



## **PSCI 346 Section 02W Introduction to Public Policy**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2018

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Chad M. King

**Office Location:** SS-162

**Office Hours:** T/TH 10:30–12, W 9:30-11:30

**Office Fax:** (903)-886-5318

**University Email Address:** chad.king@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** E-mail

**Communication Response Time:** 24 hours (possibly 48 hours during weekends)

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### ***Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings***

##### ***Textbook(s) Required***

*American Public Policy: Promise and Performance.* Author: B. Guy Peters. Publisher: Press Edition: 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, (2017). ISBN: 1483391507

*Issues for Debate in American Public Policy: Selections from CQ Researcher.* Publisher: CQ Press Edition: 17<sup>th</sup> Edition, (2016). ISBN: 1506347150

Both books can be bought as a bundled package using the ISBN #: 9781506354057

Additional readings will be made available on the course site.

##### ***Course Description***

In this course we will examine the broad field of public policy from the perspective of political science. Specifically, we consider the academic theories of how public policy is

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generated as well as discuss important activities of government in such areas as energy, poverty, unemployment, taxation, education, and health care.

***Student Learning Outcomes*** (Should be measurable; observable)

1. Students will gain an understanding of major theories and concepts related to public policy formation.
2. Students will gain an understanding of important areas of American public policy

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students will need to be familiar with the University learning management system, know how to use a personal computer, navigate the World Wide Web/Internet, use basic word processing software such as Microsoft Word and Power Point.

### **Instructional Methods**

This class will rely upon a combination of lectures and utilization of the “Socratic method” to explain important concepts of Constitutional law and encourage open discussion and debate about the various substantive topics covered in the readings.

### **Student Responsibilities for the Course**

All students are expected to comply with the following requirements.

- All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.
- Students are expected to regularly check the course site for announcement and updates.
- Students are expected to complete all course readings for each section of the course.
- Students are expected to take each of the scheduled exams.
- Students are expected to take all of the quizzes.
- Students are expected to complete the reaction papers.
- Students are expected to complete all of the class discussions.
- Students are expected to respect their fellow classmates and the instructor. This includes treating everyone with courtesy and esteem in any and all correspondence for the course. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook.
- Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments or taking exams), and

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abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. For this class, academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic work. In particular, passing off work as your own that was written by someone else, without proper citation or attribution, will be considered an act of plagiarism. This holds true whether material comes from the textbook, another publication, an Internet source, or another student. Any act of academic dishonesty on an exam or quiz will result in a score of 0 for the exam or quiz. Any act of academic dishonesty on a writing assignment will result in a 0 for the entire semester's writing assignment grade. Instances of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the appropriate offices on campus and may result in significant administrative penalties.

- Students will comply with any and all D2L technical requirements in terms of training, computer access, & Internet access.

## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 65%-69%

F = 64% or Below

The final course grade will be calculated using the follow weights.

Exam One	28%
Exam Two	28%
Quizzes	16%
Discussion Assignments	16%
Reflection papers	12%
<b>Final Grade</b>	100%

## Assessments

### Exams

Students will take two exams. All exams will include material from both the textbook and lecture and the scheduled dates for the exams are listed below. These exams will

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include identification, short answer and essay questions. Students will have 75 minutes to complete the exams and they will be taken via the course site on the MyLeo Online platform. The times and dates for the exams are listed at the end of the syllabus.

## **Quizzes**

Students will take weekly quizzes (except for the first week of the semester/weeks of exams/Thanksgiving week) via the course site on the MyLeo Online platform. These quizzes will feature 6-8 multiple choice and/or True/False questions and students will have 10 minutes to complete them. These quizzes will always open on Thursdays at 11:59 PM and remain open for 72 hours. Missed quizzes cannot be made up regardless of the reason.

## **Discussion Assignments**

Students will complete weekly discussions (except for the first week of the semester, Thanksgiving week and when reflection papers are assigned) via the course site on the MyLeo Online platform. Topics for the discussion assignments will be posted on Sunday each week at 9 AM. Each discussion thread will close at 11:30 PM on Saturday that week. Regardless of the reason, there will be no make-up opportunities for discussion assignments and students will not receive any credit for posts made after the deadline. Each student will be assigned to a discussion group for the duration of the course. The instructor will create a discussion thread topic for each discussion group to which students are expected to compile responses.

Students will be graded upon multiple criteria and receive a score between 0 and 5.

