

POLS 302: Introduction to Public Policy

MWF 1:00-1:50 Morgan 316

Fall 2021

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Office Hours (Virtual, Email, or Phone; Face to face with sufficient notice to obtain a conference room):

MWF 12-1, Tuesday 4PM-5PM

(Please let me know 24 hours in advance if you would like to video chat over Zoom or Skype or if you'd like to meet face to face in a conference room).

Course Description:

Welcome! Despite the popular perception that the policy process is akin to that of making sausage, this course will, indeed, force us all to look at how policy is made and implemented. In doing so, we will identify relevant actors, groups, and contextual factors that shape American public policy, especially at the federal level. We will attempt to bridge the gap between theory and practice by: (a) exploring the seminal writings of policy theorists and analysts, on the one hand, and (b) working in small groups to deal with actual policy problems. In addition, we will discuss basic methods of policy analysis, program evaluation, and decision-making. Finally, we will pay careful attention to the roles of rhetoric and argumentation that help us to debate public policy.

Course Objectives:

To become familiar with general theories of the policy process

To learn and understand the importance of key actors, groups, political climates, and other sources of influence in this process

To comprehend and consider normative policy imperatives, some of which we will heartily agree with and others of which we will vehemently despise

To acquire a rudimentary knowledge of the techniques involved in policy analysis To work independently, and with group members, in fulfilling the aforementioned objectives

To create and maintain an open setting for crucial debates on a myriad of policy arenas To have fun and to learn from one another!

Core Competencies this Course will Address:

Through the writing assignments, you will develop your abilities to write in a few different ways. First, you will learn to communicate succinctly in the limited space of a policy memo. Second, you will learn to fully flesh arguments out through the course term paper. Through our course discussions, you should develop your oral communication skills and your appreciation for other perspectives.

Through the readings and exams, you should develop your ability to think critically.

My commitment: I will be 100% available for any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions that you wish to proffer. You may call, e-mail, visit my office, or leave an anonymous note with the department's office manager at any point during the

semester. I promise that I will do all I can to answer your questions and consider your suggestions to improve the course. This course is for YOU, so take advantage of these opportunities!

Your commitment: To attend each course session unless a major catastrophe prevents you from doing so; To come prepared to ask questions, To READ offer insightful comments, and listen to your classmates. To offer the highest quality versions of your own original work for performance evaluation (grading). The nature of this course is such that it will be virtually impossible to pass, much less excel, if you do not complete the assigned readings.

Academic Integrity: Please refer to your undergraduate or graduate handbook for WIU's policy on Academic Integrity (for Plagiarism and other forms of cheating). It is impossible to learn from one another if any of us recycle the ideas of others. Please turn in your own original work, use quotation marks “ “ when quoting a source, and use a recognized citation style (preferably APA). Please do not speak to one another during the course of an exam. If I suspect that you may be cheating, I will contact the University Judicial Office or take other necessary measures. If your actions are judged as academically dishonest, you will receive an automatic zero on the assignment and may receive a grade of F in the course.

Students with disabilities: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability ResourceCenter at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at:<http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Web address for student rights and responsibilities:

<http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

Web address for Academic Integrity Policy: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Please feel free to discuss any disability issues with me in private, and I will make reasonable accommodations to ensure that you may fully participate in every aspect of this course. Please don't hesitate to inform me of any needs you have. If I don't know, I won't be able to help you.

Decorum/Expectations of Proper Conduct:

Be civil and treat one another as you would like to be treated. You might learn something from someone who has a different perspective or opinion. Don't be afraid to listen with an open mind.

Western Illinois University COVID-19 Classroom Comportment Policies, Fall Semester 2021

Introduction

The following constitutes a set of policies that attempt to standardize classroom behavior during the Fall 2021 semester. The purpose of these policies is to reduce the risk of COVID 19 infection in the classroom and increase safety for faculty, staff and students on our campuses.

These policies are temporary and will be rescinded once the situation warrants.

These policies are meant to be applied exclusively to students and to faculty members during the Fall 2021 semester.

The following policies must be distributed to each student along with course syllabus.

Policy on a Seating Chart

Contact tracing is required to control any potential outbreak of COVID 19 on campus. Due to the potential need for contact tracing, faculty members must maintain a seating chart and take attendance in every face-to-face class meeting in order to facilitate contact tracing. In the event that a student tests positive for COVID-19, it will be essential to identify who was in close proximity to the student for possible quarantine. Faculty members must assist contact tracers in this work. Taking daily attendance and maintaining consistent seating charts will help to prevent an entire class from the possibility of being quarantined for 14 days or more. As such, in each class we strongly recommend a seating chart be created on the first day of a course and students should be expected to adhere to their respective seat in each course for the remainder of the semester.

