

Political Science 2106: Introduction to Public Policy Analysis

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:00 to 10:50 p.m., Hellems 267

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Office: Ketchum 121A
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Or by appointment

Introduction

This course provides conceptual foundations that will help you understand American public policy. It covers both policy processes and policy analysis. Policy process theories help us understand how political institutions produce public policy. Policy analysis has to do with designing and assessing alternative public policies for dealing with perceived societal problems. The first half of the course focuses on understanding the policymaking process in the United States. The second half of the course focuses on policy analysis.

Monday and Wednesday classes will consist of lectures. Friday classes will be set aside for discussion of particular issues. I encourage you to ask questions during both lectures and discussions. An important component of the course is participation in discussions. To participate effectively you will need to complete the course readings and be prepared to offer informed opinions on the matter at hand.

This syllabus provides a decomposition of your course grade, the list of books you should purchase, and a tentative schedule specifying the dates by which you must complete readings and other assignments. The last two pages of this syllabus provide some guidance regarding accommodating disabilities, religious observances, classroom behavior, discrimination and harassment, the honor code, and academic honesty and plagiarism. You should read those pages carefully if you have questions on any of those matters.

You are responsible for knowing the information on this syllabus, which may change as the semester progresses. Please feel free to ask questions or make suggestions regarding course requirements at any time during the semester.

Basis for Assessment

Class participation (15 percent)

Half of this grade is based on attendance alone. The other half is based on your contribution to class discussions.

Midterm Examination (30 percent)

The midterm covers the first half of the course. It will take place on Wednesday, October 13.

Policy Memoranda (20 percent)

You must write a policy memorandum. It must be no more than 6 pages and must follow a strict format.

Final Examination (35 percent)

The final covers the entire course. The date of the final exam is to be determined.

***Late policy:** You lose one letter grade for every day an assignment is late.

Books for Purchase

Thomas A. Birkland, *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making* 2nd Ed. (Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharp, 2005).

Eugene Bardach, *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving* 3rd Ed. (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2008).

CQ Researcher. *Issues for Debate in American Public Policy*, 11th Edition. (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2010).

*** Note:** Additional readings will be available on CULearn.

Tentative Schedule and Due Dates

Week 1: Introduction

Monday, 8/23, Introduction

Wednesday, 8/25, Studying Public Policy

➤ Birkland, Chapter 1

Friday, 8/27, Issue: The Value of a College Education

➤ CQ, pp. 25-47

Part I: Introduction to the Policy Process

Week 2: Historical and Structural Context of Policy

Monday, 8/30

- Birkland, Chapter 2

Wednesday, 9/01

Friday, 9/03, Issue: Gays in the Military

- CQ, pp.101-123

Week 3: Official Actors

Monday, 9/06, Official Actors

- Birkland, Chapter 3

Wednesday, 9/08

Friday, 9/10, Issue: Afghanistan Dilemma

- CQ, pp. 351-373

Week 4: Unofficial Actors

Monday, 9/13

- Birkland, Chapter 4

Wednesday, 9/15

Friday, 9/17, Issue: Gun Rights Debates

- CQ, pp. 149-170

Week 5: Agenda Setting, Power, and Interest Groups

Monday, 9/20

- Birkland, Chapter 5

Wednesday, 9/22

Friday, 9/24, Issue: Health-Care Reform

- CQ, pp. 375-397

Week 6: Policy Types

Monday, 9/27

- Birkland, Chapter 6

Wednesday, 9/29

Friday, 10/01, Issue: Financial Bailout

- CQ, pp. 245-271

Week 7: Models of the Policy Process

Monday, 10/04

- Birkland, Chapter 9

Wednesday, 10/06

Friday, 10/08, Issue: Prisoner Reentry

- CQ, pp. 197-218

Week 8: Exam Week

Monday, 10/11, Catch-up

Wednesday, 10/13, Exam Review

**Friday, 10/15, Exam*

Part II: Introduction to Policy Analysis

Week 9: Policy Analysis

Monday, 10/18

- Bardach, Introduction (pp xv-xx); Appendix D (pp.145-151)

Wednesday, 10/20

Friday, 10/22, Discuss Exam

Week 10: The Eightfold Path

Monday, 10/25

- Bardach, Part I

Wednesday, 10/27

Friday, 10/29, Canadian Salmon Fisheries

- CULearn: Weimer & Vining, Chapter 1

Week 11: Assembling Evidence

Monday, 11/01

- Bardach, Part II & III

Wednesday, 11/03

Friday, 11/05, Issue: Climate Change

- CQ, pp. 75-98

Week 12: Prediction, Valuation, Recommendation

Monday, 11/08

Wednesday, 11/10

Friday, 11/12, Issue: Government and Religion

- CQ, pp.125-147

Week 13: Policy Implementation & Evaluation

Monday, 11/15

- Birkland, Chapter 8, but skip “Approaches to the Study of Implementation,” pp.182-189

Wednesday, 11/17

Friday, 11/19, Issue: Housing the Homeless

- CQ, pp. 173-194

Week 14: Thanksgiving

Monday-Friday, 11/22-11/26, Fall/Thanksgiving break

Week 15: Policy Analysis and the Policy Process

Monday, 11/29

- CULearn: Munger, “Experts and ‘Advocacy’: The Limits of Policy Analysis,” Chapter 5

Wednesday, 12/01

Friday, 12/03, Discussion

****Due, 12/03: Policy memorandum***

Week 16: Wrap-up and Review

Monday, 12/06

Wednesday, 12/08

Friday, 12/10, Issue: To Be Announced

Required Statements

1) **Accommodating Disabilities:** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices).

2) **Religious Observance:** Campus policy states that 'every effort' shall be made to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please take a look at our schedule for the semester and notify me of anticipated conflicts so there is adequate time to make necessary arrangements.

3) **Classroom Behavior:** Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

4) **Discrimination and Harassment:** The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

5) **Honor Code:** All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

6) **Academic Honesty & Plagiarism:** From the Office of Undergraduate Education: “The development of the Internet has provided students with historically unparalleled opportunities for conducting research swiftly and comprehensively. The availability of these materials does not, however, release the student from appropriately citing sources where appropriate; or applying standard rules associated with avoiding plagiarism. Specifically, the instructor will be expecting to review papers written by students drawing ideas and information from various sources (cited appropriately), presented generally in the student's words after careful analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. An assembly of huge blocks of other individuals' existing material, even when cited, does not constitute an appropriate representation of this expectation. Uncited, plagiarized material shall be treated as academically dishonest, and the paper will be assigned an 'F' as a result. If the student is confused as to what constitutes plagiarism, he/she should review the CU Honor Code on this topic, or see the instructor. Papers submitted by any student, written in part or in whole by someone other than that student, shall be considered to constitute fraud under the University Honor Code, and result in the assignment of an 'F' for the entire course.”