Introduction to Public Policy

Course Description:
This course will survey the policy process in the United States. The course will examine factors affecting development, implementation and impact of public policies as well as a discussion of policy alternatives and controversies.

Course Objectives:
The objectives of this course are to analyze the process by which laws are made. Inherent in this process are problems of values, interests, and a democratic polity. The central theme of this course is that public policies foster social change. Toward this end, this course will analyze and assess substantive policy areas primarily at the state national level.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The outcomes of this course are for you to demonstrate the following:

1. Understand Definitions, Concepts, and Theories
2. Demonstrate Advanced Knowledge in One Major Area.
3. Translate Skills to Professional or Graduate Program, or Career

Specifically, the objectives of this course are:
- To assess the American political system and policy structure.
- To recognize the role of the policy cycle as it relates to substantive policy areas.
• To develop critical thinking skills in order to analyze current policies

• To debate salient policy issues through the use of presentations of substantive policy areas.

• To evaluate a substantive policy area and develop of policy issue paper

Required Texts:


Course Requirements:

The requirements for this course include: three exams, presentation of a policy issue area and, a policy issue paper. The grade distribution is described below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue area presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy issue paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</table>

You are expected to come prepared for class and to make thoughtful contributions in class. Since we will be discussing numerous controversial issues, you should respect opposing opinions and use them to reflect on why people hold different views. You will also participate in numerous activities during class which will be graded.

Grading Structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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Policy Issue Papers:
You will be required to write a policy issue paper in this course. These papers will be based on the debates presented in the CQ Researcher, the Cochran text and the videos. You must cite your references using the APA format. The paper must be 9 - 11 pages in length, typed, and double-spaced. Guidelines will be provided about the expectations for these papers. Late papers and assignments will be penalized 10 points and will not be accepted after 7 days.

Group Presentations:
As a member of a small group, you will present one of the issue areas presented below. Guidelines will be provided.

Class Attendance:
All students are expected to attend EVERY class. The major valid excuses for missing a class are illness and death. The major valid excuses for missing a class are school-related, illness and death. Documentation for excused absences must be submitted upon your return to class. For participation credit, 100% = no more than 1 unexcused absence; 90% = 2; 80% = 3; 70% = 4; 60% = 5; 0% > 6

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of F.

Classroom/professional behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all
instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Academic Etiquette:**
There are certain rules that apply to my classes. It is difficult to learn in an environment that is not conducive to learning. Such activities include: talking to neighbors during class, reading newspapers, walking in late, napping, walking out of class prior to being dismissed. It is disrespectful to me and to the class. If you do not abide by these rules, you will be asked to leave my class. **Please put your cell phones on vibrate during my class.**

**Incompletes:**
A grade of incomplete will be given only for extreme emergencies and will necessitate appropriate documentation. You must request a grade of “incomplete” and sign a form agreeing to the terms for a grade of I. However, you must have completed 75% of the coursework.

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.
Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 8, 2019 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.
# PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Readings and Due Dates</th>
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</table>
| 1    | • Syllabus presentation  
       • Overview          | • Renfret, et al.,  
                            Chapter 1 |
| 2    | Labor Day                      | NO CLASS          |
| 3, 4 | Structure of Policy-making  
       • Policy structure  
       • Tools of Public Policy | • Renfret, et al.,  
                            Chapter 1  
                            • Handouts        |
| 4, 5 | Structure of Policy-making continued  
       • Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations | • Renfret, et al.,  
                            Chapter 3        |
| 6    | Exam 1                           |                      |
| 7, 8, 9 | The Public Policy Process  
               • Institutional Framework  
               • Stages of the Policy Process  
               • Regulatory Process and Rulemaking | • Renfret, et al.,  
                            Chapters 2, 4  
                            • Handouts        |
| 10   | Exam 2                           |                      |
|      | 10                                 | 10 Workshop and Issue paper proposal due | Guidelines will be provided |
| 11   | Group Presentation  
       • Disaster Readiness | CQ Researcher,  
                            Chapter 1          |
| 11   | Group Presentation  
       • Affordable Housing Shortage | CQ Researcher,  
                            Chapter 6          |
| 12   | Group Presentation  
       • Election Security and Voting Rights | CQ Researcher,  
                            Chapter 8          |
| 12   | Group Presentation  
       • Conspiracy Theories | CQ Researcher,  
                            Chapter 10         |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Issue paper due</th>
<th>Due date: 11/18/19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>CQ Researcher, Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Education Funding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, 15</td>
<td>Tracking legislation</td>
<td>In – class exercise for Exam 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• How to track state and federal level legislation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/2/19</td>
<td>Last day of class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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