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

**COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2020**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

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

**Office Location:** SS-162

**Office Hours:** M 2-3 PM, T 1-3 PM, W 2-3, TH 1-2 (Held virtually)

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

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

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

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

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

Required Textbook: American Public Policy: Promise and Performance

Author: B. Guy Peters

Published Date: 2017

ISBN: 1483391507

Publisher: CQ Press

### **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

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

### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

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
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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

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

### **Instructional Methods**

The following methods of instruction will be utilized for this course.

- Live audio/video lectures provided on myLeo Online.
- Weekly class simulations and assignments provided on myLeo Online
- Student self-directed 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 announcements and updates.
- Students are expected to complete all course readings for each section of the course.
- Students are expected to review any supplementary materials that the instructor provides, such as web links, news stories, options assignments, etc.
- Students are expected to view the course lectures. While students are strongly encouraged to attend these virtual lectures live, they will all be recorded so that students who unable to attend will be able to watch them. A schedule of the lecture times is provided below.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned writing assignments, quizzes and exams.
- Students are expected to exhibit respect toward 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 abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. For this course, 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 all myLeo Online/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 = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Course grades are computed using the following weighted assignments.

Weekly Quizzes	15%
Class Activities	10%
Exam One	30%
Exam Two	30%
Research paper	15%
<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Assessments**

### **Quizzes**

Students will take weekly quizzes over the assigned readings for the course. These quizzes will contain both multiple-choice and True/False questions. Students will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz. These quizzes cannot be made up, however, the instructor will automatically drop the lowest three quiz grades. The dates and times for these quizzes are listed below.

### **Class activities**

Each week, students will complete an activity/assignment over the assigned readings. These assignments will vary in terms of format, however, they could include: brief simulations, responding to prompts, or quizzes over provided videos/news stories. Students will be given 45 minutes to complete these assignments. The dates and times for these assignments are provided below.

### **Exams**

Students will take two exams. All exams will include material from the textbook and the scheduled dates for the exams are listed below. These exams will feature both short answer and possibly multiple-choice questions. Students will have 60 minutes to complete each exam. The times and dates for the exams are listed at the end of the syllabus. Students will access the exams through myLeo Online.

### **Research paper**

Students will write an original research paper on a federal policy of their choosing. This paper will require students to be both descriptive and analytic. The assignment description, which includes expectations, paper deadlines, and the grading rubric are provided on the course page in myLeo Online.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **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**

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. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **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, virtual office hours, and course 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.

## **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 3 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 of an immediate family member, participation in University activities, and legal obligations. Technical problems with accessing the course are not a valid excuse for missing an exam unless it can be shown that the problem is the fault of the myLeo Online platform. Students who miss any exam because they forgot about the exam dates/times will not receive a make-up exam. 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 students has completed at least 70% of the course work. Incompletes must be finished within two weeks of the end of the semester.
- Students must complete the "Personal Responsibility Statement" quiz available on the course site. Students who fail to do so by the time the first exam is graded will be administratively dropped from the course.

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

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class if they fall ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

### **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>

### **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.

### **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

Below are the readings assignments and an exam schedule. The numbers in the third column refer to the assigned chapter from the textbook. Supplementary readings may be assigned through the course page. In addition to the readings from the textbook, students should also keep abreast of the news and current events.

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments
Week starting 8/24	Intro; The Structure of Policymaking...	Peters 1, 2
Week starting 8/31	Explaining Policy Choices	Peters 3
Week starting 9/7	Agenda Setting and Public Policy	Peters 4
Week starting 9/14	Legitimizing Policy Choices	Peters 5
Week starting 9/21	Organizations and Implementation	Peters 6
Week starting 9/28	Budgeting: Allocation and Public Policy	Peters 7
Week starting 10/5	Evaluation and Policy Change	Peters 8
Week starting 10/12	Economic Policy	Peters 9
Week starting 10/19	Tax Policy	Peters 10
Week starting 10/26	Health Care Policies	Peters 11
Week starting 11/2	Social Security and Welfare	Peters 12
Week starting 11/9	Education Policy	Peters 13
Week starting 11/16	Energy and the Environment	Peters 14
Week starting 11/23	Defense and Law Enforcement	Peters 15
Week starting 11/30	Social Values and Public Policy	Peters 16
Week starting 12/7	<b>Finals Week</b>	

### **Quiz schedule**

Quizzes will be given every week (except the weeks of exams and Thanksgiving week.) Quizzes will open each Friday at 11:59 AM and close 60 hours later at 11:59 PM on Sunday.

### **Class activities**

Class activities will be given every week. Class activities will open on Wednesdays at 11:59 AM and close 4 days later at 11:59 PM on Sundays.

### **Exam Schedule**

Exams will be available on the course page and are scheduled on the dates listed below. Each exam begins at 11:59 AM (Noon) and closes 60 hours later at 11:59 PM on the assigned dates.

Exam 1: Opens on 10/2/20 @ 11:59 AM and closes at 11:59 PM on 10/4/20. Covers Chapters 1-6.

Exam 2: Opens on 12/7/20 @ 11:59 AM and closes at 11:59 PM on 12/9/20. Covers Chapters 11-14.

### **Writing Assignment Schedule**

See the course page for an assignment description, grading rubric, and a listing of important dates, times, and important resources

### **Live Lecture Schedule**

The instructor will give lectures through the **YouSee-You Virtual Classroom** on the class page. Each lecture will last approximately 120 minutes and be held on Tuesdays from 4-6 PM.