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Office Hours: Wednesday 11:15 am – 12:15pm, or by appointment

PADP 4650: Policy Process
University of Georgia
Fall 2019

Class Information

- Class Meetings Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:05am-9:55am
- Class Location: Journalism 501

Course Description

This course will provide students with an introduction to the process of public policymaking in the United States. Students will understand how policies are formed, implemented, and evaluated. Additionally, the course will delve into specific policy areas, such as environmental and health policy. Students will keep understand how key events have shaped public policy, and stay abreast of current events and their potential implications to policy.

Required Text

- Peters, Guy B. (2019). *American Public Policy: Promise and Performance*. Sage Publications. 11th edition
- Additional reading will be disseminated via email or posted on ELC

Course Requirements and Evaluation

- 10% Class Attendance and Participation
- 20% Policy Memos
- 25% Exam 1
- 25% Exam 2
- 20% Final Paper

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

General Expectations

All students are expected to behave professionally in this class. This means attending class regularly, being on time, and *respectfully* participating in discussions. You are responsible for all material in the readings and meeting all specific deadlines or dates posted on the syllabus. Assignments must be completed on time. This course will include a heavy amount of class discussion. 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 (10%)

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 expect to have their grade reduced. Students may have **one** unexcused absence without an impact to their grade. Should a student need to miss class for a reason out of their control, they should discuss it with the professor beforehand. Every subsequent absence will result in a 1% decrease in the *final* grade. I reserve the right to not approve an absence. Additionally, 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.

Exams (25% Each)

There will be two in-class, closed book exams (25% each). These will consist of both multiple-choice and short answer questions. The exams will cover material from the readings, lectures, and other in-class materials.

Policy Memos & Group Work

Students will be required to work together in groups to produce weekly 1 page memos. Students will identify a news article that describes a problem to which that week's readings apply. You will write a memo describing how the week's readings help us better understand this news event.

Final Paper (20%)

Each student must submit a public policy paper not later than December 11th at 11am. 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, 2019.* 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.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a condition that makes it difficult to complete the work described in this syllabus, please notify the Disability Resource Center and the instructor within the first two weeks of class in order to develop alternative arrangements. All information and documentation of the disability will be confidential. All documentation must be received and relayed to the instructor within the first four weeks of class.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

You should abide The University of Georgia's Academic Honesty Policy and the Student Honor Code. Any kind of violations will not be tolerated. You can refer to the UGA's Academic Honesty Policy at <http://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. Contact me or honesty@uga.edu if you have any questions.

Administrative Details

- The course schedule is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.
- Please put your cellphone on mute. I will notify you if you may use your computer for the day's work. Otherwise, notes should be taken on paper.

Course Schedule

Week 1 August 12-16

- Aug 14 – Introduction and Overview of Course
- Aug 16 – Group Meeting

Week 2 August 19-23

- Peters, Chapter 1: What is Public Policy, Chapter 2: The Structure of Policymaking in American Government
- Memo 1 Due

Week 3 August 26-30

- Peters, Chapter 3: Explaining Policy Choices
- Memo 2 Due

Week 4 September 4-6

- Peters, Chapter 3: Explaining Policy Choices
- Memo 3 Due

Week 5 September 9-13

- Peters, Chapter 4: Agenda Setting and Public Policy
- Memo 4 Due

Week 6 September 16-20

- Peters, Chapter 5: Legitimizing Policy Choices
- Memo 5 Due

Week 7 September 23-27

- Peters, Chapter 6: Organizations and Implementation
- Memo 6 Due

Week 8 September 30 – October 4

- Exam Review
- Exam 1 (Wednesday, October 2nd)

Week 9 October 7 – 11

- Peters, Chapter 8: Evaluation and Policy Change
- Memo 7 Due

Week 10 October 14-18

- Peters, Chapter 10: Tax Policy
- Memo 8 Due

Week 11 October 21-25

- Peters, Chapter 11: Health Care Policies
- Memo 9 Due

Week 12 October 28-30

- Peters, Chapter 14: Energy and the Environment
- No Class November 1, Fall Break

Week 13 November 4-8

- Peters, Chapter 12: Social Security and Welfare
- No Memo (Goodbye Good Boi Webber)

Week 14 November 11-15

- Peters, Chapter 16: Social Values and Public Policy
- Memo 10 Due

Week 15 November 18-22

- Peters, Chapter 13: Education Policy
- No Memo (Enjoy Your Break)

Week 16 December 2-6

- Exam Review
- Exam 2 (Wednesday, December 4th)