PUP3014 – Comparative Public Policy

Department of Political Science
College of Sciences, University of Central Florida

Syllabus

Instructor Information		Course Information	
Instructor	Dr. Annabelle Conroy	**Term:**	Fall 2015
Office:	HPH 302R	**Section**:	0W59
Phone	(407) 823-2659	**Credits**:	3
E-mail	annabelle.conroy@ucf.edu	**Class Time:**	Online
Office hours:	Tuesday: 10:00-12:00 PM Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM Thursday: 10:00 – 12:00 PM	**Classroom:**	Web-based course

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Course Prerequisites: POS 2041 or CPO 3103 or C.I.

Course Overview

Modern governments, be they authoritarian or democratic, are charged with a variety of duties. These range from education to health care to environmental conservation. Comparative public policy is the study of why governments choose to deal with a particular issue in a particular way. Why do states with similar levels of development choose different welfare policies? Why do countries suddenly adopt policies that seem to be unpopular with the electorate? Why do developing countries with rainforests rich in biodiversity pursue different

conservation policies? Why does drug policy take different forms in different contexts? These are some of the many questions that arise in the study of policy. This course is an introduction to the major theoretical approaches which attempt to explain public policy choices and outcomes.

This course takes the approach that politics matters in terms of explaining public policy and that different political arrangements will give rise to different public policy patterns. In order to test the various theories, we will use an approach that is comparative in two senses. First, various public policy areas such as economic, health, environmental and drug policy will be used as case studies to test the various theories of public policy. Secondly, the course will also be comparative because we will look at these policies across various countries.

The course will be divided into two parts. Part I will deal with some of the major theoretical approaches to the study of public policy and with some of the practical issues of public policy analysis, such as the tools to be used, the importance of context and so on. Part II will focus on particular policy areas.

Course Objectives

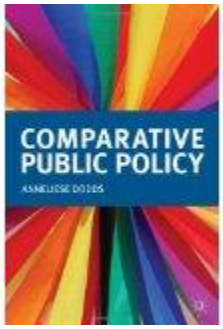
The main objectives of this course are:

1. To provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the field of comparative public policy.
2. To provide students with an understanding of the stages of the policymaking process.
3. To illustrate the differences and similarities regarding policymaking in industrialized and developing countries.
4. To develop key skills required for the successful study of political science and for the graduate job market.

By the end of the course students should:

1. Have the basic tools to conduct comparative research.
2. Be able to identify the various stages of policymaking.
3. Be able to identify and apply the main theories in the field of public policy.
4. Be familiar with the roles that interests, ideas, and institutions play in the policymaking process
5. Grasp some of the key differences and similarities between industrialized and developing countries in terms of policy.

Required Texts and Materials



Dodds, Anneliese (2013): Comparative Public Policy. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-0230319431.

This textbook is available for sale in paperback form at the UCF Bookstore but it can also be rented (see www.amazon.com, for example).

Additional materials may be assigned in each of the modules but these will all be available electronically. The links for these materials will be included in each module.

Format of the Course

This course is offered electronically via Webcourses. All course activities are to take place online. This includes the quizzes and exams. There are no scheduled face-to-face meetings for this course. Because there will be no face-to-face sessions, it is extremely important that you keep in mind and meet certain requirements. In order to successfully complete this course you need to make sure that you:

1. have a secure and reliable internet connection. Please be aware that "I didn't have internet connection for two days" will not be accepted as an excuse for late submissions.
2. feel comfortable with the online tools that we will use in the course
3. have a high degree of self-discipline
4. are able to work independently, which means, among other things that you are able to read, understand and follow written instructions
5. are able to log into Webcourses every week to complete each module and read any announcements that might be posted for that week. Please keep in mind that the course requires work to be submitted every week and, thus, you cannot let the course slide for two weeks and then expect to catch up later. Therefore, you should make sure that you can make this commitment before you decide to proceed with the course.

You can learn about online courses by visiting the Learn UCF web site (http://online.ucf.edu/learn-online/).

Online learning is not for everyone; some people may not be able to manage a course that does not meet face to face. For this reason, it is extremely important that you read and understand the syllabus and make sure that you will be able to comply with the terms set forth in this document.