Policy on Face Coverings in the Classroom

All students and faculty are required to wear a face covering at all times in the classroom, regardless of vaccination status.

Individuals should use a personally purchased alternative face covering as required. Western Illinois University will provide temporary face coverings (available at a designated location in most buildings on campus) if an individual forgets or misplaces a mask. It is the responsibility of University units to ensure compliance from employees and students under their purview. Units can also refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on face coverings with regard to type and fit, wearing, and washing. Additionally, no food or drink will be allowed in the classroom.

Please find a more detailed explanation of this policy at:
http://www.wiu.edu/policies/covid_facecovering.php

Disciplinary Policy on Refusal to Wear a Face Covering

Exceptions to the policy require approval by WIU's Disability Resources Center (DRC) located within the Student Development and Success Center (SDSC) and the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access.

If a student refuses to comply with the policy, and does not have appropriate approval from the DRC, instructors and University officials can request that the student leave the class or activity. If a student is found to be in repeated violation of this policy, instructors and University officials can sanction the student through the student conduct process for violating the WIU Code of Student Conduct code number 17: *"Failing to comply with the directions of or obstructing University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to positively identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so."*

The process should be as follows:

* Ask the student to put on her/his face covering. If the student does not have one they should be sent to the closest distribution center on campus to receive a replacement.

http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/risk_management_and_emergency_preparedness/coronavirus/Campus-Face-Covering-Distribution-Locations.pdf

* If a student refuses to put on a face covering, inform the student that a failure to comply with this policy will result in disciplinary action.

* If the student still refuses to put on a face covering, ask the student to leave the classroom. Report the student to the Student Judicial Office for consideration of possible sanction through the student conduct process for violating the WIU Code of Student Conduct code number 17: *"Failing to comply with the directions of or obstructing University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to positively identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so."*

Student Judicial Programs: http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/srrri/index.php

* If the student refuses to leave the classroom, cancel the class session and dismiss the class. Report the student to the Student Judicial Office for sanctioning.

* If the student continues to refuse to wear the face covering in future classes contact the Office of Public Safety to remove the student from the classroom.

http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/public_safety/ 309.298.1949

Please note that in most cases it is not appropriate to notify law enforcement. However, faculty have the right to cancel class immediately if a student refuses to wear a face covering; likewise, students have the right to leave a class immediately if an instructor fails to wear a face covering.

Again, to be clear, individuals who disregard safety measures will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with Western Illinois University's Human Resources and Student Conduct procedures. Faculty and staff have the ability to request that a student leave their class or activity if they are found to be in violation of the campus policy and after a reasonable effort has been made to rectify the situation

Assignments and Grading

Note on Attendance:

Attendance in our face to face class meetings is highly encouraged and represents the best opportunity to fully engage with the material and other course participants. Still, the pandemic has caused lots of things to go out of balance and requires flexibility from instructors. You will not be penalized for missing class due to illness, family illness, or other Covid-19 related occurrences. If you need to miss class, let me know in advance if possible so that I can provide materials to help you stay in the loop.

Quizzes 30%

There will be multiple quizzes during the course of the semester. If you read and participate, you'll have no trouble with these. Make up quizzes will rarely, if ever, be given. In the online quiz system, remember you have unlimited attempts on each quiz. These quizzes are available in WesternOnline, and you have unlimited opportunities.

Midterm and Final Exam: 25% each= 50% total

Specifics on each exam will be provided prior to the administration of the exam. We will

devote a substantial portion of course time to reviewing for the midterm and final. Make up exams will rarely, if ever, be given.

Gun Control (or other policy) Policy Memo: 10% Due on WesternOnline by week 10. For this assignment, you will write a 2-3 page memo on some aspect of gun control. You may write in support or opposition of concealed handgun carry, magazine capacity limits, ammunition sales restrictions, universal gun training, revising the background check process, etc. If you'd like to choose another policy issue, just make sure to run it by me first and I'll likely give you a green light. Use the "How to write a policy memo" lecture as your starting point. More detailed instructions will be provided as the semester progresses.

Biography and Mock Interview 10% Due on Western Online by Week 15.

Select one author of an excerpt from the course readings (e.g., Orwell, Kuhn, Etzioni, Bentham) and provide a 1-2 page explanation of his/her contributions to the field of public policy. Afterward, based on your research on this scholar and his/her written work, conduct an "interview" with this scholar asking at least 5 questions similar to the prompts listed below. Conclude your essay by reiterating the main contributions of this scholar and how his/her work has been influenced by, and influences new policy research/arguments/movements.

