

POL 285.06-American Public Policy, 3 credit hours

SHSU - Fall, 2008

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30a.m. AB!, room 317

Instructor: Dr. Corliss Lentz

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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-9:30; 10:45-12:00p.m. T, Th in Huntsville

The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus, including dates for examinations, presentations, and the due date of materials, as needed. These changes will be announced in class and may appear in Blackboard announcements. It is the student's responsibility to become aware of the changes.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

These textbooks are needed for you to do well in the course. Please obtain them as quickly as possible and stay up on your readings.

Davis, Edwin S. 2008. *Public Policy: The Basics, 3rd edition*. Edsal Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-0-9721978-2-3.

Brower, Jennifer and Peter Chalk. 2003. *The global threat of New and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases*. RAND. ISBN: 0833032933 or available online to print off
<http://rand.org/publications/MR/MR1602/index.html>

United Nations. UNICEF/UNAIDS. 2006. *Africa's Orphaned and Vulnerable Generations: Children Affected by AIDS*. The United Nations Children's Fund. ISBN-13: 978-92-806-4035- or available to print off at
http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_35645.html

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Public Policy: "A General study of the roles, actions, and problems of modern governments in dealing with social issues such as education, health, housing, transportation, and welfare services." Prerequisite: POL 261.

Course Expectations:

The course will have three examinations, a comprehensive final examination, a short paper, and a group project. You will need a scantron for every exam.

First examination	100 points	
second examination	100 points	
third examination	100 points	
Final examination	100 points	
Paper on Presidential Candidates	100 points	
Group Project		<u>100 points</u>
Total	600 points	

A=540-600 points, B=480-539 points, C=420-479 points, D=360-429 points, F=299 or less

There are no opportunities for extra credit; thus, you should pay attention to doing your best on the regular credit assignments.

Make-ups for examinations, presentations or excused absences will be allowed only if **documentation is provided** for SHSU sponsored activities, illnesses, hospitalizations, funerals, or other emergencies.

Documentation must be submitted prior to the final examination date. Make-up examinations for SHSU sponsored activities must be completed prior to the class scheduled examination.

Examinations:

There will be three in class examinations and a final exam. The exams may be a combination of short answer, multiple choice, and essay. Examinations will be graded on the quality of your argument and references to lecture and textbook material. Failure to refer to the textbook or lecture materials in essay questions will result in unsatisfactory grades. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Make up examinations are conducted prior to the date of the examination. Please contact the instructor or graduate assistant ahead of time so a make up can be scheduled. In event of emergencies, make up examinations will be given, but the examination will be different than the one given at the scheduled time. One make up exam class will be scheduled the last week of classes. This make up exam will be an all essay exam.

Student grades will be posted on BlackBoard. Students should save all graded items until the final grade is posted. If there is a problem with your final grade **it cannot be resolved** if you do not have original copies of the paper and examinations. The grade in my record will stand unless you can provide documentation that I have made an error; so, **save everything!**

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

This is a basic course in international health policy. We live in a global society so diseases that happen in other parts of the world become our problem. As people travel internationally, they are exposed to diseases that are not prevalent in the United States, and they often bring these diseases home. Thus, this is a topic that may affect you even if you never leave the United States. Objectives will include

- ✓ **gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)**
by understanding the policy process through the Davis text.
- ✓ **acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team through group projects,**
- ✓ **gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual activity through readings and in class activities,**
- ✓ **developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values through readings and in class activities.**

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. If you miss class it is your responsibility to become aware of changes in the course syllabus, including any changes in dates for examinations and presentations, and for acquiring class notes. **Students who have 6 or more unexcused absences will fail the course.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Cheating on the exams or the paper will result in administrative sanctions including being reported to the Dean of Students, failing the course, or academic expulsion.

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.

This instructor takes academic dishonesty very seriously and will penalize students who engage in it. SHSU defines “cheating” as

“1) copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.

2) Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.

3) collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.

4) knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test....

7) Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.

5.312 ”Plagiarism” means the appropriation of another’s work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one’s own work offered for credit.”

[Http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty](http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty)

Students engaged in any of the above dishonest activities will receive a grade of 0 on the examination or paper in question and be sent to the Dean of Students. Other academic sanctions including expulsion from the university are possible.

COURSE COMPONENTS:

1. A **short essay paper** will be required covering the presidential agendas presented at each party’s convention. We will view some of the speeches in class, and your essay will be based on these speeches. I hope to provide video for you of three speeches from each convention, including the acceptance speech of the party nominees. The paper should focus on the agenda, i.e. “to-do list” of each candidate.

