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<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

PSCI 541 Seminar in American Public Policy

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Chad M. King
Class Meeting Times: Mondays 6-8:30 through YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom
Office Location: SS-162
Office Hours: M 9:50-11, 1-3; W 9:50-11, 1-2; F 9:50-11.
(Can meet virtually T/Th by request)
University Email Address: chad.king@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail
Communication Response Time: 24 hours (Up to 48 hours during weekends)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

1. American Public Policy (12th Edition), Guy Peters, ISBN: 9781071809167, Publisher: Sage Press.
2. Theories of the Policy Process. (4th Edition) Christopher Weible and Paul Sabatier. ISBN: 9780813350523. Publisher: Taylor and Francis

Course Description

This course considers the various theoretical and empirical explanations for federal public policy making in the United States. In the first part of the course we focus on the important scholarly theories of how public policy is defined, constructed, implemented, and evaluated. In the second part of the course we will examine

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specific areas of American public policy.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytic approaches to understanding American public policy.
2. Students will understand historic and substantive nature of important areas of American public policy
3. Students will develop the skills to discuss and communicate areas and theories 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, and use basic word processing software such as Microsoft Word and Power Point.

Instructional Methods

Students will meet weekly on Mondays from 6:00 PM-8:30 PM using the YouSeeU-Virtual classroom in the class page on MyLeo Online. Students will learn from both completing the assigned readings and engaging with their classmates and the instructor in discussions assignments over the assigned readings, preparing for a midterm exam, and completing a research paper.

Student Responsibilities for Success in the Course

- 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 attend class meetings over YouSeeU and arrive on time.
- 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 complete all writing assignments and exams.
- 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 abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. For this class, academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism,

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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 will result in a grade of F for the semester.

- Students will comply with all myLeo Online/D2L technical requirements in terms of training, computer access, & Internet access.
- Students who miss more than two class meetings will be administratively dropped from the class.

GRADING

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

A = 89.5%-100%

B = 79.5%-89.4%

C = 69.5%-79.4%

D = 59.5%-69.4%

F = 59.4% or Below

Grade breakdown	
Class participation & discussion	40%
Midterm Exam	30%
Research paper	30%
Final Grade	100%

Assessments

1. Class participation & discussion (40%)

Students will participate and discuss course content both through YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom and threaded discussion boards. The Class participation and discussion graded will be composed of three formal elements.

- Discussion leader: Every student will be assigned as a discussion leader for 2-3 weeks during the term. Students will be expected to lead discussion for the week, compile possible questions about the readings, bring in outside information or current events that fit the topics and make sure the discussion goes well (20%)

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- Participation in class meetings: Students will be expected to participate in class discussions over the assigned readings during weekly class meetings using YouSeeU. (20%)

More information about these requirements and expectations will be provided on the course myLeo Online site.

2. Midterm Exam (30%)

There will be one midterm exam. The exam will be available at 12 Noon on 10/15 and is due no later than noon on 10/22. The exam is open-book, open-note and students must submit an electronic copy to the instructor via the drop box in the course site. The exam will feature 3-4 “qualifying exam” type questions for which students must prepare well-written responses. The instructor will provide more information about the exam as the date grows closer.

3. Research Paper (30%)

Students will prepare an original research paper that describes and analyzes an important policy topic of their choosing. Students will receive the guidelines and due dates for this assignment during the first week of the semester. The paper will be worth 25% of the final grade.

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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

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

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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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.

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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students should rely upon e-mail, 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

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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.

- 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. Incompletes must be finished within two weeks of the end of the semester.

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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: 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](#)

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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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Below are the reading assignments from the textbook. Supplemental readings for each week will be linked from the "Readings" module on the course page in D2L.

Readings

8/30 Introduction to the study of public policy

1. Bobrow, Davis, Heinz Eulau, Martin Landau, Charles O. Jones and Robert Axelrod. 1975. "The Place of Policy Analysis in Political Science: Five Perspectives." *American Journal of Political Science* 21(2): 415-433.
2. Brewer, Garry D. 1974. "The Policy Sciences Emerge: To Nurture and Structure a Discipline." *Policy Sciences* 5 (3): 239-244.
3. Weimer, David. 2008. "Theories of and in the Policy Process" *The Policy Studies Journal* 36: 489-495.
4. Meier, Kenneth. 2009. "Policy Theory, Policy Theory Everywhere: Ravings of a Deranged Policy Scholar." *Policy Studies Journal*. 37 (1): 5-11.

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9/6 Theories of the Policy Process I

1. Peters, Chapters 1-2
2. Weible & Sabatier, Introduction

9/13 Theories of the Policy Process II

1. Peters, Chapters 3
2. Weible & Sabatier, 1-4

9/20 Theories of the Policy Process III

1. Peters, Chapters 3
2. Weible & Sabatier, 5-7

9/27 Agenda Setting, Legitimation

1. Peters, Chapters 4-5

10/4 Implementation

1. Peters, Chapter 6

10/11 Budgeting

1. Peters, Chapter 7

10/18 Exam 1

10/25 Economic Policy

1. Peters, Chapter 9

11/1 Tax Policy

1. Peters, Chapter 10

11/8 Health Care Policy

1. Peters, Chapter 11

11/15 Social Security and Welfare Policy

1. Peters, Chapter 12

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11/22 Education Policy

1. Peters, Chapter 13

11/29 Energy Policy

1. Peters, Chapter 14

12/6 Paper presentations