

PSCI 2106: Introduction to Public Policy Analysis

Spring 2019 • Tues/Thurs 11:00am – 12:15pm • Clare Small (CLRE) 207

Instructor: Roger Emmelhainz

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Office: Ketchum 125

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 1-2pm and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30am, or by appointment

Course Description:

The field of public policy is concerned with the ways in which collective action arrangements—from communities and non-governmental organizations to nation-states—act as instruments through which groups of people can make, implement, and enforce collective decisions that attempt to solve problems. It examines the nature of public policy problems (shared problems that arise when people live together in societies) and the diverse institutions and rules that governments and other actors can use to solve them. It treats public policy problems as the result of complex human systems and human-nature interactions. Most importantly, it is practical and problem-oriented, and holds that more humane, effective, and intelligent governance is possible through well-reasoned analysis of policy problems, institutions, and human behavior.

This course provides an overview of the study of public policy. The two goals of this course are to (1) broaden and deepen students' understandings of public policy problems as well as the processes, institutions, and rules that are employed to address them, and (2) to use case studies to develop students' understanding of several prominent policy topics, in different contexts and across different scales.

Course Texts:

There are two course texts available from the CU bookstore. Used copies or electronic versions of these texts should also be available online.

Michael Kraft and Scott Furlong, *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives*, 6th edition.

David Weimer and Aidan Vining, *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, 6th edition. (4th or 5th editions are also acceptable.)

There will also be additional required readings posted on D2L, which will be available to you as the course progresses.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Class Preparation: Lectures will focus on the readings assigned on the syllabus for that day. **I expect you to come to class having already completed the required reading.** In order to assess your preparation, we will have a brief clicker quiz at the beginning of

each class. You will receive 3 points for clicking in (the attendance component), and an additional point for getting the answer correct (the preparation component). Your final clicker grade will be curved as a proportion of the highest grade in the class. **Late arrivals will not have the opportunity to make up a missed clicker quiz.**

Term Paper: Students will be assigned to write one analytical essay (8 to 10 pages) on a specific policy proposal of their choosing. Topics must be approved by the instructor; you should submit your topic by email before 5pm on Friday, March 15th (failure to submit topic on time will result in a 1 letter grade penalty to the final paper grade). Your final paper will be due on D2L by 5pm on Friday, April 26th. Further details on the paper assignment, as well as techniques for writing policy analysis, will be provided in class. Late assignments shall be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor, and with an appropriate penalty (minimum of 1 letter grade per day).

Exams: This course will have two midterms (February 14th and March 19th) as well as a final exam (May 6th). Format information for these exams will be made available to you later in the course. All students must take all exams during their scheduled time slots, except as covered under university accommodations policies.

Breakdown of final grade components:

Clicker Points (attendance and preparation): 15%

First Exam: 20%

Second Exam: 20%

Term Paper: 25%.

Final Exam: 20%

Important Dates:

Friday, January 25th: notify me of any accommodations (disability, religious, athletic, etc.), on or before this date.

Thursday, February 14th: first exam (in class)

5pm Friday, March 15th: submit paper topic (by email)

Tuesday, March 19th: second exam (in class)

5pm Friday, April 26th: submit final paper (on D2L Dropbox)

4:30-7pm Monday, May 6th: final exam

Readings and Lecture Schedule

This schedule is provisional, and may be updated at any time throughout the course. The most current version of the schedule will always be available on the course D2L site. Primary course texts are abbreviated as: “KF” (Kraft and Furlong) and “WV” (Weimer and Vining).

Contemporary topical readings for the case studies will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Unit 1: What Is Public Policy Analysis?

Tuesday 1/15: Introduction

Thursday 1/17: What Is Policy Analysis?

