

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS ENTIRE SYLLABUS**Course Number:** POL 285**Sections:** 02**Term:** Fall 2008**Course Title:** American Public Policy: US National Security & Nation-Building.**Class Meetings:** Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays, 11:00 am – 11:50 am, Room AB1 317.**Professor:** R. M. Bittick, M.P.A., Ph.D.**Office:** AB1 319G (until November)**Contact Information:** Email: rmb004@shsu.edu. Phone: 936-294-4105.**Office Hours:** M-W-F, 10:00 am – 11:00 a.m., walk-in. I am willing to meet with students by appointment at other mutually agreeable times.**Class Website:** Go to Blackboard < <https://blackboard.shsu.edu/webapps/login/> >. Students are required to access this website before each class.**Course Description:** the following is from the SHSU University Catalog:

POL 285 AMERICAN PUBLIC POLICY. [GOVT 2302] This is a study of national and state policy. Both the policy process and the substance of selected policies will be examined. Topics may include foreign policy, civil liberties, health care, social issues, economic problems, environmental policy, and/or others.

Prerequisite: POL 261. Credit 3.

Welcome to POL 285! This course is designed for students to learn about American public policy. To do this, we will study steps of the policymaking process and **focus on policy implementation with US National Security Policy/Nation-Building as the specific policy area focus.** Looking at select US nation-building missions since 1945, the course emphasizes institution-building through creating or rebuilding core public administration agencies in various nations. Thus, this course deals with a combination of US National Security Policy and Public Administration.

Course Goals: With the above in mind, students must achieve three goals:

1. **Public Policy Making Process:** conceptualize and understand US public policy;
2. **Policy Implementation/Public Administration:** recognize and understand select characteristics of a successfully implemented public policy;
3. **National Security:** define national security, and identify and recognize characteristics of regions or nations that are strategically important to US national security; and
4. **Nation-Building:** understand the principles of nation-building, and identify the core public administration organizations necessary to establish and maintain a civil society.

Course Objectives: to achieve these goals, students must complete the following objectives:**Knowledge:** at the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Name and explain the steps of the policy making process;
- Identify and distinguish between the elements necessary to successfully implement public policies;
- Explain characteristics of regions or nations that are strategically important to US national security; and

- Explain the phases and core institutional arrangements involved in a nation-building mission, and challenges involved with each.

Competencies & Related Skills: at the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the degree of clarity of US national security goals regarding select nation-building missions since World War II;
- Identify problems, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing US nation-building policies since World War II;
- Assess the adequacy of US policies to build effective civil administration organizations in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Values: at the completion of this course, students will appreciate:

- The importance of effective democratic government institutions;
- The challenges and barriers encountered in establishing civil societies;
- The complex nature of the problems faced by public administrators involved in nation-building.

Assessments: Class Discussions and exams.

Required Texts - I will also assign other reading material throughout the semester that will be linked on the course website in Blackboard or handed out in class:

1. Davis, Edwin. 2002. *Public Policy: The Basics*. Edsal Publishing.
 2. Dobbins, James, et al. 2003. *America's Role in National-Building: From Germany to Iraq*. RAND Publication.
 3. Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*, Fourth Edition. Bedford/St. Martin's.
- Other reading assignments will be required during the course of the semester. These will be either linked in Blackboard, or put on reserve in the library.

Required Activities of Students:

- **Assigned Readings:** These are listed on the schedule. You must plan ahead and schedule your reading time appropriately.
- **Class Attendance:** *Class attendance is mandatory.* If you are not able to attend class on a regular basis, you must drop the course and re-take it in a future semester.
 - Three (3) unexcused absences are allowed without penalty. You must submit documentation to me to have an absence excused (e.g. doctor's notice, etc.).
 - **NOTE: leaving class early counts as an absence.** 10 points may be deducted from that student's final grade at the professor's discretion if the student has more than three unexcused absences during the term. Also, 10 points will be deducted from a student's final grade if the student is absent from the scheduled class during finals week.
- **Exams:**
 - **Quizzes.** Three (3) quizzes are required for this class. Four (4) quizzes are administered, and the lowest grade is dropped. Students must bring a Scantron to class on the day of each quiz.

