Remote / Online Course Syllabus

Course Information
Course Number/Section  PSCI 3325.0001
Course Title           American Public Policy
Term                   Fall 2020

Professor Contact Information
Professor               Robert Lowry
Office Phone            972-883-6320
Email Address           Robert.lowry@utdallas.edu
Office Location         GR 3.503
Online Office Hours     Tuesday 1-3 pm, Wednesday, 2-3 pm

Teaching Assistant
TA                       Les Stanaland
Email address           les.stanaland@utdallas.edu
Online Office hours     Thursday 2-3, Friday 11-12

Course Modality and Expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructional Mode</th>
<th>This course will be taught using the remote instructional mode. For a description, see here: <a href="https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/fall-2020-registration-information/">https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/fall-2020-registration-information/</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Platform</td>
<td>Lectures will be delivered using MS Teams. We will also be using eLearning for distribution of course materials and class assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectations</td>
<td>Students are expected to view the course lectures either in real time or asynchronously, and to complete all assignments on time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>Please see the instructions at <a href="https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/asynchronous-access-for-fall-2020/">https://www.utdallas.edu/fall-2020/asynchronous-access-for-fall-2020/</a>. Further information may be provided soon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Guidelines</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s COVID-19 resources for students and instructors of record.

Please see http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies.
Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Recordings

The instructor may record meetings of this course. Any recordings will be available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Class Materials

The Instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

GOVT 2305 and 2306, or the equivalent.

Course Description

This course examines the making of public policy in the United States. The course begins with an overview of the constitutional foundations of the U.S. political system and proceeds to a discussion of the public policy process, examining the stages of policymaking and theories of the policy process. These theories are discussed in the context of specific public policies and public policy controversies, including social welfare, defense, tax policy, and other important issues.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the justification for government action on public policy issues, and
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analyze the importance of major governmental institutions and processes.

- Analyze the politics of public policy decision making and the pros and cons of different policy options.

- Apply their understanding and analysis to a specific public policy issue.

Required Textbooks and Materials

The following book should be purchased from the UT Dallas Bookstore or another supplier such as Amazon.com, or direct from the publisher:


Other required readings are listed at the end of the syllabus and referenced by number in the course schedule below. These are available through eLearning.

Additional readings may be added to the syllabus. These will be announced in class and on eLearning.

Students are not required to print material available electronically.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage.

Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the eLearning website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the Getting Started with eLearning webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.
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Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the Student eLearning Tutorials webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the eLearning Current Students webpage for more information.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online eLearning Help Desk. The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Academic Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK/ DATES</th>
<th>TOPIC/LECTURE</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 08/18- 08/20</td>
<td>Course introduction/ justifications for government action</td>
<td>Peters chap. 1, [1]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 08/25-08/27</td>
<td>Policymaking in America government</td>
<td>Peters, chap. 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 09/08-09/10</td>
<td>Agenda setting and public policy; adopting policy choices</td>
<td>Peters chaps. 4, 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 09/15-09/17</td>
<td>Policy implementation;</td>
<td>Peters, chaps. 6,</td>
<td>First exam</td>
<td>Sept. 17 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 09/22-09/24</td>
<td>Budgeting, program evaluation</td>
<td>Peters chaps. 7,8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK/DATES</td>
<td>TOPIC/LECTURE</td>
<td>READING</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 09-29-10-01</td>
<td>Cost-benefit analysis, Macroeconomic policy</td>
<td>Peters chaps. 9, 17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 10/06-10/08</td>
<td>Tax policy, health care</td>
<td>Peters chaps 10, 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9 10/13-10/15</td>
<td>Social security and welfare; education</td>
<td>Peters chaps. 12, 13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 10/20-10/22</td>
<td>Catch-up an review</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second exam</td>
<td>October 22 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 10/27-10/29</td>
<td>Energy &amp; environmental policy Fiscal simulation exercise</td>
<td>Peters chap. 14</td>
<td>No class 10/29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 11/03-11/05</td>
<td>Environmental policy; law enforcement</td>
<td>Peters chaps 14, 15</td>
<td>Simulation summaries</td>
<td>11/03, 11:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 11/10-11/12</td>
<td>National defense; foreign policy</td>
<td>Peters chap. 15, [3]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14 11/17-11/19</td>
<td>Universal basic income; social values and public policy</td>
<td>[4], Peters chap. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 11/24</td>
<td>Federal-state relations in the Trump era Catch-up and review Thanksgiving</td>
<td></td>
<td>Third exam</td>
<td>12/8, noon**</td>
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** Exams 1-3 will be available beginning at the dates and times shown. For all exams, you will have a 24-hour window to start the exam. The exam will automatically close 75 minutes after you begin.

Online/Blended Course Syllabus
Grading Policy

Grades will be based on three exams and the budget simulation exercise. Each exam will count 30 percent and the simulation exercise will count 10 percent. The grading scale will be no stricter than the traditional 90-80-70-60 scale, with plusses and minuses.

Course Policies

Exam Format

All exams will be open book, open note. You will have a 24-hour window to take them. If for some reason you are not able to take the exam within that 24-hour period, let me know in advance and we will work something out.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit

Late Work

Written assignments will be penalized 20% for each day they are late, including weekends.

Special Assignments

There are no special assignments

Class Participation

Class participation or attendance is not counted as part of the grade. Nonetheless, you are responsible for everything said in class. My slogan is “attendance doesn’t count, but it matters.”

Classroom Citizenship

There are no live class meetings, so I’m not sure what to post here. In general, please be generous with your classmates and the instructor, as this is a very difficult time for all of us. Also, note that any comments you make with the mic open while class is being recorded will appear in the written transcript.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please go to Academic Support Resources webpage for these policies.
UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to UT Dallas Syllabus Policies webpage for these policies.

_The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor._

**ADDITIONAL READINGS**

The following readings are available in the “additional readings” folder on the course eLearning page.


