

PUP 3002:0001 | INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY

Meeting Place: Bellamy - 0004 | **Meeting ☉:** MTWRF 9:30am-10:45am

Instructor: Matthew J. Uttermark | ✉: mju14@my.fsu.edu

Office: Bellamy - 550 | **Office Hours ☉:** M 11:00am-12:00pm

Introduction

We use the tools of the scientific method to study public policy. We will engage questions that explore cause and effect, and use falsifiable hypotheses and empirical data to test our theories. Students are introduced to the logic and theories of policy, introduced to methods for analyzing public policy, and to information on substantive policy areas. Public policy is studied through a political economy perspective; policy is analyzed through the use of simple game theory, quantitative analysis, and various models of individual and institutional actions. The first part the course is devoted to studying broad ideas about policy, including theories of policy making and fundamental analytic tools that are used to study policy. The latter portion of the course focuses on substantive policy issues (e.g. the environment, the economy, and crime), and involves application of some of the tools that are introduced in the first part of the course. We seek to study policy objectively rather than ideologically or normatively, and the tools that are used in the course are intended to assist with that goal. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- 1) Know the analytics used to study public policy.
- 2) Be able to demonstrate contemporary debates across a variety of policy topic areas.
- 3) Have the skills to leverage the scientific method to evaluate public policy.
- 4) Understand how individuals and institutions respond to various stimuli in policy making.

The overarching objective is to think about and discuss public policy objectively and analytically, focusing on evaluating the quality of information and assessing our beliefs about the state of reality in light of the quality of evidence available.

Required Text

Barrilleaux, Charles, Christopher Reenock, and Mark Souva. 2016. *Democratic Policymaking: An Analytic Approach*. 1st Edition. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.

Electronic copies of the textbook are available, and can be used in this class. This book is available for purchase in the campus bookstore, Amazon.com and Chegg.com, among other sites. In the reading schedule, this book is referred to as **DP**.

We will also have selected readings out of:

Wheelan, Charles J. 2011. *Introduction to Public Policy*. New York, NY: Norton & Company

Selections from this book are located under the 'Files' tab in Canvass. In the reading schedule, this book is referred to as **W**.

Other readings (book chapters, journal articles) will be made available on Canvas.

Evaluation and Grading[†]

A*	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

[†]Note: Grades within less than 0.5% of a higher letter grade will be rounded up.

Ex: If you have an 89.5% (B+), I will round your grade up to a 90% (A-).

* An A is the highest grade you can receive in the course.

Exams (60% total, 20% per each): We will have three exams throughout the course. Exam one is on **May 28th**, exam two is on **June 7th**, and exam three is on **June 20th**. Exams will predominately consist of multiple choice questions, but short answer questions may be included as well. Exams are **comprehensive**, but largely focus on material covered since the previous examination. **Please note that questions for the exam are based on from the readings, s well as non-reading material discussed in class.** Make up examinations will not be given unless specifically authorized by the instructor before the date of the examination. The instructor will only authorize make up exams in cases of university-excused absences.

Group Presentations (20%): Students will work in groups to present on one of six policy topic areas in front of the rest of the class. Presentations are meant to coincide with the topics covered in the latter section of the course. **A rubric is available on Canvas.** Students will be assigned to topics during the first week of class. Groups will select present on one sub-topic in each policy area:

- Economic Policy: Deficit; Income Inequality; Trade
- Environment: Pollution; Climate Change; Waste Management
- Health Policy: Access; Quality; Cost
- Education: Funding; Quality; Supply of Teachers
- Civil Rights: Identity; Free Speech; Right to Privacy
- Crime: Prevention; Supply/Quality of Prisons; Drug Policy

Email presentation slides to the instructor at least two days prior to presentation date. Presentations should be 40 minutes in length. Group presentations will begin at the start of class. Presentations should identify a problem in the policy, explore the history of the policy, and offer policy solutions. The county or unit of choice is up to the group (e.g. students may choose to present on a nation other than the US, or present on a state local-level policy concern).

Quizzes (20% total, or 4% per each): There will be six quizzes that will be randomly assigned over the class – **quizzes will not be announced ahead of time.** Quizzes will be given at the end of the class and will be based on the topic covered. **Quizzes are not cumulative.** Quizzes may also include items covered in group presentations. Quizzes will consist of at least two questions. **The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.** No make up quizzes will be given unless there is a university approved excused absence.

Class Policies

Makeup Work Except for the already discussed assignments above, no make-up work will be accepted in this course, unless the student has a university approved absence or the student has an agreement with the instructor. University approved absences include:

- A documented illness (or serious illness of a dependent child).
- A death in the family.
- Call to active military duty.
- Jury duty.
- A religious or work-restricted holy days.
- Official university activities (i.e. student athlete competing in a meet).

It is your responsibility to inform me and get documentation **before** the absence occurs. For example, if you are ill the day of an assignment, I require a signed note from a medical doctor dated the day of the exam. I will then work to determine how to make-up the assignment. Unless otherwise noted in the Evaluation and Grading section, late work receives a zero.

