/15/20** |

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| **Week 13 Module: Monday, November 16- Sunday, November 22**  *Case Study Week: Topic TBD by Class* |
| **Course Material**  *To Be Determined* |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/22/20** |

***Writing Assignment 2 Due***

See canvas for prompt details

Due 11/25/20 on Canvas at 11:59 PM MST

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| **Week 14 Module: Monday, November 23- Sunday, November 29**  *Case Study Week: Topic TBD by Class* |
| **Course Material**  *To Be Determined* |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Group Discussion: Follow discussion post instructions **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/29/20**  2. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 11/29/20** |

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| **Week 15: Monday, November 30- Sunday, December 6**  *Case Study Week: Topic TBD by Class* |
| **Course Material**  *To Be Determined* |
| **Required Coursework**  1. Module Completion Assessment **DUE 11:59 PM MST 12/6/20** |

***Final Exam***

Open Note

1 Opportunity to Take

1 hour time limit

Available from 9:00 AM MST on 12/7/2020- 11:59 PM MST 12/9/2020

***I reserve the right to change the syllabus.***