

V407 PUBLIC LAW AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FALL 2015

*School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Indiana University, Bloomington
TR 4:00 – 5:15pm SPEA 274*

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the ways in which lawmaking is entangled with our civic, professional, and private lives. In this class, we will explore the processes by which common citizens bound together to shape issues of public importance. We will look at the historical evolution of organized interests, the philosophical underpinnings of the right to petition the government, the means by which interest groups affect policy, and the challenges and limitations posed by the legislative process.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Upon successful completion of the class, students will be able to analyze public institutions through the use of multiple lenses, question their own assumptions of government, and apply course content to the practical exercise of policy formation and public advocacy.

READINGS

There is no required text book for the class. However, I will be posting readings on Canvas.

OFFICE HOURS

I will not be holding regular office hours. However, I will be available to meet students after class or another time at our mutual convenience. I strongly encourage students to make an appointment to discuss questions and concerns regarding the content or structure of the course.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Students are encouraged to contact me at any time with questions regarding the course. **You are expected to use my IU e-mail address** to contact me. I will do my best to respond within a day of receiving an e-mail. I am available by phone if you need to reach me urgently. Please, do not try to contact me via Canvas message or other means. Students, likewise, are expected to check their e-mail regularly.

GUEST LECTURERS

I have invited public policy professionals to share their insights and experiences with students. These people have graciously volunteered to take time out of their work schedule to help you gain an understanding of the practical aspects of advocacy and policy making. Our guests deserve our respect and appreciation. Thus all students are expected to be attentive, engaged, and prepared with questions. Failure to ask questions of our guest speakers WILL result in a lower participation grade.

SPEA ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty

SPEA faculty do not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. If you have not done so, you should read the IUB *Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct*, which can be accessed at <http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtml> so you will be sure to understand what these terms mean and what penalties can be issued for academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty can result in a grade of F for the class (an F for academic dishonesty cannot be removed from the transcript). Significant violations of the Code can result in expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism is using another person's words, ideas, artistic creations, or other intellectual property without giving proper credit. According to the *Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct*, a student must give credit to the work of another person when he/she does any of the following:

- a. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;
- b. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;
- c. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or
- d. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.

Civility

Civility is important in an academic community to ensure that all parties—students, staff, and faculty—are working in an environment that fosters achievement of the individual's and community's goals and objectives. Civility requires all parties to demonstrate personal integrity and conduct themselves in a manner that shows respect, courtesy and tolerance to others. Examples of discourteous behaviors during class include reading the newspaper, listening to headphones, talking or laughing with others, chronically arriving late, and so forth. These behaviors are distracting to the instructor and classmates, and SPEA faculty will address these problems as they arise.

Maintaining and fostering civility inside and outside the classroom is especially important to SPEA, which is a professional school.

Pursuant to the Indiana University Student Code of Conduct, disorderly conduct which interferes with teaching, research, administration, or other university or university-authorized activity will not be tolerated and will be immediately reported to the Office of The Dean of Students for appropriate disposition which may result in disciplinary action including possible suspension and/or expulsion from the university.

Communication between Faculty and Students

In order to verify the identity of all parties involved, effective September 1, 2004, all email communication from current SPEA students to SPEA staff must originate from an Indiana University email account. For email communication with SPEA faculty, current SPEA students should refer to course syllabi for instructors' preferences (Canvas, Webmail, etc.). This policy applies to current students only. Instructions for forwarding your IUB email to another account can be found at:

<http://kb.indiana.edu/data/beoj.html?cust=687481.87815.30>

Course Withdrawals

Students who stop attending class without properly withdrawing from the class may receive a grade of F. It is important to withdraw from a course within specified timeframes (see chart below). Note that withdrawals after Week 12 of a regular session or Week 4 of a summer session are rarely granted. **Poor performance in a course is not grounds for a late withdrawal.**

No withdrawal forms will be processed in the Office of the Registrar after the last day of classes. Any requests for a late withdrawal after the last day of classes must go through the grade appeal process, but each student should remember that in accordance with campus policy, SPEA does not permit a student to withdraw from a course if he/she has completed the course requirements. Grade replacement should be used in this case. To withdraw, obtain a withdrawal slip (DROP/ADD Form) from the SPEA Student Services window. Instructions for completing it are given on the form.