Incomplete Grades I do not expect to hand out a grade of “Incomplete” to any student in this course. However, a grade of “Incomplete” will only be given if there is an agreement between the instructor and the student prior to the end of the semester. The instructor reserves the right to determine a legitimate reason for assigning an incomplete grade.

Email Policy Please avoid emailing the instructor with questions that can be answered by reading the syllabus. The instructor will not reply to such emails. This document contains information on how your grade is calculated and what is covered each day in class. Additionally, if you wish to set up an appointment with the instructor outside of office hours, please provide a list of times to meet in the first email sent to the instructor.

Technology in the Classroom While technology has made our lives easier, the classroom is not the place to attempt to update Instagram. To facilitate learning, and to be respectful to other classmate’s learning, please refrain from using cell phones and media devices in the classroom. Keep phones on silent and go into the hallway if you must take a phone call.

I strongly encourage you to take notes the traditional way (pen and paper), however I do allow students to use laptops to take notes in the classroom. The first two rows of desks in the classroom are a laptop-free zone so that students who wish not to be distracted have a space to learn efficiently. Stay off social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, etc.) while in class.

If your behavior is a distraction to the class, I reserve the right to tell a student to put their electronic devices away for the remainder of the class. If the problem is habitual I reserve the right to reflect the student’s lack of decorum in their final grade.

Maintaining a Respectful Classroom Environment Florida State University is committed to providing and maintaining a respectful environment that is conducive to safe working, learning, and living for all members of the institutional community. It is expected that all students will respect each other in their personal interactions, inside and outside of the classroom. Acts of violence, threats of violence, derogatory comments, and behavior meant to intimidate others is prohibited.

I reserve the right to have a student escorted from the classroom for persistent violations of this policy and the students final grade will reflect their lack of decorum.

Plagiarism Any form of cheating will NOT be tolerated. If you are caught plagiarizing any written work you will receive an automatic zero on the assignment and will be reported to the university in accordance with FSU policy. The FSU History department defines plagiarism as “handing in a paper you did not write, attempting to pass of someone else’s work as your own, or using your own ideas, information, or phraseology of other writers without giving proper credit in your text.” Self-plagiarism, handing the same written assignment for multiple courses, is also prohibited. See the university honor code details below for more information.

FSU’s Academic Honor Code “The academic honor system of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility: (1) To uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student’s own work. (2) To refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) To foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community.”

I expect students to bring possible violations of the honor code to my attention as soon as possible, so that the violation may be resolved. Violations included, but are not limited to, plagiarism of work, assisting a student in obtaining unauthorized information for an assignment, project or test. A complete list of violations can be found in FSU Student Handbook. Violation of the Academic honor code lead, but is not limited to, a lower/failing grade on the assignment or a lower/failing grade in the course. The university may take additional measures including, formal reprimand, academic probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university.

For more information on FSU’s Honor Code, visit:

<http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm>

Americans with Disabilities Act Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation must (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), and (2) bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating that you need academic accommodations. This must be done within the first week of class. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact.

Student Disability Resource Center
847 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-6504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Course Schedule

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary over the course of the semester. Regularly check Canvas and your e-mail for updates on any changes.

Part I: Foundations of Public Policy

Week 1 - May 13th

Syllabus Day
DP - Introduction

May 14th

Public Policy as a Science
DP - Chapter 1

May 15th

Individuals & Collective Action DP - Chapter; W - pgs. 60-63

May 16th

Individuals & Collective Action

May 17th

Markets & Governments DP - Chapter 3; W - pgs. 275-281

Week 2 - May 20th

Markets & Governments W - pgs. 88-98

May 21st

Scientific Inquiry & Uncertainty
DP - Chapter 4; W - pgs. 304-306; 314-318

May 22nd

Scientific Inquiry & Uncertainty
W- pgs. 352-359

May 23rd

Bureaucracy & Policy Design **W** - Chapter 15

May 24th

Review Session

Week 3 - May 27th

MEMORIAL DAY - NO CLASS

May 28th

EXAM I

Part II: Topics in Public Policy

May 29th

The Economy & Income Security
DP - Chapter 5

May 30th

The Economy & Income Security
Presentation

May 31st

Environmental Policy
DP - Chapter 6

Week 4 - June 3rd

Environmental Policy
Presentation

June 4th

Health Policy
DP- Chapter 7

June 5th

Health Policy
Presentation

June 6th

Review Session

June 7th

EXAM II

Week 5 - June 10th

Crime Policy
DP - Chapter 9

June 11th

Crime Policy
Presentation

June 12th

Education Policy
DP - Chapter 8

June 13th

Education Policy
Presentation

June 14th

NO CLASS

Week 6 - June 17th

Civil Rights Policy
DP - Chapter 10

June 18th

Civil Rights Policy
Presentation

June 19th

Review Session

June 20th

EXAM III

June 21st

NO CLASS

Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.