Online learning requires a great deal of planning and self-discipline in order to be successfully completed. Since I will be covering a great deal of material in 16 weeks, I highly recommend treating this course like a regular lecture course, and keeping up with lectures and assignments on a weekly basis. Please do not be tempted to skip two weeks of the course and expect to catch up easily. Keep in mind that deadlines will be strictly observed in this course. If you miss a module (or more), you will not be able to make them up later. Once a module closes, work for that module cannot be submitted.

This course is based on the idea that students learn best by being actively involved in the learning process. Thus, you are expected to read the material and be prepared to discuss it with your peers.

The format of the course will be as follows: Modules will open on Tuesdays at 9:00 am and close on the following Monday at 5:00 pm. The only exception to this is the first week of class when Module 1 will open on Monday, August 24.

Modules Open on:	Tuesdays, 9:00 am
Modules Close on:	Mondays, 5:00 pm

Each module may also have its own internal deadlines. So, for example, if there is a discussion assignment, you might be required to make a discussion posting by Saturday and then several discussion postings by Monday.

Although I do my best to avoid changing the schedule, please make sure you check the class schedule often, as the schedule may change depending on several factors. In any case, I will make sure to post an announcement when a change is made to the syllabus or the class schedule. However, it is your responsibility to ensure that you read the class announcements and communications sent out by the instructor.

Grading

The final grade will be calculated on a scale of 0-100 and it will have the following components:

Component	**Points**
Protocol Points	5
Modules	55
Midterm Exam	20
Final Examination	20
Total	100

In general, grades for each module will appear one week after the module closes. Mistakes can be made while entering the grades, so you are responsible for monitoring your grades and making sure that they are accurate. You have two weeks after the grades are posted to challenge or request a correction to your grades. After this time, grades become final.

If you wish to challenge your grade you must make an appointment with the professor (either an in-person or phone appointment) and present the evidence to show that your grade is incorrect. Keep in mind that if a review has to be made of your grade, the grade can go up or down depending on the review.

Protocol Points:

Protocol points are points that are given to you at the beginning of the course and will remain with you as long as you observe and abide by the class protocols and the UCF student code of conduct. In other words, you start off with 5 points and you will only lose some or all of them if you somehow violate any of the protocols set forth in the syllabus.

You can lose protocol points if you do any of the following:

1. Use rude, disrespectful, intimidating or unprofessional language in any communication or discussion assignment in this course.
2. Violate the ethics standards set forth by UCF (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).
3. Fail to observe the protocols set forth in this syllabus.
4. Engage in any type of cheating (which includes plagiarism)

Modules

As mentioned above, modules open each Tuesday at 9:00 am and close the following Monday at 5:00 pm. Each module includes several assignments. Typically a module will include a reading assignment, a discussion assignment and short multiple-choice quiz. The quiz will serve as preparation for the exams.

Although you will see 15 modules on the schedule, please note that not all of them are graded. Some of them such as Modules 8 and 15 only have review questions and the exam instructions.

There are 12 graded modules (Modules 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14). Each one is worth 5 points. You are allowed to miss one module without penalty (this is why it says “55” on the Module points total above in the “Grading” table). If, however, you complete all 12 graded modules, then the extra points you earn in this module will count as extra credit. These are the only extra credit points available in this course, since extra credit assignments will not be given.

Examinations

There will be 2 examinations in this course: the midterm and the final. Both exams are multiple-choice and the final exam is cumulative. Each exam is worth 20 points. The dates for the exams are posted on the class schedule. You must take both exams. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "F" for the entire course. In case of a serious extenuating circumstance that prevents the student from taking any of the exams, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor **before** the examination. In addition, the student is responsible for providing valid and convincing medical documentation. Please note that the form of any makeup examination may be different from that administered to the rest of the class (i.e. It will be in essay form, not multiple-choice).

Please make sure that you have a secure and reliable internet connection when you take the exam. In addition, make sure that you take the exam well before the deadline to avoid being logged out of the exam if you ran over the time limit set for that exam.

As with any other course, I urge you not to fall behind on the readings. Each week we will be covering a lot of new information and if you do not keep up, it can become overwhelming the day before the exam. In addition, keep in mind that the final examination will be cumulative.

