PUP 4003W American Public Policy

Summer 2012 Syllabus

Contact Information

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Course Description

Public policy is whatever government chooses to do or not to do. In American Public Policy we will seek to understand policymaking in the United States. We will focus on how policy is made, how it can be studied and the substantive issues that policy makers are debating today. There are at least eight models of public policy that we will examine: institutional, process, rational, incremental, group, elite, public choice and game theory. Policy areas to be studied include criminal justice, health and welfare, education, economic, tax, trade and immigration, environmental and energy, civil rights, defense and homeland security.

Goals

1. Students will understand basic definitions and concepts related to public policy, policy analysis and policy evaluation.

2. Students will describe and apply eight models of policy analysis.

3. Students will trace and analyze the major steps in the formal policy making process.

4. Students will learn the background, current situation, and outlook regarding a variety of substantive public policy areas.

5. Students will compare and contrast opposing views concerning issues for debate in American public policy.

6. Students will evaluate current policy problems and formulate their own views on critical issues.

Required Texts

1. Thomas R. Dye, *Understanding Public Policy* (13th ed.), Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011. (Dye)

2. *Issues for Debate in American Public Policy* (12th ed.), Washington DC: CQ Press, 2012. (CQ)

Evaluation

8 Modules – 100% of your total grade. Each module consists of 2 graded activities: Chapter Quiz and CQ Policy Analysis & Discussion. Each module will usually cover 2 chapters from the Dye text and 2 articles from the CQ reader. Since this course is over the Summer D term you will have about a week to do each module.

Chapter Quiz – 40% of total grade. Each quiz will usually have 50 questions primarily covering material from the Dye book. You will normally have 60 minutes to take the quiz. You may take the quiz a second time to improve your score. If you pass the first quiz with at least a 60 or higher and choose to take the quiz a second time I will take the higher score of the two attempts as your grade for the quiz. If you score less than 60 on the first attempt and take the quiz a second time I will take the average of the two attempts as your grade for the quiz. You should read the chapters and articles and study before starting the quiz as you will not have time to look up every answer.

CQ Policy Analysis & Discussion – 60% of total grade. I will put you in small groups for the online discussion based on your last name. CQ Policy Analysis & Discussion will include several steps. First you will give opposing positions on a number of current policy questions covered in the CQ reader. Next you will update information from the readings and explain how it relates to one of the questions. Finally you will give your opinion and explain why you believe the way you do for each of the policy questions. The overall paper will be 1000-1500 words each week. You will upload this paper using the assignment function and also paste it into your discussion group. Finally you must engage in discussion with your fellow classmates by responding to their comparisons and contrast and current event. The discussion will require a minimum of three postings each week: the initial posting of your paper and then at least two postings responding to your fellow students. You should attempt to engage in professional college level discussion with your classmates. Highest grades go to students who exceed my expectations for quantity and quality of their papers and their discussion with classmates. The required two additional postings is the minimum to get a C on that part of the assignment. You will need a total of 8 or more (depending on quality and length) additional postings to get the highest possible score on discussing with class mates.

To grade CQ Policy Analysis & Discussion I have developed a rubric (scoring guidelines). Each CQ Policy Analysis & Discussion is worth up to 100 points: 36 points are possible for giving the yes and no positions to the policy questions, 20 points for the

update, 24 points for expressing your opinion, and 20 points for discussing things with your classmates. In addition there will be a 10 point penalty for each day the initial posting is late. So 10 points off for one day late and 20 points off for two days late and then the module closes. Once the module closes you will not be able to post further and I will not accept your postings.

Policies

1. If you have questions about the course of a general nature do not e-mail me initially. Instead post your question in the Discussions section of the web site. Once in Discussions section select the topic “Questions for Professor Jewett” and then hit “Create Message,” type in your question and then hit “post.” Wait 48 hours for a response. You should review this section before asking your question as someone else may have already asked it. Of course if your problem is personal (grade related for instance) or involves not being able to get on the site (and hence unable to get to Discussions) feel free to e-mail me at my normal e-mail address - I do not use course mail!

2. If you would like to seek the help of fellow students go to Discussions and select the topic “Students Seeking Help from Students” and post your question as above. This can be a technical question about computer problems or a subject matter question. I will give extra credit to students who help others!

