

**Instructor:** Mikhail Ivonchyk, Ph.D. Candidate

**Office Hours:** 415 Baldwin Hall, Monday 10:00AM – 11.00AM

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## **PADP 4650 – Policy Process**

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:05 - 9:55 AM, Baldwin 322**

**FALL 2018**

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### **Course Description**

This course will introduce you to the process of public policymaking in the United States by considering the main theories and topics in public policy formulation, implementation, evaluation and analysis. You will learn about the main stages of the policy process, substantive issues in the main policy areas as well as key events that have shaped current policies in the United States.

### **Required Texts**

- “*American Public Policy: Promise and Performance*”, Guy Peters, 2016, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Additional reading will be disseminated via email or posted on eLC.

### **Course Requirements and Evaluation**

Your grade will be based on these components:

- 10% Class Attendance and Participation
- 20% Short Policy Memos (5% each)
- 20% Policy Paper
- 25% Midterm Exam
- 25% Final Exam

The plus/minus letter grading system (i.e. A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, F) is the official grading system approved by the Board of Regents and the only grading system approved for the University of Georgia. The assignment of letter grades in a course is the responsibility and at the sole discretion of the instructor.

No “extra credit” will be assigned in this course under any circumstances. The final grades may only be changed in the event of a clerical error (e.g., points summed incorrectly). In case of a grade dispute, a student must submit a one-page memo presenting evidence for their case and attach supplemental information as appropriate. The original assignment will be reviewed and re-graded. This review can create a grade increase but may also create a grade decrease based on the new

overall evaluation. A final grade of “Incomplete” will only be given in this course under extraordinary circumstances and is solely at the discretion of the instructor. Information pertaining to course grades cannot be discussed over the telephone or via email for privacy reasons.

### **General Expectations**

All students are expected to behave professionally in this class. This means attending class regularly, being on time, and participating in discussions. You are responsible for all material in the readings. You are responsible for all specific deadlines or dates posted on the syllabus. Assignments must be completed on time. You should come to class prepared to share your insights and raise questions based upon reading assignments. As an incentive, a portion of the course grade will be determined by my assessment of your preparation and contribution to the course.

As this is a class that necessarily requires discussions about politics, policies, government services, and democratic rights and participation, there will be views from across the political, economic, and social spectrums. It is essential that a courteous and encouraging environment be maintained. Please refrain from participating if you feel that you cannot do so respectfully. On the other hand, it is not expected that you will agree with everything that the instructor or your classmates say or believe. Therefore, you are encouraged to question, dispute, and challenge other views in a civil manner.

### **Attendance policy**

Ten percent of your grade will be based on class attendance and the quality of your participation in class. Students are expected to participate through asking questions and answering inquiries raised in class. Keep in mind that it may be difficult to participate without being physically present. Absenteeism will result in reduced final grade. To adequately prepare for class, all assigned readings should be completed by the dates indicated on the course schedule. Not all assigned readings may be discussed in class; nonetheless you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with them.

Students who are frequently late to class or who leave early should also expect to have their grade reduced. Any disruptive or disrespectful behavior will result in the individual being asked to leave the class, which will negatively affect student’s participation grade. Further, inappropriate behavior such as using cell phones, sleeping, or surfing the web during class will cause a deduction in your participation grade.

### **Short Policy Memos**

You will bring to four different course meetings a printed copy of a news article that describes a problem to which that week's readings apply. You will write four accompanying memos describing how the week’s readings help us better understand this news event. You get to pick the days that you will bring the summaries, but you may turn in only one memo per week. Two of the four memos must be submitted by the end of the first half of the semester (by Friday, September 28), and two memos by November 30. Thus, the first two memos should focus on the topics considered in the first half of the semester, and the other two on the topics considered in the second half of the semester. Each memo will constitute 5% of the semester grade.