- **Mid-Term and Final Exams.** One (1) written mid-term and one (1) written final exam is required for this class.
 - **NOTE:** the dates for the quizzes and the exams are set at the times specified in order for you to gain the maximum learning benefit. **No make-up exams are allowed. If you miss an exam date, it will count as zero points earned.**

Assessments - the following coursework is required to complete this course:

Required Assignments	Portion of Final Grade
Three (3) Quizzes @ 40 points each:	120 points
Mid-Term Exam (Written):	60 points
<u>Final Exam (Written):</u>	<u>60 points</u>
Sub-Total:	240 points
Less 10 points for unexcused absences:	?
<u>Less 10 points for absence during Final Exam Week:</u>	<u>?</u>
Total:	?

NOTE: Students who perform poorly on any of these assignments, or who demonstrate behaviors that are detrimental to learning (e.g., talking to other students, text messaging, talking on cell phones, reading, disrespectful attitudes, reading e-mail messages, surfing the internet, etc.) in class, may be referred to **First Alert** at the professor’s discretion. See: http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/ and *Classroom Rules of Conduct* below.

All university rules and procedures apply to this class.

Academic Honesty: Students are required to read *Academic Policy Statement 810213* found at <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

NOTE: all students may be required to submit written work both as a hard copy **and** on electronic media (i.e. as a Word document) so it may be checked using a plagiarism software program (e.g. TurnItIn). Students who do not submit work both as a hard copy and electronically as instructed will not receive credit for the paper.

Students caught cheating in any way will receive an automatic “F” (no points earned) for that assignment and may be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs for

further counseling and discipline. Students caught cheating may be expelled from class.

Americans with Disabilities Act: See *Academic Policy Statement 811006* at http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf. The student must initiate requests for accommodations. Students seeking accommodations are required to go to the Counseling Center for certification of the disability in a timely manner.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: See *Academic Policy Statement 861001* at http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are required to read this policy found at: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

- **Talking:** do not engage in side conversations with other students during class.
- **Cell Phones & Computers:** turn off or silence your cell phones once class begins. Do not engage in phone conversations, text messaging, etc., and do not read and reply to e-mail messages or surf the internet during class. Notify the professor before class if you expect an emergency phone call (this must not be a regular occurrence).
- **Reading:** Do not read non-class related material during class (e.g. newspapers).
- **Sleeping:** Do not sleep during class. Students may stand-up in the back of the classroom to stay awake.

Schedule: The current schedule is linked in Blackboard in the *Course Information* folder. The professor reserves the right to change the schedule as needed. Changes will be **highlighted in yellow** and linked to the class website in Blackboard in the *Course Information* folder.

Class Schedule: The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule. Changes will be highlighted in yellow and linked in Blackboard in the *Course Information* folder.

Week	Dates	Topics – Readings - Assignments
1	Monday 25 Aug. 08	Topic: Introduction. Required Reading: Syllabus.
	Wednesday 27 Aug. 08	Topic: Political Science and Public Policy. Required Reading: Davis, <i>Forward, Introduction</i> , ch. 1, & Handout.
	Friday 29 Aug. 08	Topic: Public Policy Modeling. Required Reading: Davis, ch. 2 & Handout.
2	Monday 01 Sept. 08	Holiday – Labor Day - No class.
	Wednesday 03 Sept. 08	Topic: Conceptualizing The Policy Process, and Major Actors in the Policy Process. Required Reading: Davis, chs. 3-4, & Handout.
	Friday 05 Sept. 08	Topic: Varieties of Public Policies. Required Reading: Davis, ch. 5 & Handout.
3	Monday 08 Sept. 08	Quiz #1 covering Davis, chs. 1-5. Topic: Characteristics of Policy Making in Different Branches of Government. Required Reading: Davis, ch. 6 & Handout.
	Wednesday 10 Sept. 08	12th Class Day. Topic: Problem Recognition, Agenda Setting, and Policy Formulation. Required Reading: Davis, ch. 7 & Handout.
	Friday 12 Sept. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation and Public Administration. Required Reading: Davis, ch. 8, Appendix, & Handout.
4	Monday 15 Sept. 08	Topic: Policy Evaluation. Required Reading: Davis, ch. 9 & Handout.
	Wednesday 17 Sept. 08	Topic: Public Finance and Budgeting. Required Reading: Davis, ch. 10, & Handout.
	Friday 19 Sept. 08	Topic: Public Finance and Budgeting continued. Required Reading: Davis, ch. 10, & Handout.
5	Monday 22 Sept. 08	Quiz #2 covering Davis, chs. 7-10 and class notes & handouts. Topic: US National Security – Introduction. Required Readings: Handout.
	Wednesday 24 Sept. 08	Topic: US National Security – Identifying US Interests. Required Readings: Michael Desch, “The Keys that Lock Up the World: Identifying American Interests in the Periphery,” <i>International Security</i> , Vol. 14, no. 1 (Summer 1989): 86-121 (download from library database, JSTOR).
	Friday 26 Sept. 08	Topic: US National Security – Identifying US Interests. Required Readings: Desch, “The keys that lock up the world,” cont.
6	Monday 29 Sept. 08	Topic: US National Security and Nation-Building. Required Reading: Dobbins, Preface, Executive Summary, ch. One, & Handout.