- (1) What is the most important consideration for a policy maker?
- (2) How do events since your writings were published affect your arguments/ideas? Is this what you would have predicted? What did we get right about your work? What did we fail to pay sufficient attention to?
- (3) Which of your contemporaries was most influential in your work? Which scholars did you build off of to write your Classic essay(s)? **Check References List and "related articles/books" from Google Scholar.
- (4) How should policy makers manage expectations from stakeholders such as: elected officials, clientele, citizens, professional associations, and others? Whose demands take priority?
- (5) What recent (within the last decade) book or article uses your ideas most effectively to build new knowledge?
- (6) What bodies of theory in public policy build off of your work? With which scholars would you have debates or even tension?

Tips for Written Assignments

Please be clear in expressing your ideas. I do not accept "ipse dixit" arguments as justifications for theses. Whether you are using relevant literature in the field of PA and/or personal interview citations, please support your statements! Also, significant spelling/grammatical errors that make your paper difficult to understand will result in point

deductions. Print your paper and read it aloud to yourself or someone else before turning it in. In order to avoid these deductions, please **PROOFREAD** and spell-check your assignments before turning them in. For assistance with written assignments, WIU invites you to take advantage of the Writing Center. To make an appointment with a faculty/staff officer at the center, visit: www.wiu.edu/UWC/

Required Texts

Birkland, *An Introduction to the Policy Process*. Routledge (most recent edition is preferred; older editions will work)

Course Schedule: Please Note that the schedule contained in this syllabus is subject to change and/or revision at the discretion of the instructor. Please come to class so that you may keep up with the activities of this course.

Additional reading assignments (e.g., Journal Articles, etc.) will be announced as the course progresses. Please make sure that you complete ALL readings before the class session in which they will be discussed. All Articles Listed on this Syllabus are available in assigned texts, on J-Stor, or On-line.

<p>Week 1 August 23, 25, 27</p>	<p>Introduction to Debating Public Policy</p>	<p>Meet and Greet; Course Description;</p>
<p>Week 2 August 30, September 1, September 3</p>	<p>Birkland, Chapter 1-2</p>	<p>Defining Public Policy</p>
<p>Week 3 September 6: NO CLASS! LABOR DAY September 8: September 10</p>	<p>Read: Jeremy Bentham, "On the Principle of Utility" https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/ David Easton, The Political System Under Stress</p>	<p>Policy as Science, Art, and System</p>

	<p>(summary)</p> <p>https://www.politicalsciencenotes.com/articles/systems-theory-according-to-david-easton/500</p> <p>http://online.sfsu.edu/sguo/Renmin/June2_system/Political%20System_Easton.pdf</p> <p>Thomas S. Kuhn The Nature and Necessity of Scientific Revolutions (1970)</p> <p>https://www.nature.com/articles/484164a</p> <p>Birkland, Chapter 3 & 8</p> <p>Listen:</p> <p>https://www.wpr.org/shows/looking-eleven-walks-expert-eyes</p>	
<p>Week 4</p> <p>September 13 September 15 September 17</p>	<p>Read: George Orwell Politics and the English Language (1945)</p> <p>https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-foundation/orwell/essays-and-other-works/politics-and-the-english-language/</p> <p><u>Daniel J. Boorstin</u></p> <p>http://www.columbia.edu/itc/journalism/j6075/edit/boorstin/</p> <p>https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/12/the-image-in-the-age-of-pseudo-reality/509135/</p>	<p>Rhetoric and Policy</p>

	<p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/12/07/is-our-out-of-control-political-rhetoric-really-all-that-extraordinary/</p>	
<p>Week 5 September 20 September 22 September 24</p>	<p>James Madison The Federalist No. 10 (1787) https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed10.asp</p> <p>David Truman The Governmental Process (1951) https://adambrown.info/p/notes/truman_the_governmental_process</p> <p>C. Wright Mills The Power Elite (1957) https://www.faculty.rsu.edu/users/f/felwell/www/Theorists/Essays/Mills2.htm</p> <p>Robert A. Dahl Who Governs? (1961) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPI4LkLH8_w</p>	<p>Pluralism vs Elitism; Institutionalism; Historical Institutionalism</p>

<p>Week 6</p> <p>Agenda Setting and Policy Leadership</p> <p>September 27 September 29 October 1</p>	<p>Birkland, Chapter 6</p> <p>Anthony Downs Up and Down with Ecology-The Issue-Attention Cycle (1972)</p>	
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chrome-extension://gphandlahdpffmccakmbngmbjnjiiahp/https://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/students/envs_5720/downs_1972.pdf

John W. Kingdon
Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies (1995)

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2392088?seq=1>

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4007243?seq=1>

Charles A. Beard
An Economic
Interpretation of the Constitution (1913)

Gerald T. Gabris
(1992) Strategic
Planning in Municipal Government: A Tool for
Expanding
Cooperative Decision Making between
Elected and
Appointed Officials

