

## **PADP 4650 Policy Process Fall 2023**

Instructor: Esther Han

Office: Baldwin Hall, Room 414

Office Hours: By appointment

(In-person/Virtual. Please, email to make an appointment: [ehan1@uga.edu](mailto:ehan1@uga.edu))

Class meetings: Baldwin 202 (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 3:00-3:50 PM)

NOTE: I am flexible regarding appointments, but please call or e-mail ahead to set a time

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the key steps, environments, institutions, and actors in the policy process
- Explain different ways of categorizing policies
- Demonstrate knowledge of current policy process theories
- Evaluate policy issues in the context of policy process theories

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The first part of the course will review the basic concepts and factors of policy process, such as definition, elements, contexts, actors, and types of policies. Next, the course will address different policy process theories to explain policy changes. Class activities and assignments will encourage students to understand and apply the knowledge to current policy issues.

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings *before* the class.

### **TEXTS BOOKS**

NOTE: Please start by purchasing the Birkland text; we will discuss access to the Weible text later.

Birkland, T. A. (2019). *An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts, and models of public policy making*. Routledge.

Weible, C. M. (Ed.). (2023). *Theories of the policy process (5th ed.)*. Taylor & Francis. (4<sup>th</sup> edition is fine. Some of the chapters might be available on the eLC)

### **GRADING**

Class attendance and discussions: 10% of grade

Policy debates: 15% of grade

Midterm examination: 30% of grade

Final examination: 30% of grade

Final policy paper & presentation: 15% of grade

All grades will conform to the following scale:

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

### **CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Discussions are a critical feature of the class to strengthen developing & understanding of policy process. In general, Friday classes will entail discussions after a summary lecture on each week's topic. Students will also be asked to have a short presentation about different policy process theories to facilitate the discussions later in the semester.

### **POLICY DEBATES**

We will have approximately 3 debates for the semester. Each student will be assigned to a small group of students. In each debate, one group will argue in favor of a given viewpoint and the second will argue against it. These topics will be closely connected to the course readings. Each group will provide a 3-5 page paper (double-spaced) summarizing their argument. The paper should draw on readings from the course and can draw on outside readings and examples as well. Each side will also create a narrated presentation that can last up to 10 minutes. Each group will upload their paper and presentations in the assignments folder by 5pm before the debate is listed in the class schedule or noted by the instructor. I will provide more detailed information about the debate topic for each debate. All members of a group will receive the same grade.

### **MIDTEM AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

Midterm will be an in-class exam, and the format of the final exam is TBD. However, both exams will aim to test your understanding of the key points made by the readings and lectures. The Midterm exam will largely include short answer questions. The final exam will likely also include longer essays. There will not be a makeup date for either the midterm or the final examination.

### **POLICY PAPER & PRESENTATION**

There will be a short final policy paper & presentation. The paper will be 3 to 5 page long and require students to compare and critically evaluate the policy process theories. I will provide detailed guidelines for the paper & presentation in class.

## **OFFICE HOURS, E-MAIL AND CONSULTING WITH INSTRUCTOR**

I would be happy to meet with you in-person or through videoconferencing platform to discuss class content, questions or concerns that you might have related to the class. If you would like to meet, please e-mail me with a few dates and times that you are available, and we will set up an appointment.

I also strongly encourage you to use e-mail to contact me when you have questions that don't require a meeting. I will check my e-mail regularly and make every effort to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

**\*NOTE: Please e-mail me directly at [ehan1@uga.edu](mailto:ehan1@uga.edu) rather than through eLC.**

## **CLASS STATEMENT**

We all represent a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. To build a community learning environment that respects diversity I ask all class members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values and beliefs
- Be open to the views of others
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues
- Appreciate the opportunity that we must learn from each other in this community
- Value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner at all times
- Keep conversations of the community that are of a personal or professional nature confidential

## **POLICIES**

### **Academic Honesty**

Students must abide by the University of Georgia policy regarding academic honesty. All academic work must be performed without any form of cheating, lying, stealing, or receiving assistance from any other person or using any source of information not appropriately authorized or attributed. The University policy on academic honesty may be accessed at <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>.

Note: The use of artificial intelligence software or word mixing software to write your papers or exams for this class are not permitted.

