

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 285H
PUBLIC POLICY
3 CREDIT HOURS
FALL SEMESTER, 2009**

242B CHSS BUILDING
MWF 1:00 P.M.- 2:00 P.M.

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OFFICE HOURS: MWF 10:00A.M.--11:00A.M.
TuTh 12:30P.M.--1:30P.M.

Course Description:

This course is a study of national and state government policy and policymaking. The policy process, as well as the content and the practice of implementing public policy is addressed.

We will focus most of our attention on environmental public policy as a “generic” example of policy and policymaking. This will allow us to consider features of the policy process that are common to all public policies while at the same time gaining a more clear understanding of a particular public policy.

Environmental policy is a broad area of concern involving, among other things, air and water pollution, acid rain, the greenhouse effect and climate change, population pressures, nuclear power, energy, transportation, biodiversity, endangered species, and solid waste disposal.

Course Structure:

Lecture/discussion; multiple choice and essay exams; a written project.

Course Objectives:

- Students will gain factual knowledge (terminology), classifications, methods, trends).
- Students will learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories.

- Students will develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to personal values.
- Students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
- Students will acquire an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers.

Required Textbooks:

Edwin Davis, Public Policy: The Basics, Edsal Publishing House.

Herbert Kaufman, The Forest Ranger, Resources for the Future, 2006.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance requirements are compatible with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Students should review that policy statement for a more detailed explanation of attendance policy.

Exams and Grading Plan:

There will be three exams during the semester. This number includes the final. The formats will be a mixture of essay and multiple choice. Each exam will be worth 30% of the grade in the course. Make up exams are the responsibility of the student to call attention and see that unfinished work is completed before the end of the semester.

Grades will be precisely and specifically calculated and assigned according to traditional grading scales and procedures using letter and numerical grades. A traditional ten point breakdown of grades from A to F will be followed.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty policies for this class are compatible with Academic policy Statement 810213. Students with any questions should consult that statement for more details.

ADA:

Policies for this class are compatible with the Americans for Disabilities Act, and students with any questions should work with the Professor to alleviate any difficulties.

Religious Holidays:

Religious Holidays are respected.

Instructor Evaluations:

Students will be asked to complete course/instructor evaluation forms toward the end of the semester.

Written Assignments:

Each student will be asked to critically analyze, evaluate, and comment on an environmental public policy. Each student will choose a policy in consultation with the Instructor and provide at the end of the semester a five page explanation, analysis, evaluation, and commentary of the policy and whether or not the policy is a good or bad idea, and whether or not the policy reflects good or bad practice. Each student will work from an “official policy statement” and explain in detail how the policy is supposed to work as it is written, whether the policy is a good idea or not, and how and why the policy might be changed or improved. No additional readings beyond the actual text of the policy will be necessary, so no footnotes or bibliography will be required. However, traditional standards of academic excellence and honesty will be applied in the grading of the project.

Required Supplies:

No supplies are needed for this course unless we are talking about notebooks, pens and pencils, scantrons, etc.

Tentative Course Outline:

Monday, August 24, 2009	Introduction to Course 1
Wednesday, August 26, 2009	Introduction to Course 2
Friday, August 28, 2009	Politics and Policy Introduction
Monday, August 31, 2009	What is Public Policy?
Wednesday, September 2, 2009	Types of Public Policies
Friday, September 4, 2009	Models of Public Policy Making

Monday, September 7, 2009	Labor Day, No Class
Wednesday, September 9, 2009	The Normative and Empirical Approaches
Friday, September 11, 2009	What is Public Policy?
Monday, September 14, 2009	Subgovernments
Wednesday, September 16, 2009	NEPA
Friday, September 18, 2009	EPA and Nixon
Monday, September 21, 2009	CEQ
Wednesday, September 23, 2009	Environmental Literature
Friday, September 25, 2009	Environmental Interest Groups
Monday, September 28, 2009	Introduction to Environmental Terms and Concepts
Wednesday, September 30, 2009	Introduction to Air Pollution Policy
Friday, October 2, 2009	History of Air Pollution Policy 1
Monday, October 5, 2009	Introduction to Forestry Policy
Wednesday, October 7, 2009	History of Forestry Policy 1
Friday, October 9, 2009	NSPS
Monday, October 12, 2009	PSD
Wednesday, October 14, 2009	Clean Air Act 1990
Friday, October 16, 2009	Introduction to Public Land Policy
Monday, October 19, 2009	Forestry: The Era of Conservation Pinchot
Wednesday, October 21, 2009	TEST 1

Friday, October 23, 2009	Conservation v. Preservation
Monday, October 26, 2009	The USFS
Wednesday, October 28, 2009	Multiple Use 1
Friday, October 30, 2009	Multiple Use 2
Monday, November 2, 2009	Introduction to Water Policy
Wednesday, November 4, 2009	History of Water Policy 1
Friday, November 6, 2009	History of Water Policy 2
Monday, November 9, 2009	Clean Water Acts
Wednesday, November 11, 2009	TEST 2
Friday, November 13, 2009	Current Water Policy 1
Monday, November 16, 2009	Current Water Policy 1
Wednesday, November 18, 2009	Student Presentations 1
Friday, November 20, 2009	Student Presentations 2
Monday, November 23, 2009	Student Presentations 3
Wednesday, November 25, 2009	Thanksgiving, No Class
Friday, November 27, 2009	Thanksgiving, No Class
Monday, November 30, 2009	Student Presentations 4
Wednesday, December 2, 2009	Student Presentations 5
Friday, December 4, 2009	Student Presentations 6
Monday, December 7, 2009	Student Presentations 7
Wednesday, December 9, 2009	Student Presentations 8

Friday, December 11, 2009

Last Class Day--REVIEW

December 14-17

Final Exams

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. Cell phones and other typical disturbances should be reserved for emergencies.