Readings: *KF* chapter 1; *WV* chapters 2 and 3

Tuesday 1/22: Policy Actors

Readings: *KF* chapter 2

Thursday 1/24: Policy Instruments

Readings: *KF* chapter 3

Tuesday 1/29: Policy Problems and the Policy Process

Readings: *KF* chapter 5

Thursday 1/31: Methods for Policy Formation

Readings: *KF* chapter 6; *WV* chapter 16

Unit 2: Interpretive Approaches to Policy Analysis

Tuesday 2/5: Typology-based Approaches

Readings: Lowi, "Four Systems of Policy, Politics, and Choice" (D2L)

Optional: Ingram et al, "Social Construction and Policy Design" (D2L)

Thursday 2/7: The Political Economy Approach: Market Efficiency

Reading: *WV* chapter 4

Tuesday 2/12: The Political Economy Approach: Market Failures

Reading: *WV* chapter 5

Thursday 2/14: FIRST EXAM

Tuesday 2/19: The Political Economy Approach: Non-Market Considerations

Readings: *WV* chapters 6 and 7

Thursday 2/21: The Political Economy Approach: Government Failures

Readings: *WV* chapters 8 and 9

Tuesday 2/26: Rational, Quasi-rational, and Non-rational Approaches

Readings: Ostrom et al, "Institutional Analysis and Development" (D2L)

Graham et al, "Liberals and Conservatives Rely on Different Sets
of Moral Foundations" (D2L)

Stone, from *The Policy Paradox* (D2L)

Thursday 2/28: Behavioral Approaches

Readings TBD (D2L)

Unit 3: Case Studies in Public Policy

Tuesday 3/5: Economic and Budgetary Policy I
Reading: *KF* chapter 7

Thursday 3/7: Economic and Budgetary Policy II
Readings TBD (D2L)

Tuesday 3/12: Health Care Policy I
Reading: *KF* chapter 8

Thursday 3/14: Health Care Policy II
Readings TBD (D2L)

Tuesday 3/19: SECOND EXAM

Thursday 3/21: Welfare and Social Security I
Reading: *KF* chapter 9

Week of 3/25: NO CLASS (Fall Break)

Tuesday 4/2: Welfare and Social Security II
Readings TBD (D2L)

Thursday 4/4: Education Policy I
Reading: *KF* chapter 10

Tuesday 4/9: Education Policy II
Readings TBD (D2L)

Thursday 4/11: Foreign Policy and National Security I
Reading: *KF* chapter 12

Tuesday 4/16: Foreign Policy and National Security II
Readings TBD (D2L)

Thursday 4/18: CLASS CANCELLED (instructor out of town)

Tuesday 4/23: Environmental Policy
Reading: *KF* chapter 11

Thursday 4/25: Energy Policy
Readings TBD (D2L)

Tuesday 4/30: Natural Resource Governance

Readings TBD (D2L)

Thursday 5/2: Exam Review

Monday 5/6 (4:30-7pm): FINAL EXAM

University and course-specific policies:

Accommodation for Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner (**i.e., within the first two weeks of the semester**) 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 for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website: <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions>.

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/>).

Honor Code: 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); 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>.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation: 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_0PnqVK4kkIJZnf), 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.

Religious Holidays: 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. Students need to notify me of any such conflicts **within the first two weeks of the semester** in order for accommodations to be made. See the campus policy regarding religious observances (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams>) for full details.

Excused absences: Excused absences include absences due to religious observances and documented personal, family, or medical emergencies. Whenever possible, students should inform their instructor in advance of such absences in order to make necessary arrangements. Absences resulting from discretionary events (such as non-emergency health care, non-essential travel, etc.) cannot qualify as excused. The instructor reserves the right to distinguish excusable from non-excusable reasons for missing class or exams, or requiring an extension for written work. **If you can expect to miss more than 1/3 of class sessions** due to any combination of excused and/or unexcused absences, you are strongly encouraged to withdraw from the course.

Grading policies: Grade appeals must be submitted no earlier than 24 hours, and no later than 7 days, after receipt of the grade. Your concerns should be **presented in writing**, with detailed reasons explaining why you believe the grade is unfair or incorrect. Be advised that in all cases of grade appeals, the professor reserves the right to **raise, maintain, or lower** the grade upon review. Students dissatisfied with the result of an appeal to the professor may then appeal to the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Political Science, in accordance with the Department's grade appeals policy.

If instead you are merely seeking clarification of a grade or suggestions on how to improve your performance in the future (rather than appealing for a grade to be revised), **then the above policies do not apply**. Feel free to come to my office hours to discuss such things at any time.