

Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs
V220 - Law and Public Affairs
Spring Semester 2017
Monday/Wednesday SPEA 169, 5:45-7:00

Instructor: David K. Cox, J.D.
Office: IUSPEA Room 412 (academic office)
Telephone: 855-7980 (SPEA)
(217) 762-3800 (Illinois law office)
E-Mail: mayorcox@aol.com
GTA: Jennifer Brown, brown450@indiana.edu
UTA: Alexandria McKenna, aamckenn@indiana.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment
Secretary: Jennifer Mitchner, SPEA 460
(812) 855-7980, e-mail: jmitchne@indiana.edu

Course Description

The goals of this course are to:

1. Provide an overview of the U.S. Constitution as the basis for federal law and public policy, with concentrated research and discussion on several contemporary constitutional issues.
2. Provide an introduction into the substantive and procedural framework at law in the United States.
3. Provide an opportunity to discuss and work with the instructor and other students to use the above information in the context of analysis of contemporary public policy issues.
4. Provide a practical understanding of how decisions and laws are made in the public policy context.

Student Responsibilities

1. Attend and pay attention in class. No computers or electronic devices will be permitted during class time.
2. Complete the assigned readings prior to class and participate in class discussion.
3. Complete the research projects as assigned by the instructor.
4. Complete assignments that evaluate your understanding and application of the information.

Reading Materials

Readings will be assigned periodically and will be made available online. No books need to be purchased.

Grading and Course Requirements

The course grade will be based on a 1200-point grading system with points allocated to student performance as follows:

Research Project/Paper	300 points
Homework Exercises	200 points
Exams I-III (3)	300 points
Participation/Attendance	150 points
Exam IV	100 points
Weekly quiz (15)	150 points

Total Points Available	1200 points
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A plus/minus grading scale will be applied as follows:

97-100%	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
0-59	F

Exam dates and deadlines for other assignments will be strictly enforced. Exams may not be made up without a proper excuse. Other assignment grades will be assessed a 10% penalty per week.

Student Misconduct

Academic and personal misconduct by students in this class are defined and will be dealt with according to the procedures in the Code of Student Ethics.

Course Schedule

January 9	M	Course Introduction
January 11	W	The Future of Public Affairs I
January 16	M	HOLIDAY-NO CLASS
January 18	W	Law, Policy, and Public Policy/U.S. Constitution
January 23	M	Role of Government: Federalism v. States' Rights
January 25	W	"Public Affairs Film Festival"
January 30	M	Constitutional Concepts, Problems, and Issues
February 1	W	Sources of Law and Public Policy
February 6	M	Research Fundamentals
February 8	W	EXAMINATION I
February 13	M	Issue #1:
February 15	W	Issue #2:
February 20	M	RESEARCH PROJECT WORK SESSION
February 22	W	Issue #3:
February 27	M	Issue #4:
March 1	W	Issue #5:
March 6	M	Issue #6:
March 8	W	EXAMINATION II
March 13-19		SPRING BREAK-NO CLASS
March 20	M	Issue #7: Environment/Climate Change
March 22	W	Issue #8:
March 27	M	Issue #9:
March 29	W	Issue #10:
April 3	M	Issue #11:
April 5	W	EXAMINATION III
April 10	M	Issue #12:
April 12	W	Issue #13:
April 17	M	Issue #14:
April 19	W	Issue #15:
April 24	M	"Trends" in Law and Public Policy
April 26	W	Mayor Cox's Top 10 Lesson on Life
May x (TBA)		FINAL EXAM