	Wednesday 01 Oct. 08	Topic: State-Building, Nation-Building, and Institution Building. Required Reading: Dobbins, Preface, Executive Summary, ch. One, & Handout.
	Friday 03 Oct. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Germany. Required Reading: Dobbins, ch. Two & Handout.
7	Monday 06 Oct. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building in Germany. Required Reading: Dobbins, ch. Two & Handout.
	Wednesday 08 Oct. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Japan. Required Reading: Dobbins, ch. Three & Handouts.
	Friday 10 Oct. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building in Japan. Required Reading: Dobbins, ch. Three & Handouts.
8	Monday 13 Oct. 08	Test #1 – Written.
	Wednesday 15 Oct. 08	Topic: National Security & Nation-Building - Post-Cold War Period. Required Reading: Handout.
	Friday 17 Oct. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Somalia. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Four & Handout.
9	Monday 20 Oct. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Somalia. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Four & Handout.
	Wednesday 22 Oct. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Haiti. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Five & Handout.
	Friday 24 Oct. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building in Haiti. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Five & Handout.
10	Monday 27 Oct. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Bosnia. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Six & Handout.
	Wednesday 29 Oct. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building in Bosnia. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Six & Handout.
	Friday 31 Oct. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Kosovo. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Seven & Handout.
11	Monday 03 Nov. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building in Kosovo. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Seven & Handout.
	Wednesday 05 Nov. 08	Quiz #3 covering all material since last quiz through Kosovo.
	Friday 07 Nov. 08	Topic: National Security & Nation-Building – Global War on Terrorism. Required Reading: Handout.
12	Monday 10 Nov. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Afghanistan. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Eight & Handout.
	Wednesday 12 Nov. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building in Afghanistan. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Eight & Handout.
	Friday 14 Nov. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building in Afghanistan. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Eight & Handout.
13	Monday 17 Nov. 08	Topic: Nation-Building - Lessons Learned. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Nine & Handout.

	Wednesday 19 Nov. 08	Topic: Background - Nation-Building in Iraq. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Ten, Appendix, & Handout.
	Friday 21 Nov. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building - Steps to Sovereignty in Iraq. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Ten, Appendix, and Handout.
14	Monday 24 Nov. 08	Topic: Policy Implementation - Nation-Building in Iraq. Required Reading: Dobbins et al, ch. Ten, Appendix, and Handout.
	Wednesday 26 Nov. 08	Holiday – Thanksgiving - No Class!
	Friday 28 Nov. 08	
15	Monday 01 Dec. 08	Quiz #4 covering all material since last quiz through Iraq.
	Wednesday 03 Dec. 08	Topic: Implications for Public Policy & Administration. Required Reading: Handout.
	Friday 05 Dec. 08	Topic: Implications for Public Policy & Administration continued. Required Reading: Handout.
16	Monday 08 Dec. 08	Topic: Nation-Building Review for Final Exam. Required Readings: Review all Text and Handouts concerning Nation-Building.
	Wednesday 10 Dec. 08	Final Exam – Written.
	Friday 12 Dec. 08	Study Day – No Class!
17 Finals Week	Wednesday 17 Dec. 08	Attendance is Mandatory – 10 points will be deducted from your final exam for absence. Class meets: 11:00 am – 01:00 pm.