Welcome to Introduction to Public Policy this fall term. The objectives of this course include providing students with a basic outline of the policy process and the role of the various policymaking institutions, an awareness of the praxis of public policy, and the range of tools available to those who would be engaged citizens, and perhaps even active operators in one or several of the many realms of policy.

Three textbooks are REQUIRED for the course:

…and one is STRONGLY recommended:

Supplementary readings (articles, etc.) will be available directly on the course website, or through links transmitted via the course site and email. Students should become accustomed to checking the course website frequently (twice a week, minimum). The instructor reserves the right to issue occasional ‘reading inventories’ (aka, pop quizzes) in order to test for reading comprehension. Formal graded assignments will comprise the following:

Midterm (in class)…………………………………………………………….20%
Policy Paper Part I (Agenda-setting, formulation)…………………..20%
Policy Paper Part II (Implementation, Evaluation)………………20%
Final Exam (take-home)……………………………………………………30%
Attendance and Class Participation…………………………………….10%

MIDTERM
The Midterm examination will be given IN CLASS October 25. The format will be short answer and two longer essays.

POLICY MEMO
To demonstrate mastery of the different steps of the policy process, students are to complete a two-part policy memo. The memo should be on a policy subject of interest to the student, and suggestions will be offered in class. The first part of the memo should
explain some potential ways a given topic/problem might (or, alternately, has already) reach(ed) the national policy agenda, and offer a range of potential policy options. These options should be weighed along the criteria of cost and benefit. This first part of the memo should also introduce the range of interested parties, and just where the interests of said parties lie.

The second part of the memo should then sketch out which governmental and nongovernmental bodies would be involved in implementation of the student’s preferred policy option. It should then conclude with an outline of how the success of said option can be measured—that is, how it could be evaluated.

FINAL EXAM
The final examination, due December 20 by 5PM, will cover material from the second half of the course. It will consist of four longer essays, to be answered with the use of class notes alone.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part I. Introduction to Public Policy: Setting the Stage
Class objectives: This initial phase of the course will focus on just what comprises public policymaking, and touch on the inherent tension between the goals of the public sector, and that of the private.

September 13: Preliminaries
Readings: None

Part II. The Policy Process
Class objectives: This portion of the course will outline the various steps of the policy process, and the actors associated with each.

September 20: Agenda-setting and formulation
Peters, Chapters 1-3
Pressman and Wildavsky, all (Recommended)

September 27: Authoritative Decisionmaking
Peters, Chapter 4

October 4: Implementation and the Regulatory Agencies
Peters, Chapters 5 and 6

October 11: NO CLASS

October 18: The Lost Art of Evaluation **Columbus Day??**
Peters, Chapter 7
Articles provided
FIRST PART OF POLICY MEMO DUE
October 25: MIDTERM (in class)

Part III: The Practice of Policy Analysis
Class objectives: This final portion of the course will offer students a basic understanding of what policy analysis looks like in practice.

November 1: Cost-Benefit Analysis
Peters, Chapter 15
Bardach, Part II and Appendices

November 8: The Ethical Backlash
Peters, Chapter 16
Stone, Policy Paradox (portions provided)

Part IV: Issues in Public Policy
This part of the course will explore some of the policy issues of greatest interest and consequence to Americans today, through the lens(es) of citizens and policy analysts alike.

November 15: Education Policy
Peters, Chapter 12
CQ, Chapters 1-3

November 22: Energy and the Environment
Peters, Chapter 13
CQ, Chapter 4
SECOND PART OF POLICY MEMO DUE

December 6: Health Care
Peters, Chapter 10
CQ, Chapter 16
Articles provided

December 13: Taxes and the Economy
Peters, Chapters 8 and 9

TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE VIA EMAIL ATTACHMENT ON DAY OF SCHEDULED EXAM