

Knowledge is the thing that separates those with answers from those with opinions.

POLS 2260 - Introduction to Public Policy Fall 2014

Course: POLS 2260, Section 0, CRN: 44124
Title: Introduction to Public Policy
Class Schedule: MWF 10:00-10:50am
Class Location: Fletcher 200
Credit: 3
Professor: Dr. Marcus D. Mauldin
Office Location: Fletcher 417B
Office Phone: 423-425-5702
Office Hours: MW 11:00am-12:00pm; Tuesday 12:00pm - 1:30 and 4:45pm - 5:15pm
E-mail: Marcus-Mauldin@utc.edu

Accommodation Statement: If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, call the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 425-4006 or come by the office, 102 Frist Hall.

<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/DisabilityResourceCenter/>

Personal Counseling: If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438.

<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/>.

Communication: To enhance student services, the University uses your UTC email address for all communications. Please check your UTC email on a regular basis. If you have problems with accessing your UTC email account, contact the Call Center at 423-425-4000. The course Blackboard will also be used to communicate class-related issues.

Course Description

Catalog Description: Introduction to core public policy concepts, theories, models, and processes

Throughout the course, the focus of our study will be models, theories, concepts, and tools that cut across all substantive policy areas (such as health policy, education policy, immigration policy, etc.). While the course is not structured to cover a list of substantive policy areas, students will have the opportunity to explore substantive policy areas through exercises, case studies, and examples. Even more important, though, students will become equipped to gain a deep understanding of any substantive policy area independently and in future courses, including POLS 3250 American Public Policy.

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Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to enable students to achieve the following learning objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify and describe types of public policies in the United States.
2. Students will be able to describe the policy process through various lenses.
3. Students will be able to understand and apply the dominant theoretic frameworks for describing, justifying, formulating, and evaluating public policies.
4. Students will develop informed ideas about the role of policy studies in democratic governance.

Required Texts and Readings

Public Policymaking (8th Edition) by James E. Anderson

Other readings listed in this syllabus are available on the course Blackboard (Bb).

Course Requirements

Students are expected to be full participants in shaping the character of the course. Your participation in classroom discussions and completion of assignments will help you achieve a deeper, richer understanding of public policy and its challenges and opportunities. This requires all students to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and assignments for each session. Students will be evaluated on online quizzes, mental stimulation exercises, policy summaries, and a policy paper.

Student performance will be evaluated as follows:

Policy Summaries:	90 points (3 @ 30 points each)
Final Paper:	100 points
Quizzes:	90 points (9 @ 10 points each)
Mental Stimulation Exercises:	60 points (6 @ 10 points each)

Grade Scale: A = 306-340; B = 272-305; C = 238-271; D = 204-237; F = <204

Important Dates

October 1st: Policy Introduction Section Due

October 6th: Burkett Miller Distinguished Lecture

November 3rd: Policy History Section Due

November 17th: Policy Actors Section Due

December 1st: Policy Paper Due

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Think and Achieve: Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is the habitual practice of raising questions, identifying problems, analyzing existing information, creating innovative solutions, and reflecting on the process and the product as a means of constant improvement.

Honor Code Pledge (from the UTC Student Handbook)

I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any test or assignment. I understand that plagiarism constitutes a serious instance of unauthorized aid. I further pledge that I exert every effort to insure that the Honor Code is upheld by others and that I will actively support the establishment and continuance of a campus-wide climate of honor and integrity.

Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READING	ASSESSMENT/ACTIVITIES
Week of August 18th	Course Introduction; Defining Public Policy; Policy Theories	Anderson: Chapter 1	Mental Stimulation Exercise (MSE)
Week of August 25th	Application of Policy Theory	Watch "Thirteen Days"	Online Quiz
Week of September 1st	Policy Makers and Their Environment	Anderson: Chapter 2	MSE; Online Quiz
Week of September 8th	Policy Analysis	Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 4(Bb)	Online Quiz
Week of September 15th	Policy Formulation	Anderson Chapter 3	MSE; Online Quiz
Week of September 22nd	Policy Design and Tools	Birkland: Chapter 8 (Bb)	MSE; Online Quiz
Week of September 29th	Policy Introduction Presentations	None	Policy Introduction Section Due
Week of October 6th	Budgeting and Public Policy	Anderson: Chapter 5	October 6th - Attend Burkett Miller Distinguished Lecture: "Lessons from the Fiscal History of the United States"; MSE; Online Quiz
Week of October 13th	Policy Adoption	Anderson: Chapter 4	Online Quiz
Week of October 20th	Fall Break; Public Policy in TV and Film	TBD	MSE
Week of October 27th	Policy Implementation	Anderson: Chapter 6	Online Quiz
Week of November 3rd	Policy History Presentations	None	Policy History Section Due
Week of November 10th	Impact and Evaluation	Anderson: Chapter 7	Online Quiz
Week of November 17th	Policy Actors Presentations	None	Policy Actor Section Due
Week of November 24th	Final Paper Consultations	None	
Week of December 1st	Final Papers Due	None	
December 5th	Final Exam: 8-10am		