Please take note of the following course stipulations:

- There will be no extra credit assignments.
- Late assignments will not be accepted unless valid medical documentation is presented and only when arrangements have been made before the due date. Make-up assignments will have a different format than those assigned to the rest of the class.
- Make sure to check the “Grades” section in Webcourses often. Please be aware that no grade will be changed 2 weeks after the grade for a particular assignment has been posted.
- If you have a particular concern about a grade received, you need to make an appointment with me (either in person or by phone) and bring specific points which you wish to address. Keep in mind that if you ask me to read the disputed assignment/test again, your grade may go up or down.
- Please do come and see me if you are having trouble understanding a topic or concept. Also, I encourage you to ask questions during class if something is not clear.

The grade distribution for the course will be as follows:

Points	Letter Grade
93-100	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

In general, grades for each assignment will appear one week after the submission deadline. Mistakes can be made while entering the grades, so you are responsible for monitoring your grades and making sure that they are accurate. You have two weeks after the grades are posted to challenge or request a correction to your grades. After this time, grades become final.

If you wish to challenge your grade you must make an appointment with the professor and present the evidence to show that your grade is incorrect. Keep in mind that if a review has to be made of your grade, the grade can go up or down depending on the review.

Grade Dissemination

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time by logging into your course through Webcourses. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades.

Grades of "Incomplete":

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete.

Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as an “F” on your transcript.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Webcourses: Webcourses is an online course management system (accessed through my.ucf.edu and then the "Online Course Tools" tab) which will be used as a medium for turning in assignments and a forum for communicating with your professor. The Webcourses site will have up-to-date information on topics, class assignments, schedule and so on. In addition, each class module will include useful tools for exam preparation and to add to the material presented in class. My recommendation is to check Webcourses regularly for updates.

Email: In this class our official mode of communication is through email located inside Webcourses. All communication between student and instructor and between student and student should be respectful and professional. It is the student's responsibility to check Webcourses frequently. You may also wish to create a Knight's Email account at www.knightsemail.ucf.edu for separate official communication from the university. If for any reason you cannot log into Webcourses, you may use my office email address which is: Annabelle.conroy@ucf.edu. You may also call or come to my office (information provided above).

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Diversity and Inclusion: The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at **www.shield.ucf.edu** and **http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/**.

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact Student Accessibility Services.

Disability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Professionalism Policy: Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, *etc*. **must be silenced** during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment and will lose protocol points. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc*., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

Academic Conduct Policy: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University

Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating: UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://z.ucf.edu/.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

Religious Observances: Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of class. If any assignment falls on a day in which you

observe a religious holiday, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor by the end of the second week of class. In addition, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements for completing that particular assignment.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments/Notes
	Part I: Theories, Concepts and Process	
Week 1: 8/24	Introduction to the Course	Complete Module 1
Week 2: 8/31	Comparing Public Policies	Complete Module 2
Week 3: 9/9	Interests and Ideas and Institutions	Complete Module 3
Week 4: 9/14	Corruption and Public Policy	Complete Module 4
Week 5: 9/21	Policy Transfer and Learning	Complete Module 5
Week 6: 9/28	Public Policy in the Developing World	Complete Module 6
Week 7: 10/5	Doing Comparative Public Policy	Complete Module 7
Week 8: 10/12	Midterm Exam	Complete Module 8
	Part II: Policy Cases	
Week 9: 10/19	Economic Policy	Complete Module 9
Week 10: 10/26	Welfare Policy	Complete Module 10
Week 11: 11/2	Health Policy	Complete Module 11
Week 12: 11/9	Education Policy	Complete Module 12
Week 13: 11/16	Environmental Policy	Complete Module 13
Week 14: 11/23*	Drug Policy	Begin Module 14
Week 15: 11/30	Drug Policy (cont'd)	Complete Module 14
Week 16: 12/7	Final Exam Week	Complete Module 15 **Final Exam: Opens 12/8 – Closes 12/14**

* November 26-28 (Thanksgiving Break)

Make sure you read the syllabus in its entirety before proceeding with the course. By proceeding with the course, you are implicitly agreeing to be bound by all the conditions set forth in the syllabus.