- Students are expected to submit an original response to the topic posted, answering all parts of the topic. This post should be 500 words minimum. At the end of this post, students should pose a question to other students that would extend discussion of the original topic.
- Students are expected to respond to the posts and questions posed by other students in their discussion group. Each of these posts should be at least 300 words. Students should include a word count in parentheses at the end of all of their posts. Students should engage in conversation with their group members in a thoughtful discussion about the topic as well as their individual responses to the topic.
- Students will be graded on both the quality of the content of their original posts, as well as their engagement with other students in their response posts. Students should use theories and concepts introduced in the assigned readings, be analytical, and use real world examples.
- Students can make as many or as few posts as they want, however, a student who makes only 2 total posts will receive a grade of no higher than a 2.5.
- Students will also meet specific posting deadlines. Students must make at least one post by 11:59 AM on Wednesday each week and should avoid making all of

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their posts on the same day or during the final hours of the assignment time line. Students who do not make at least one post by 11:59 AM on Wednesday will receive a 50% penalty.

## **Reflection papers**

Students will write four short reflection papers. Reflection papers will ask you to write a specific topic and issue from the material under consideration. These papers will be about 3-5 pages long and will be submitted using the course site on the MyLeo Online platform. Students will be given a specific format and rubric for these papers on the course site. The time frames for these assignments are listed at the end of the syllabus. Topics for the assignments will be available on Sundays at 11:59 PM and are due by 11:59 PM the following Wednesday.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Browser support**

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

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### Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

### Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.  Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:

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- 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
- Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
- Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions 8 Mbps is required.** Additional system requirements found here: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
  - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
  - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
  - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

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## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Brightspace Support

#### Need Help?

#### Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



### System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students should rely upon e-mail, office hours, and class announcements as the primary means of communication with the instructor. I will use all of these to announce any changes to the course syllabus or other relevant information. Also, please note that the system will only send e-mail to your official University Email address, so you will need to check that account regularly. I will always try to e-mail you as soon as I can. From M-F you can expect a reply, at the latest, within 24 hours. On the weekends, I may take 48 hours to respond.

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## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### ***Course Specific Procedures/Policies***

- Make-up exams: If a student misses an exam, that student will receive a grade of 0 for the exam. Make-up exams will only be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Any request for a make-up exam must be made in writing and include documentation explaining why the absence was legitimate. Such a request must be received within 2 calendar days of the missed exam date, unless the student is physically unable to submit such a request. Legitimate reasons may include illness severe enough to require professional treatment, death in the immediate family, participation in University activities, and legal obligations. Please note, these reasons do not guarantee that a make-up exam will be given. Make-up exams will be exclusively essay format.
- Incompletes will be granted completely at the discretion of the instructor and only be granted in the case of serious medical illness or other serious, unavoidable circumstances and only if the student has completed at least 70% of the course work.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

### [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **ADA Statement**

### **Students with Disabilities**

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library- Room 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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## Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment*
Week of 8/26	Intro; The Structure of Policymaking...	Peters 1, 2
Week of 9/2	Explaining Policy Choices	Peters 3
Week of 9/9	Agenda Setting and Public Policy	Peters 4
Week of 9/16	Legitimizing Policy Choices	Peters 5
Week of 9/23	Organizations and Implementation	Peters 6
Week of 9/30	Budgeting: Allocation and Public Policy	Peters 7
Week of 10/7	Evaluation and Policy Change	Peters 8
Week of 10/14	Economic Policy	Peters 9; IFD 3, 4
Week of 10/21	Tax Policy	Peters 10
Week of 10/28	Health Care Policies	Peters 11; IFD 12, 13
Week of 11/4	Social Security and Welfare	Peters 12
Week of 11/11	Education Policy	Peters 13; IFD 5
Week of 11/18	Energy and the Environment	Peters 14; IFD 1
Week of 11/25	Defense and Law Enforcement	Peters 15; IFD 7, 8, 14, 16
Week of 12/2	Social Values and Public Policy	Peters 16; IFD 10, 11
Week of 12/9	<b>Exam week</b>	

\* Additional readings will be assigned on the course site.

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## **Assessment Schedule**

### **Exam Schedule**

Exams will be taken on-line and are scheduled on the dates listed below. Each exam opens at 11:59 PM and closes 72 hours later.

Exam One: Available 10/11 @ 11:59 PM. Covers Peters Chapters 1-8 and all additional readings assigned.

Exam Two: Available 12/8 @ 11:59 PM. Covers Peters Chapters 9-16, and IFD 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-14, & 16, and all additional readings assigned.

### **Quiz Schedule**

Quizzes will be held weekly except for the first week of class, the week of Exam One, and Thanksgiving week.

### **Reflection Papers**

Reflection papers will be assigned the weeks beginning on 9/9, 9/30, 11/4, and 11/25.

### **Discussion assignments**

Discussion assignments will be assigned on 9/2, 9/16, 9/23, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/11, and 12/2.

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