3. Online courses require students to be self-motivated and do work on a regular basis without being reminded of assignments and due dates. The average student can expect to put in at least 12-15 hours a week on this course if they want to do well. You will be reading 2 chapters from the main text and 2 articles from the reader each week. You can also expect that you will write 1500-2000 words a week (counting initial postings and discussions with others) if you want to do well. We are covering in eight weeks what would normally be covered in 15 weeks!

4. Late assignments will not be accepted once a quiz, discussion or module closes (as mentioned above I will take your initial paper posting on discussion late with a 10 point per day penalty but once the module closes that will be it). Do not wait until the last minute to do assignments. Computer problems and Internet connection problems will happen. They are not acceptable excuses for missing due dates and deadlines.

5. I will drop your lowest quiz score and lowest CQ Policy Analysis & Discussion score when I compute your final grade - this may occur in the same week and module or it could be a quiz from one week and a CQ Policy Analysis & Discussion from another. Since I am not accepting late assignments after a module closes this will provide you a measure of protection should something happen that prevents you from doing a module or part of a module (computer glitch, illness, vacation etc.). And if you are happy with your grade on the first seven modules you can skip the last one.

Grading Scale

This class is on a 10 point grading scale with no plus minus grades.

100-90 A (Outstanding or excellent work)

89-80 B (Good, above average work)

79-70 C (Average work)

69-60 D (Below average, poor work)

59-0 F (Unacceptable work or missed assignment)

Assignment Due Dates

Module 1 Policy Analysis and Evaluation: Quiz due by Monday 5/21 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 5/22 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 5/24 11:00 pm

For Module 1 please read:

Dye chapters 1 Policy Analysis and 15 Policy Evaluation

CQ articles 4 Jobs Outlook and 6 Graying Planet

Module 2 Policy Models and Process: Quiz due by Monday 5/28 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 5/29 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 5/31 11:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: JUST BECAUSE SOME DUE DATES FALLS OVER THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN TO DO THE ASSIGNMENT!

For Module 2 please read:

Dye chapters 2 Models of Politics and 3 The Policymaking Process

CQ articles 8 Redistricting and 10 Tea Party Movement

Module 3 Criminal Justice and Civil Rights Policy: Quiz due by Monday 6/4 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 6/5 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/7 11:00 pm

For Module 3 please read:

Dye chapters 4 Criminal Justice and 11 Civil Rights

CQ articles 1 Public Employee Unions and 15 Government Secrecy

Module 4 Health and Welfare Policy: Quiz due by Monday 6/11 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 6/12 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/14 11:00 pm

For Module 4 please read:

Dye chapter 5 Health and Welfare

CQ articles 5 Income Inequality and 16 Health Care Reform

Withdrawal Deadline Tuesday 6/19

Module 5 Federalism and Education Policy: Quiz due by Monday 6/18 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 6/19 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/21 11:00 pm

For Module 5 please read:

Dye chapters 6 Education and 12 American Federalism

CQ articles 7 School Reform and 9 States and Federalism

Module 6 Economic and Tax Policy: Quiz due by Monday 6/25 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 6/26 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 6/28 11:00 pm

For Module 6 please read:

Dye chapters 7 Economic Policy and 8 Tax Policy

CQ articles 2 National Debt and 3 Financial Industry Overhaul

Module 7 Trade, Immigration, Energy and Environmental Policy: Quiz due by Monday 7/2 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 7/3 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 7/5 11:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: JUST BECAUSE SOME DUE DATE FALLS OVER THE JULY 4TH HOLIDAY DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEN TO DO THE ASSIGNMENT!

For Module 7 please read:

Dye chapters 9 International Trade and Immigration and 10 Energy and Environmental Policy

CQ articles 11 Managing Nuclear Waste and 12 Energy Policy.

Module 8 Foreign, Defense and Homeland Security Policy: Quiz due by Monday 7/9 at 11 pm; Initial discussion posting due by Tuesday 7/10 at 11 pm; additional postings due by, and module closes on, Thursday 7/12 11:00 pm

For Module 8 please read:

Dye chapters 13 Defense Policy and 14 Homeland Security

CQ articles 13 Climate Change and 14 Afghanistan Dilemma

Getting Started

To begin the course, go back to the home page and then click on Learning Modules and then read and follow the instructions for Module 1.