Withdrawal Deadlines	
Course deleted from record, no grade assigned, 100% refund (Advisor signature IS NOT required)	Week 1 (last day)
Withdrawal with automatic grade of W (Advisor signature IS required)	Week 2– Week 7 (regular session) Week 2 – Week 3 (summer session)
Withdrawal with grade of W or F (Advisor and instructor signatures ARE required)	Week 8 – Week 12 (regular session) Week 3 – Week 4 (summer session)

Incompletes

A grade of incomplete (I) indicates that a 'substantial portion' of the work in a course has been satisfactorily but not entirely completed by the student as of the end of the semester. The incomplete can be given to a student facing a hardship such that such that it would be unjust to hold the student to the established time limits for completing the work. To be eligible for the incomplete in a SPEA course, the student's work must be of passing quality, and the student must have completed 75% of the course requirements. **Poor performance in a course is not grounds for an incomplete.** SPEA follows the campus guidelines in awarding incompletes which may be accessed at the Office of the Registrar's website at:

http://registrar.indiana.edu/stu_grades.shtml

Incompletes must be removed within a time period not to exceed one year after the semester in which the student was enrolled in the course. The incomplete will revert to an 'F' if the work is not completed within the allotted timeframe established by the instructor.

Students Called to Active Duty

SPEA encourages any student who is in the Indiana Military Reserves and is called to active duty to finish his/her coursework if at all possible. Students who cannot complete their courses have the option of withdrawing with 100% fee refund, but this request must be made within one week of being called to active duty. Students who are called to active duty may qualify for an incomplete (provided that all the above criteria have been met). For further information, please see the Office of the Registrar's website at:

http://registrar.indiana.edu/stu_infopoli.shtml

Final Exam Schedule

If a final exam is given, it must be held on the day and time set in the final exam schedule. If an instructor has changed the final exam date, the student should first consult with the instructor. Students who have more than three final exams in one day or insufficient time to get from one exam to another should consult with their instructors to resolve these conflicts. Exams may not be given in the week before the final exam week. If a student is not able to resolve a final exam problem with the instructor, the student may report the problem to the Director of Undergraduate or Graduate programs. The final exam week schedule can be found at the Office of the Registrar's website at:

http://registrar.indiana.edu/stu_calsche.shtml

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

Attention

Students are expected to focus their attention on the subject matter at hand throughout the duration of the class period. You are forbidden from using laptops and tablets, cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic device, unless specifically sanctioned by the instructor. You are not allowed to engage in side conversations with fellow classmates. All students are required to sit toward the front of the classroom when desks are available.

Absence

You are expected to attend class. Failure to do so will result in lower test scores and a lower participation grade. You may miss up to four classes without the absences affecting your grade. For any reason that you are unable to attend class, you are expected to obtain notes from a classmate. While you are encouraged to come to office hours for guidance and/or questions related to the class, office hours will NOT be used for a repeat of a missed lecture.

Lateness

You will receive a lateness penalty for all late assignments, except in rare cases approved by the instructor in advance (written documented that is initialed by both instructors). If you mistyped the instructor's email address, attached the wrong file, or had an equipment failure, you will still receive a penalty for lateness.

Food / beverages

You are permitted to bring food and/or beverages into the classroom as long as it is not excessively aromatic (i.e. popcorn) and doesn't interfere with class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Interest Group Essay: You will select one state-wide or national organization with a substantial political presence in Washington D.C. (or State Capitol), whom you will research. You will write a short paper (~1,000 words) describing the mission of the organization and how they carry out their political objectives. Among the questions you want to address are: What populations or demographic groups does the organization serve? What is the size of the organization? What is their funding base? What is the ideological orientation of the group? What other organizations' values and interests overlap with theirs and how might that effect their mission, goals, or policy agenda? What tactics do they employ? What aspects of their political environment may influence their legislative and communications strategies? What are some obstacles that might prevent the organization from achieve is goals.