Computers, Cell Phones, and other Electronic Devices: You may bring a laptop computer to class, and you are encouraged to do so. You may, of course, also bring your cell phone or other devices. Please make sure that your phone or other devices are silenced during class time & not a distraction to yourself, other students, or the instructor.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability and would like to request specific accommodations, please notify the Office for Disability Services (<https://drc.uga.edu>) and your instructor as soon as possible. Documentation of a disability and our email exchanges are confidential.

### **Prohibition on Recording Lectures and Sharing of Course Materials**

In compliance with University of Georgia guidance, students may not make visual or audio recordings of any aspect of this course, unless they have written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center. Students who have a recording

accommodation agree in writing that they:

The selling, sharing, publishing, presenting, or distributing of instructor-prepared course lecture notes, videos, audio recordings, or any other instructor-produced materials from any course for any commercial purpose is strictly prohibited unless explicit written permission is granted in advance by the course instructor. This includes posting materials on websites such as Chegg, Course Hero, OneClass, Stuvia, StuDocu and other similar sites. Unauthorized sale or commercial distribution of such material is a violation of the instructor's intellectual property and the privacy rights of students attending the class and is prohibited.

### **Preferred names and pronouns**

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I am eager to address you by your preferred name and/or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

### **Mental Health and Wellness Resources:**

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://caps.uga.edu/wellbeing-prevention-programs-mental-health/>) or crisis support (<https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://caps.uga.edu/well-being-prevention-programs-mental-health/>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

## **COURSE OUTLINE, SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course & is subject to change if necessary.*

<b>Week 1</b> (Aug 16-18)	<b>COURSE INTRODUCTION; PUBLIC POLICY</b> Read: Birkland, Chapter 1
<b>Week 2</b> (Aug 21-25)	<b>POLICY PROCESS AND POLICY ENVIRONMENTS</b> Read: Birkland, Chapter 2
<b>Week 3</b> (Aug 28-Sep 1)	<b>OFFICAL AND UNOFFICIAL POLICY ACTORS</b> Read: Birkland, Chapter 4 and 5
<b>Week 4</b> (Sep 4-8)	<b>POLICY TYPES</b> Read: Birkland, Chapter 7 <b>*Sep 4 LABOR DAY NO CLASS</b> Policy Debate #1 : Elite vs. Citizen.
<b>Week 5</b> (Sep 11-15)	<b>POLICY AGENDA SETTING</b> Read: Birkland, Chapter 6
<b>Week 6</b> (Sep 18-2)	<b>POLICY DECISION MAKING – POLICY ANLAYSIS</b> Reading: Birkland, Chapter 8
<b>Week 7</b> (Sep 25-29)	<b>POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION</b> Reading: Birkland, Chapter 9 (p.299-316) and 10
<b>Week 8</b> (Oct 2-6)	<b>OVERVIEW: POLICY PROCESS THEORIES</b> Reading: Birkland, Chapter 11_ Policy Debate #2: Top-down vs. Bottom-up
<b>Week 9</b> (Oct 9-13)	<b>MIDTERM</b> <b><u>In-class midterm: Oct 9</u></b> <b>*Oct 11 NO CLASS</b>
<b>Week 10</b> (Oct 16-20)	<b>MULTIPLE STREAM FRAMEWORK AND PUNCTUATED EQUILIBRIUM THEORY</b> Reading: Weible, Chapters 1 and 2
<b>Week 11</b> (Oct 23-27)	<b>ADVOCACY COALITION FRAMEWORK AND NARRATIVE POLICY FRAMEWORK</b> Reading: Weible, Chapters 4 and 5 <b>*Oct 27 FALL BREAK NO CLASS</b>

**Week 12**  
(Oct 30-Nov 3)

**POLICY FEEDBACK THEORY AND POLICY DIFFUSION**  
Reading: Weible, Chapters 3 and 7

**Week 13**  
(Nov 6-10)

**IAD FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS**  
Reading: Weible, Chapters 6  
Policy Debate #3 Policy process theories

**Week 14**  
(Nov 13-17)

**COMPARING POLICY PROCESS THEORIES**  
Reading: Weible, Chapters 9

**Week 15**  
(Nov 20-24)

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Week 14**  
(Nov 27-Dec1)

**POLICY PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**Week 15**  
(Nov 4-Dec8)

**WRAPPING UP AND FINAL EXAM**

**POLICY PAPER DUE DEC 6, 5PM**