Your paper will cover the main points of the agenda. The agenda may be articulated by the candidate or his surrogate. You should organize the paper thus:

- a. The introductory paragraph should state when the speeches were delivered, by whom, and list three or four topics from the speeches that you plan to cover. (10 points).
- b. You need at least one paragraph for each topic to describe what the candidates or speakers said about it. (50 points)
- c. You need another paragraph or two to explain your attitudes about the speech. This is a section for your opinion. Did you agree with the focus or the agenda item, or not? Write a paragraph or two to explain your attitude. Please, do not include your opinions in the body of the paper as this will cost you points. (25 points)
- d. You need a concluding paragraph that explains what the paper was about. (15 points)
- e. Late papers are not appreciated. Your paper will lose 10 points for every day it is late. The paper is due Oct 2, 2008, at 9:30. a.m. The Paper will not be accepted after Monday, Oct. 6, 2008. If you have a late paper you must give it to the department secretary or the student worker to put in my box. **Ask them to put a time and date on the paper** and sign it. **DO NOT SLIDE THE PAPER UNDER MY OFFICE DOOR.**

You should type the paper in Times New Roman using 12 point font. Papers should have a cover sheet and there will be a 5 point penalty for papers without them. The essay should be 3 pages, not counting the cover sheet.. **If you have time, take the paper to the writing center for assistance in editing for grammar and punctuation.**

- 2.. **Examinations** will be a combination of essays, short answer identifications, and multiple choice questions. Several DVDs on the various diseases will be shown in the class. Examination questions will come from lecture, readings, and DVDs. DVDs will be put on reserve at the library after they have been shown in class.

GROUP PROJECTS:

The class will be split into groups to study and investigate the diseases listed later in this syllabus. Each group will research the disease and make a PowerPoint presentation to the class. Each group will appoint one leader to organize the meetings, slides, presentation, and getting the documentation to the professor. The leader will not be responsible for doing any of the research or presentation. The other members will be responsible for writing and producing the slides for the presentation. The group will research the disease and make a PowerPoint or other type of presentation to the class to explain the public policy implications of the disease. The presentation must cover the history of the disease, the outbreaks, and an assessment of the potential threat to the United States and/or other areas of the world. Is this disease a global threat?

PowerPoint presentations are expected. Each student will participate in the preparation and delivery of the presentation.

- Summarize the major points of your research and findings.
- **Use note cards and make eye contact** with the audience. It helps to practice your presentation in advance to time it and see how it flows.
- Use large fonts. **Font sizes over 24 point work best because the audience can see them..**
- Students will be graded on preparedness, organization, use of notes, and use of time. The instructor will prepare an evaluation of each presentation outlining the strong and weak points of the presentation.
- Be concise. Prepare note cards.
- **Do not bring the paper to the podium.**

GRADING GROUP PROJECTS

Leader's duties

The leader will be in charge of organizing the group meetings and the presentation; thus, s/he will not do any of the research or slide preparation. The leader will

- call the meetings and notify all group members by e-mail (s/he will copy the instructor on all e-mails for the group),
- take attendance at all group meetings and submit the attendance records to the instructor,
- select a template for the presentation,
- submit a paper copy of the presentation to the professor, and provide the names of the slide preparer for all the slides,
- organize and **edit** all slides submitted for the presentation,
- report any problem students to the professor, and
- prepare an evaluation on each student in the group based on the member's duties listed below and submit that evaluation to the professor..

- ___ attend 80% of group meetings (5 points)
- ___ research a section of the project and prepared slides in a timely fashion (by due date and time)(5 points)
- submit all student documentation when the group makes its presentation..

Member's duties

- attend 80% of group meetings,
- research a section of the project;
- prepare at least 3 slides for the presentation and submit them to the leader by the due date,
- prepare an oral presentation, and
- present their portion of the project on the due date.

Grading:

The grading consists of two portions. The first portion is the grade for the entire presentation. Each student receives the same grade for this part of the assignment. This portion is worth 50/100 points. The second is an individual grade based on the slides you develop and the presentation you make. This is worth 50/100 points. Leaders also earn up to 50 points for their organizational skills. The rubric is presented below.

GROUP GRADE:

Well Presented. (Up to 8 points in each category) Total points = 40

- ___ Most speakers can be heard by everyone.
- ___ At least 80% of the presenters make eye contact with the audience. This means they do not look at notes, the computer, or turn their back on the audience and look at the projection screen.
- ___ At least 80% of the group is professionally attired.
- ___ The slides are well done, can be seen by all, and add to the presentation.
- ___ The speakers quietly stand to the side when they are not presenting.

INDIVIDUAL GRADE (up to 5 points in each category) Total points=50

Well Presented

- ___ The speaker can be heard by everyone.
- ___ The speaker shows interest and enthusiasm for the topic.
- ___ The speaker maintains excellent posture.
- ___ The speaker is professionally attired
- ___ The speaker "talks" to the audience and avoids talking to his/her note cards, the computer screen, or the projection screen.
- ___ The speaker did not read from his/her notes.
- ___ The speaker pronounced technical terms correctly.

Good Content

- ___ The speaker knows and understands the subject matter and answers questions..
- ___ The font was large and easy to read
- ___ The presentation contained interesting graphics or pictures. This does include mean clip art.

