PA 460: Administration and Public Policy Development

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You will be most likely to reach me and receive a timely response from me if you contact me by e-mail rather than by phone. Please use an appropriate subject line for the e-mail that is directly related to the course so I do not accidentally delete your e-mail as spam.

COURSE PURPOSE AND SCOPE:
Description from General Catalog: “Process of formulating public policy with emphasis on the role of public agencies.”

This course serves as an undergraduate introduction to the public policy process, with a focus on the context of the United States. Throughout the course students will examine theories, concepts, and models of public policy making, giving attention to both official and unofficial actors in the policy process. Students will consider how citizens’ and other actors’ voices are heard, not heard, and/or actively silenced in the context of American policies related to morality, social equity, immigration, energy and the environment, drugs, social and corporate welfare, and terrorism. Students will end the course by examining specific examples of policy implementation and policy failure.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The objectives of this course are as follows:

- Students will critically examine the role that individuals and organizations play in the policy process.
- Students will locate themselves within the policy process, both as targets of public policy and as actors in the policy process.
- Students will locate the formal and informal organizations in which they work, study, and socialize within the policy process, both as targets of public policy and as actors in the policy process.
- Students will apply theories and concepts of the policy process to real-world situations during class discussion and through analysis of text and film.
TEXTS and COURSE READINGS:
There is one required text for the course. This is:


Additional required readings will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Because of the large size of the class, many portions of class sessions will be conducted as lectures. However, discussion, games, group activities, television and film will also be incorporated into the class whenever possible. Due to class size students will be evaluated based on three in-class exams, two essays, and the completion of six written assignment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Exam-</th>
<th>100 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam-</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Exam-</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Completion (10 points each)</td>
<td>80 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay One (randomly selected)-</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Two (randomly selected)-</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Intro and Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong>-</td>
<td><strong>600 points</strong></td>
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**Without advance approval from the instructor or a documented emergency, students will not be allowed to take exams except for during the time scheduled in the syllabus.**

EXAMS:
The exams may have multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and short essay questions. Exam questions will not only be based on assigned readings, but also on discussions, activities, games, television, and film from class sessions. Therefore, **regular attendance in class will be essential for a high grade on the exams.** Students are expected to come to class on time, and should be well-prepared to discuss the readings.

ESSAYS:
In addition, students will be assigned 8 short 500-word essays (approximately 1 single-spaced typed page). These short essays will be based on films we watch in class. The instructor will provide a prompt question as part of a Turn-it-in assignment, and student essays will be based on this prompt.

Students will receive **10 points per essay they complete**, regardless of quality. This provides an incentive for students to complete all the essays, even though only two will be graded.

Then, the instructor will **randomly select 2 essays to grade carefully**. Each of these essays is worth 100 points. Because students do not know which two essays will be graded, there is an incentive to do high-quality work on all 8 essays.
**Grading Scale:**

A  540-600 points  
B  480-539 points  
C  420-479 points  
D  360-419 points  
F  less than 360 points

**Note on EXAMS**

Exams will NOT be returned to students. However, you are welcome to look at your exam during office hours. Exams will be kept for ONE SEMESTER beyond the end of the course. After that point, exams will be destroyed.

**Note on ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES**

Students are always welcome to turn in assignments early if they desire. However, in the case of some assignments, students should be aware that waiting until the designated due date may provide them with exposure to additional materials and class discussion that may be useful for their topic. Without advance approval from the instructor or a documented emergency, 5 points will be deducted from the grade for the assignment for each day the assignment is late.

**Note on SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS THROUGH TURNITIN**

Due to unfortunate incidents of plagiarism during past semesters, I am asking students to submit assignments through a Blackboard-based software called Turnitin. My hope is that, rather than using Turnitin.com to “catch” plagiarizing students, students will use the software as a preventative tool to detect possible instances of plagiarism in their own writing. Students will be permitted to submit draft versions of their assignments to Turnitin as many times as they would like, and then can check the reports generated for plagiarism and make any necessary adjustments to their work. Draft versions should be clearly marked “DRAFT” in the filename. Students will then submit their final version to Turnitin under a filename clearly marked “FINAL”. Students’ grades will be based only on the final version. More detailed instructions on using Turnitin.com will be provided in class.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included. Another option is that you may request, in writing, that your papers not be submitted to Turnitin. However, if you choose this option you will be required to provide documentation to substantiate that the papers are your original work and do not include any plagiarized material.