## **Public Policy Paper**

Each student must submit a printed and an electronic copy of a public policy paper not later than by the end of the class on Friday, November 16, 2018. The paper will constitute 20% of the semester grade. For this assignment you will pick a substantive issue in one of the policy areas discussed in this course. The issue must be within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Federal Government or one of its agencies. In your paper, you should clearly define the substance of the problem, its significance and the existing arguments around it. Next, you should take a stance on the issue, describe a potential policy solution and make a case for it. You should develop a convincing argument based on evidence to support your choice. You will need to conduct your own research to provide reliable evidence. ***The topic of this paper with a brief overview of the issue, main contentions and a policy recommendation is due by September 30, 2018.*** Topic selection requires you only to identify an area appropriate for inquiry and susceptible to policy recommendation. A good paper will be well organized, concise, well researched and convincing.

This assignment has several objectives. It should help you increase your familiarity with a substantive issue in public policy and the debates that surround that issue. The second is to increase your familiarity with relevant sources of information, such as government reports, academic and professional journals. The third is to help you improve an important skill of writing a clear and convincing arguments supported by reliable evidence.

The policy paper should be no longer than 1,800 words in typed, double-spaced format with one-inch margins on each side using Times New Roman font size 12. Bibliography, title page and appendices do not count toward the word limit. Your grade will be penalized for grammatical or spelling errors. The papers turned in after the due date will lose one full letter grade for each day they are late.

## **Exams**

There are two exams in this course, a midterm in October and a final exam during the scheduled examination period at the end of the semester. Both exams will be in-class closed book tests. Both exams may consist of a mixture multiple choice, identification, short answer and/or essay questions. The final exam is not cumulative. There will be no make-up exams.

## **Computers, cellphones, and other electronic devices**

The use of laptops and other note-taking electronics (such as tablets) is permitted, so long as web-browsing software is not in use during class (no Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.). Abuse of this policy may result in loss of computing privileges and/or reduced final grade without notice. Cell phone use is not permitted during class. Cell phones must be off, silenced (not on vibrate), or in “airplane mode” during class.

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a core value of institutions of higher learning. As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in

“A Culture of Honesty” found at: <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. **Students are responsible for knowing, understanding, and adhering to these policies before performing (and submitting) an academic work. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation.** Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

### **Special Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor and work with the Disability Resource Center (<http://drc.uga.edu/students/register-for-services>) to develop an accommodation plan. The student is responsible for providing a copy of that plan to the instructor.

## **Course Schedule**

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### **Week 1: Introduction: What is Public Policy? (August 13, 15, 17)**

- Peters, Chapter 1

### **Week 2: The Structure of Policymaking (August 20, 22, 24)**

- Peters, Chapter 2

### **Week 3: Explaining Policy Choices (August 27, 29, 31)**

- Peters, Chapter 3

### **Week 4: Agenda Setting & (September 5, 7)**

- Peters, Chapter 4

### **Week 5: Legitimizing Policy Choices, Policy Implementation (September 10, 12, 14)**

- Peters, Chapter 5
- Peters, Chapter 6

### **Week 6: Budgeting and Public Policy (September 17, 19, 21)**

- Peters, Chapter 7

### **Week 7: Policy Evaluation (September 24, 26, 28)**

- Peters, Chapter 8

### **Week 8: MITEDTERM EXAM (October 1), **No class on October 3 & 5 (Instructor out of town)****

### **Week 9: Economic Policy (October 8, 10, 12)**

- Peters, Chapter 9

### **Week 10: Tax Policy (October 15, 17, 19)**

- Peters, Chapter 10

### **Week 11: Social Security and Welfare (October 22, 24)**

- Peters, Chapter 12
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**Week 12: Health Care Policy (October 29, 31, November 2)**

- Peters, Chapter 11

**Week 13: Education Policy (November 5), No class on November 7 & 9 (Instructor out of town)**

- Peters, Chapter 13

**Week 14: Energy and Environment (November 12, 14, 16)**

- Peters, Chapter 14

**Week 15: NO CLASS ALL WEEK – FALL BREAK (November 19 – 25)**

**Week 16: Defense and Law Enforcement (November 26, 28, 30)**

- Peters, Chapter 15

**Week 17: Policy Analysis (December 3)**

- Peters, Chapter 16

**FINAL EXAM: Regular classroom, Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 - 11:00 am.**

**The course syllabus is a general plan for the course;  
deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.**