V181: US Policy & Administration
Fall 2018
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:15-12:30

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OVERVIEW
Ever wonder why 90% of Americans, including 86% of gun owners support background checks for all gun purchases, but governments consistently fail to pass such laws? How about why the average sentence for rape is lower than for drug offenses? The answers lie in the complexities of the policy making and implementation process. This course will give you an introduction to that process, including the major groups and institutions that influence it. It will do so by helping you to understand how these forces have shaped some of the most salient policy battles of last decade. This course will prepare students for later courses on public policy and administration.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
By the end of the semester, you will (be able to):

- Assess how various levels of government (local, state, and federal) play a role in the public policy process pertaining to a particular topic.
- Conduct an elementary stakeholder analysis, demonstrating that you understand the role of stakeholders and US institutions in the public policy process.
- Analyze the genesis, creation and implementation of an existing policy.
- Identify the various types of policy and how they are made and implemented.
- Write persuasively.
- Use evidence and data to support an argument.
- Articulate and present a case for and against an issue succinctly and thoughtfully, both in writing and in spoken presentation form.
- Practice working in a team to manage a particular policy-related solution.

COURSE METHODOLOGY
Each topic in the sections below will be introduced by the interactive lecture and followed by the interactive class activities. Various methods of interactive teaching will used in this course such as small work group, different discussions, role plays, case studies and experimental exercises to ensure the retention of material.

REQUIRED TEXTS
DESCRIPTION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading
To pass the course, students must demonstrate at least minimum attainment of the learning objectives. All of your work should reflect critical thinking, intellectual effort, and attention to detail.

Attendance
Attendance is required for this course. Each student will be granted three “free” absences. After this, I will deduct 5% from your final grade for every missed class. You will be expected to sign an attendance sheet every day in class and to check canvas regarding your number of absences. It is your responsibility to make sure that you sign in every day and we will not accept excuses for not signing the attendance sheet. Signing another student’s name to the attendance sheet will be considered cheating. The first offense will result in both parties not receiving credit for their attendance on that day, the second offense will result in an F in the course.

Class Participation
This course requires extensive in-class discussions. Furthermore, professional success in the policy arena depends in large part on the ability of individuals to be on time and well-prepared, meet deadlines, and participate productively in group activities. Therefore, students are expected to complete all required readings in advance of class, attend class, and to actively engage in session discussions.

- Raising and answering questions.
- Sharing ideas, observations and personal experiences.
- Pointing out relevant data.
- Pointing out relationships to earlier discussions.
- Being an active and meaningful contributor to your group project

Exams
This course will have three exams that will be composed of multiple choice and short answers. Exams will cover materials presented in lecture, the textbook, additional readings posted on Canvas, and Cases. Each test is worth 25% of your final grade.

Public Policy Problem Analysis and Debate
Teams/teamwork are a vital part of any job. The best way to learn to work as a team is to actually do so. As such, this course requires a group project with the intent of teaching you to manage a project as well as how to work/manage a team. Each group will write a 12-15 page analysis of a current
policy issue that is selected from a list provided by the professor. You will be assigned to a team to
develop a final paper and presentation (groups will be assigned in the second week of classes).

For the paper portion of this assignment you will provide an extensive analysis of a policy area with
details on the problem including, but not limited to 1) how is this policy made and what is the
legislative history of this issue 2) who are the stakeholders involved  2) what are the different sides to
this issue and what evidence do they use to support their claims 3) who is responsible for
implementing the policy (at what level of government will this be implemented and by whom state
vs. nonstate actors etc. The project paper will be due December 10.

In addition to the paper, you will also be expected to present your findings in the form of a debate. Each issue will have two teams assigned to work on it. Each team will prepare a case for and against
the policy issue. In the last weeks of the semester the two groups will debate the issue, but will not
know the side that they will take until the day of the class. As such, each group should have at least
two members prepared to argue for each side of the issue. The group project and debate is 25% of
your final grade.

Group will be assigned in the second week of class and further details will be provided at that time.

Expectations and Ground Rules
This course is intended to provide frames of reference for helping students seek out what you may not
know about the field of public policy, and to question what you think you know. Critical thinking,
openness to exploring ideas, personal reflection, and constructive challenging of underlying assumptions
are strongly encouraged.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Examination Make Ups
No examination make-ups will be permitted, unless there are extenuating circumstances. If
extenuating circumstances arise, students must bring this to the instructor’s attention before exam
date. Information brought after exam date will not be considered.