Students should be aware that the instructor reserves the right to investigate suspected instances of plagiarism even if they do not appear in the reports generated by Turnitin. Students who need more information on what constitutes plagiarism can refer to the following website for guidance:

http://www.plagiarism.org/. Instances of plagiarism will be handled according to the SDSU Academic Senate policy, which can be found at the following website:

http://cal.sdsu.edu/students/docs/Plagiarism.pdf.
ACCOMODATIONS

Students who need accommodations of their disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me.

In addition, I will make every effort to accommodate difficulties in attendance arising from religious observance. You are asked to bring any possible conflicts to my attention as soon as possible. Students should not expect, if they do poorly on an assignment/exam, to claim at that time the need for an accommodation. This statement is to preclude that problem, and allow people with a need for accommodations to be treated fairly and appropriately.

COURSE SCHEDULE (dates of readings/assignments may be subject to change):

JAN 19: Introduction to the Course

JAN 26: The Study and Practice of Public Policy

Required Readings:
- Birkland Chapter 2- Elements of the Policy Making System
- Film- The Storm

FEB 2: Contexts of Public Policy

Required Readings:
- Birkland Chapter 3- The Historical and Structural Contexts of Public Policy Making.
- Cochran et al. Chapter 2- Contexts of Public Policy
- ESSAY 1 DUE

FEB 9: Official Actors and Public Policy – Courts, Legislature, Executive, and Public Servants

Required Readings:
- Birkland Chapter 4- Official Actors and Their Roles in Public Policy
- Cochran et al. Chapter 10- Legal and Social Equality
- Film- The Lemon Grove Incident

FEB 16: EXAM 1

FEB 23: Unofficial Actors and Public Policy- Interest Groups and Nonprofit Advocacy

Required Readings:
- Birkland Chapter 5- Unofficial Actors and Their Roles in Public Policy
- Film- Crossing Arizona
- ESSAY 2 DUE
MAR 1: Agenda Setting and Denial of Agenda Access

Required Readings:
- Birkland Chapter 6- Agenda Setting, Power, and Interest Groups
- Baumgartner and Jones (2004). “Representation and Agenda Setting”.
- Film- Hot Politics
- ESSAY 3 DUE

MAR 8: Social Construction of Policy Problems- Race, Gender, and Class in Policy

Required Readings:
- Short YouTube Film
- ESSAY 4 DUE

Week of March 12-16: First randomly selected essays graded!

MAR 15: Distributive, Regulatory, and Redistributive Policies: The Case of Energy

Required Readings:
- Birkland Chapter 7- Policies and Policy Types
- Cochran Chapter 5- Energy and Environmental Policies
- Film- Who Killed the Electric Car?
- ESSAY 5 DUE


Required Readings:
- Film- Take it from Me
- ESSAY 6 DUE

MAR 29: NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK

APR 5: EXAM 2

APR 12: Policy Design and Policy Tools- Policy Tools against Terrorism

Required Readings:
- Birkland Chapter8- Policy Design, Policy Tools, and Decisions
- Film- The 9-11 Commission Report (continued)
- ESSAY 7 DUE
APR 19: Policy Implementation, Policy Evaluation, and Policy Failure
- Birkland Chapter 9- Policy Implementation, Policy Failure, and Learning
- Film- The 9-11 Commission Report (continued)

APR 26: Models of the Policy Process
*Required Readings:*
- Birkland Chapter 1- Introducing the Policy Process
- Birkland Chapter 10- Science and Theory in the Study of Public Policy
- **ESSAY 8 DUE**

MAY 3: NO CLASS- INSTRUCTOR IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Week of May 7-11: Second randomly selected essays graded!

MAY 10: EXAM 3 – Thursday 4-6pm as per SDSU Final Exam Schedule