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3380807?seq=1>

<p>Week 7</p> <p>October 4 October 6 October 8 (Fall Break)</p>	<p>Birkland, Chapter 10 Interview with Michael Lipsky about "Street Level Bureaucrats" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZX1livgPspA</p> <p>Charles E. Lindblom The Science of "Muddling Through" (1959) https://faculty.washington.edu/mccurdy/SciencePolicy/Lindblom%20Muddling%20Through.pdf</p> <p>Amitai Etzioni Mixed Scanning: A "Third" Approach to Decision Making (1967) https://www.jstor.org/stable/973394?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents</p>	<p>Types of Policy and Decision Theories</p>
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<p>Week 8</p> <p>October 11 October 13 October 15</p>	<p>Birkland, Chapters 4&5</p> <p>The EOP: An Historical Overview</p> <p>https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/98-606.pdf</p> <p>The Attitudinal Model</p> <p>https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199604456.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199604456-e-014</p> <p>Spiller & Gely, Strategic Judicial Decisionmaking</p> <p>https://scholar.google.com/scholar_url?url=https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w13321/w13321.pdf&hl=en&sa=X&ei=LNkbYYXTK7uO6rQP3rWMiAQ&scisig=AAGBfm1UYOQYBxMva37Xcib3G6QjnpiJZQ&oi=scholar</p>	<p>Legislative, Executive and Judicial Roles in Policy</p>
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Week 9
October 18
October 20
October 22

Come Prepared with Questions!
Group Policy
Analysis

**Midterm Review and
Midterm Exam
Available Online by
Wednesday**

Week 10
October 25
October 27
October 29

Draft Policy Memo Outlines

READ:

Sample Policy Memos

<https://library.centre.edu/POL371/samples>

https://educationalequity.org/sites/default/files/documents/best_practices_-_policy_memo.pdf

<http://www.justfacts.com/guncontrol.asp#general>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-comprehensive-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gun-crime-and-ensure-public-safety/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gunned-down/>

Gun Policy, Policy Analysis and Writing a Policy Memo

<p>Week 11 November 1 November 3 November 5</p>	<p>Hardin, Tragedy of the Commons</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSuETYEgY68</p> <p>https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/tragedy-of-the-commons-impact-on-sustainability-issues</p> <p>Basic Guide to Program Evaluation</p> <p>https://managementhelp.org/evaluation/program-evaluation-guide.htm</p> <p>Matland, Ambiguity Conflict Model of Implementation</p> <p>https://www.jstor.org/stable/1181674?seq=1#metadata_a_info_tab_contents</p>	<p>Challenges of Implementation and Program Evaluation</p> <p>Policy Memo Due FRIDAY WesternOnline Discussion Board by Midnight</p>
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<p>Week 12</p> <p>November 8 November 10 November 12</p>	<p>https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-government-and-civics/american-civics-parent/american-civics/v/illinois-pension-obligations</p> <p>https://www.forbes.com/sites/ebauer/2020/02/22/the-bottom-line-illinois-public-pension-debt-is-a-moral-issue/?sh=493183175738</p> <p>How Illinois Became America's Most Messed Up State</p> <p>http://money.cnn.com/2017/06/29/investing/illinois-budget-crisis-downgrade/index.html</p>	<p>Economic Policy</p> <p>Reforming Public Pensions?</p> <p>Analysis of National Debt and State Debt</p> <p>Explanation of Illinois Pension Problems</p>
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<p>Week 13</p> <p>November 15 November 17 November 19</p>	<p>http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/08/13/430050765/five-big-ideas-that-don-t-work in-education</p> <p>https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/types-of-school-choice/what-are-school-vouchers-2/</p> <p>https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-08-16/how-to-make-progress-in-the-coming-debate-over-immigration</p>	<p>Education Policy Immigration Policy</p>
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WEEK 14

**THANKSGIVING
BREAK!**

November 22

November 24

November 26

<p>Week 15</p> <p>November 29 December 1 December 3</p>	<p>“Sick Around the World” PBS:</p> <p>https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-sick-around-the-world/</p> <p>“Coronavirus Pandemic” PBS:</p> <p>https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/coronavirus-pandemic/</p>	<p>HealthCare Policy</p>
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Week 16

December 6
December 8
December 10

Don Kettl (2005)
“The Next Government of the United States”

<http://www.businessofgovernment.org/sites/default/files/Performanceinthe21stCent.pdf>

David Cameron, “The Next Age of Government”

https://www.ted.com/talks/david_cameron_the_next_age_of_government/transcript?language=en

Denhardt & Denhardt (2002): The New Public Service

<http://www.mcrhdi.gov.in/91fc/coursematerial/management/4%20Serving%20rather%20than%20steering.pdf>

Interview Workshop (Bring your draft)

Final Exam Review

Governance Theories

Week 17

FINAL EXAM

**Wednesday,
December 15,
1pm (Available
ONLINE)**