Late and Un-submitted Work
All work is due as stated in the syllabus. I will deduct a letter grade for each day that an assignment is
late.

Classroom Courtesy
Each student will act in a courteous manner to other students in the class. Unethical or immoral
behavior will not be tolerated. Civil discourse is important in policy making and policy discussion
any student who does not conduct themselves in this manner will be asked to leave the class.

Assisting Students with Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Indiana Civil Rights Act, and Indiana University
policy prohibit discrimination in educational programs against students with disabilities. Disabilities
may include medical, auditory, visual, learning, psychological, mobility, or neurological problems. It
is the policy of Indiana University to provide reasonable accommodations in a timely manner and on
an individualized basis while maintaining institutional standards of performance. These
accommodations are designed to counter the effects of disabilities where they may pose a barrier to the education process; they will not give the student an easy grade or an advantage over other students. Additional information can be found: http://citl.indiana.edu/resources_files/teaching-resources1/teaching-handbook-items/assisting-students-disabilities.php

Academic Integrity
Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. When you borrow the words or ideas of another person, you must give attribution. This responsibility to give attribution includes instances in which you are paraphrasing what someone else has said. Otherwise, you are “stealing” another person’s intellectual property and offering it as your own.

Presenting other’s work as your own on a written assignment or cheating on an exam will result in 0 for that particular assignment. A second infraction will result in failing grade for the course. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the professor.

COURSE OUTLINE

Section I: Introduction to Public Policy and the Structure and Context of Public Policy Making

Week 1: Course introduction/What is Public Policy? Introduction to the Policy Process
August 21: Course Introduction
August 23: What is Public Policy and Introducing the Policy Process and Writing and Sources
Readings: Peters Chapter 1, Pages 2-5.

Week 2: The Historical Structures of the Public Policy
August 28: Constitutions and Group Assignment Lecture
August 30: No Class-Online Assignment for Group Project
Readings: Peters Chapter 1

Week 3: The Structure of Federal State and Local Policy Making
September 4: Federalism and State and Local Government
September 6: The Stages of the Policy Process
Readings: Peters Chapters 2 and 3

Week 4
September 11: Budgets and Public Policy
September 13: Test 1
Readings: Peters Chapter 7

Section II: Institutional and Non-institutional Actors in the Policy Process

Week 5
September 18 Congress, Legislatures, and Public Policy
September 20: Courts
Readings: Available on Canvas

Week 6
September 25: Executive Branch and Policy-Presidents, Governors, and Mayors
September 27: Bureaucracy: The Rise of the Bureaucratic State and Regulatory Policy (discussion of the distinct roles of bureaucratic actors at national, state and local levels)
Readings: Available on Canvas

Week 7
October 2: Interest Groups and Parties
October 4: Public Opinion and the Media
Readings: Available on Canvas

Week 8
October 9: Test 2
October 11: Group Project Workshop Day (will meet in classroom)-Must Turn in List of sources and outline of the position papers by the end of the class period.

Section III: Making Public Policy and Policy Fields

Week 9
October 16: Agenda Setting and Policy Formulation
October 18: Policy Implementation and Policy Diffusion
Readings: Peters Chapters 4, 5, and 6

Week 10
October 23: Intro to Substantive Policy Areas
October 25: Environmental Policy
Readings: Peters Chapter 14 and Pesticides Case

Week 11
October 30: Business and Economic Policy
November 1: Rights and liberties Policy Arena
Readings: Peters Chapters 9, 10, and 16 and Marijuana Industries and Transgender Rights Cases

Week 12
November 6: Social Policy
November 8: Health Policy
Readings: Peters11, 12, and 13 and Campus Sexual Assault and Prisoners and Mental Health Cases

Week 13
November 13: National Security Policy
November 15: Test
Readings: Peters Chapter 15 and Immigrant Detention Case

Week 14-November 20 and 22-No Class Thanksgiving Break
Week 15
November 27: Group Presentation Workshop
November 29: Group Presentations

Week 16
December 4: Group Presentations
December 6 Group Presentations

Final Group Paper Due December 10.