Short answer / Essay Assignments: I will assign three assignments throughout the semester, consisting of short essay questions. The questions will be based on assigned readings and lectures.

Legislative Influence Mapping: You will conduct a complex analysis of the legislators you are targeting for your issue. Your analysis is expected to view the legislator and the legislation in the context of the political environment, governmental structures, legislative incentives, and the vast network of influence ranging from citizen groups to parties to campaign donors. You are expected to use legislative and public disclosure databases to analyze similar legislation.

Group Project/Presentation: You will join a group of three or four students to explore an area of interest to you and discuss ways in which lobbying, advocacy, and government relations affect the issue at hand. Groups are encouraged to think broadly about their topic (i.e. fraternities/sororities, record companies, film production, medicine, law, college sports). Groups will give an 8-10 minute presentation in front of the class

Classroom Participation: The strength of this course hinges, in large part, on the ability to have a constructive dialogue and learn from each other. Thus, I take course participation very seriously. You are expected to attend class, read the course materials, participate meaningfully in class room activities, contribute to discussions, pose questions to guest lecturers, and complete additional tasks as assigned. I will deduct participation points from students who are disruptive, repeatedly come to class late, and are seen using cell phones and/or other electronic devices.

Reflection paper: You will submit a brief paper reflecting on what you have learned about government relations through your group project and other course activities. You are expected to identify ways in which topics discussed in class will relate to your future careers. Consider three concepts: Interests/values, argumentation, and webs of influence. How can an awareness of these concepts inform your professional comportment as you pursue your own career?

GRADING

Assignments will be graded in the following way:

Class Participation: 20%

Legislative Power Mapping: 15%

Essay Sets: 15% (5% each)

Reflection Paper: 15%

Interest Group Essay: 15%

Group Project/Presentation: 20%

Due Dates for all assignments are posted in the next page of the syllabus under "Course Calendar". Please note that readings and dates are subject to change at any time. I will notify students by Canvas announcements of any substantive changes.

Course calendar

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Tues. Aug 25	Course Intro		
Thurs. Aug 27			
Tues. Sept 1	Interest Groups	Fukuyama "America the Veto-	
Thurs. Sept 3		cracy" Madison "Fed Papers"	
Tues. Sept 8	Political Parties	"Special Interest Group	
Thurs. Sept 10	and Coalitions	Politics"	
Tues. Sept 15	Political Socialization	Haidt "The Righteous	Essay Set 1
Thurs. Sept 17	& Civic Engagement	Mind"	
Tues. Sept 22	Structures of Congress	J.Q. Wilson "Bureaucracy"	
Thurs. Sept 24			
Tues. Sept 29	Lobbying	Robert Kaiser - "So Damn	Interest Group Paper
Thurs. Oct 1	GR Industry	Much Money"	
Tues. Oct 6	Regulatory Influence	Bopp & Lessig: Under-	
Thurs. Oct 8	Campaign Finance	standing Citizens United	
Tues. Oct 13	Exchange Model,	Lobbying Book	Essay Set 2
Thurs. Oct 15	Pluralism, and Lawmakers		
Tues. Oct 20	Political Environment	TBD	
Thurs. Oct 22	and Public Opinion		
Tues. Oct 27	Communication	Aaronson "four strategem"	
Thurs. Oct 29	and Persuasion		
Tues. Nov 3	Election Day	No Class	
Thurs. Nov 5	Legislative Mapping		Legislative Mapping
Tues. Nov 10	Grassroots Lobbying	Alinsky "Rules for Radicals"	
Thurs. Nov 12	and Organizing		
Tues. Nov 17	Public Relations	Meg Greenfield "Washington"	
Thurs. Nov 19			Essay set 3
Tues. Nov 24	Thanksgiving	No Class	
Thurs. Nov 26	Break		
Tues. Dec 1	Designing an effective	The Power of Lobbying	
Thurs. Dec 3	strategy		
Tues. Dec 8	Ethics and the art of	TBA	
Thurs. Dec 10	political action		
Tues. Dec 15	Presentations		Government Relations Plan
Thurs. Dec 17	Presentations		Reflection Memo