** Extra Credit (5 points)

- ___ The speaker memorized the presentation and did not use notes

INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION BY GROUP LEADER (10 points)

___ Evaluation by group leader

GRADE FOR LEADER (up to 10 points for each item) TOTAL = 50 points

- ___ call the meetings and notify all group members by e-mail (s/he will copy the instructor on all e-mails for the group),
- ___ take attendance at all group meetings and submit the attendance records to the instructor,
- ___ identify all the slides prepared by the students and submit to the professor,
- ___ organize and **edit** all slides submitted for the presentation,
- ___ prepare an evaluation on each student in the group based on the member's duties listed below and

CONNECTIONS FOR DISEASES:

EBOLA and other Hemorrhagic diseases

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/>

WHO: www.who.int/crs/disease/ebola/en/

HEPATITIS A

<http://www.cdc.gov> Go to Hepatitis A

POLIO

Chan, Margaret. 2007. *The Case for Completing Polio Eradication*. The World Health Organization. .

Available at <http://www/hplioeradication.org>.

SARS

US Center for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/nicidor/sars/>

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/en/>

Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/SARS/60970.htm>

SMALLPOX

US Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov/smallpox>

CDC: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp>

TB

WHO: <http://www.who.nt/tb/en>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/>

WEST NILE VIRUS

US Geological Survey: <http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/>

These maps are very cool! Check them out/

GENERAL POLICIES:

The following policies regard classroom demeanor.

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.

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. **Cellular telephones, pagers, M3P players and iPods must be turned off and put away** before class begins.. **Students should put phones away and refrain from texting during the class period. If your cell phone rings or you are texting while you are in class, your phone may be confiscated.** Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result in a directive to leave class and your name removed from the day's attendance role. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. If you leave class prematurely your name will be removed from the day's attendance role.

Cell phones, pagers, M3P players or iPods must be turned off and placed out of sight during class lectures, presentations, and examinations.

Americans with Disabilities:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Requests for disability accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. This instructor requires documentation from the Counseling Center in order to provide accommodations. Once documented, discuss with the instructor the best ways that she can accommodate your needs.

Classroom Visitors:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process. Visitors are allowed on an occasional basis as long as there is a seat in the room for the visitor. Visitors must abide by the same rules of classroom decorum as students.

Instructor Evaluations:

You may be asked to evaluate this instructor at a later date during the semester. The date will be announced when the evaluations become available.

Study Tips:

- 1) Take good notes in class and review them at the end of the day to fill in information that you didn't take down. The best time to fill in your notes is when the material is fresh in your mind.
- 2) Make note cards for the vocabulary in the lecture, the texts, and those provided on the study guides. There are some terms that you need to know and "flash cards" are a good way to memorize the material.
- 3) Find a study partner or two. Reviewing the material with a study partner is an excellent way to study for an exam or review your notes.
- 4) **Don't wait until the night before the examination to study!** Some of the terminology in the course is technical and new to you. Spend a few minutes every day reviewing the vocabulary.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

You are responsible for reading the assignments prior to the lecture. This will help you better understand the lectures.

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Aug. 26 & 28	1. Review of Syllabus Why is policy important?	Davis, ch. 1
Sept. 2 & 4	2. Why study models?	Davis, ch. 2-3
Sept. 9 & 11	3. Who are the Actors? What are the types of policy?	Davis, chs. 4-5
Sept. 16 & 18	4. What happens in each branch of Government?	Davis, ch. 6
Sept. 23 & 25	5. Agenda Setting, Policy Formulation And Implementation	Davis, chs. 7-8
Sept. 30 & Oct. 2 & 6	Policy Evaluation and Budgets	Davis, chs. 9-10
Oct. 2	Presidential Candidates Paper due at 9:30 a.m.	
Oct 7 & 9	7. Introduction to Infectious Diseases	Brower & Chalk, summary
Oct. 9	First Examination, Davis, chs. 1-10	
Oct. 14 & 16	8. The Affects of Globalization	Brower and Chalk, chs. 1-2
Oct. 21 & 23	9. Malaria	

Oct. 28 & 30	10.	HIV/AIDS	Children Affected by AIDS Brower and Chalk, ch. 3
Oct. 30		Second Examination, Brower and Chalk,. Summary, chs. 1-2	
Nov 4 & 6.	11	HIV/AIDS	Children Affected by AIDS Brower and Chalk, ch. 3
Nov. 11 & 13	12	Avian Flu	Brower and Chalk, ch. 4
Nov. 13		Slides must be e-mailed to the group leaders by 8 p.m. for preparation into the PowerPoint.	
Nov. 18 & 20	13	U.S. Security and the Risk of Infections	Brower and Chalk, chs. 5-6
Nov. 20		Third Examination, Brower and Chalk, chs. 3-5, Children Affected by AIDS chs. 1-5	
Nov. 25	14	PRESENTATIONS: SARS, TB, Polio	
Nov. 27		THANKSGIVING	
Dec. 2 & 4	15	PRESENTATIONS: Smallpox, West Nile Virus	
Dec. 9 & 11	16	PRESENTATIONS: Ebola, Hepatitis A	
Dec. 11		Makeup exam day	
TBA:		Final Examination to cover all material except presentations	