Politics and Policy  
PMAP 8011  
Fall 2014

Professor: Dr. Nicholas Harvey  
Contact Phone: 404-413-0121  
Email: nharvey3@gsu.edu (Contact through D2L)  
Office Location: AYSPS, Room 357  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Class Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:15-9:45 pm  
Class Location: Classroom South, Room 301

Course Description
The interplay between politics and public policy is evident in many areas of our lives while almost imperceptible in others. This course will examine the relationship between politics, public policy, and the policy process. Students will study the American political system and its intersection with contemporary policy issues.

Course Objectives
Readings, discussions and written assignments are intended to help students think critically about the public sector. Through this course, students will be better prepared for roles as citizens and public sector leaders.

Upon completion of this course:
Students will be able to:
Describe and analyze the key models of government and the policy process.  
Identify major ethical issues that arise in the public sector.  
Describe the nature and function of the public sector in the U.S.  
Demonstrate analytical skills related to public policy problems and develop and present solutions.  
Demonstrate an ability to effectively communicate verbally or through writing about public management issues and problems.

Course Requirements
• Each student must complete the assigned readings as scheduled and on time.  
• Each student must actively participate in class discussions.  
• Each student must complete all assignments and submit them on time.  
• Each student must be respectful of other students’ ideas and experiences.
Required Texts
Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives, 4th Edition
Michael E. Kraft and Scott R. Furlong

Theories of the Policy Process
Paul A. Sabatier and Christopher M. Weible (Eds.)

Grade Weights
Class Preparation, Quality Participation, and Engagement 10%
Reflection Papers 10%
Position Papers 25%
Midterm 25%
Final Requirement
  Paper 20%
  Presentation 10%

100%

Grade Calculations
The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Grade  Overall score
A+  97.00-100.00
A   93.00-96.99
A-  90.00-92.99
B+  87.00-89.99
B   83.00-86.99
B-  80.00-82.99
C+  77.00-79.99
C   73.00-76.99
C-  70.00-72.99
D   60.00-69.99
F   < 60.00

Expectations
This course relies on quality student participation to function properly. I will call on students by name to address discussion topics, so I expect that you will have completed the required readings for each class. I strongly recommend that you supplement the required readings with others drawn from the suggested resources list for and other public policy literature sources.

Desire 2 Learn is the learning platform for the course assignments and communications. Please check course content and email frequently for assignments, readings, and requirements. The instructor will communicate with you through D2L and will expect your electronic communication through D2L as well. Please be aware of the D2L maintenance schedule (provided online) when D2L will be unavailable.
Policy on Class Attendance, Absences, and Late Assignments
GSU Policy on Class Attendance
Students are expected to attend class and abide by the instructor’s attendance/absence policy (stated in the course syllabus). This pertains to face-to-face classes as well as on-line/hybrid classes. Students may receive excused absences for the following as listed in the Student Code of Conduct Manual (p.38): http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/files/2013/03/2013_2014-OnCampusHandbookStudentCodeofConduct_LastAmended_May_1_20138_13.pdf

The quality of this class is contingent on the diversity of ideas and perspectives shared in class so please try to minimize absences. If you plan to miss a class, please notify the instructor at least 2 days in advance. Unexcused absences will negatively impact your grade.

No late assignments will be accepted. The assignment is due when it is scheduled to be submitted.

There will be no make-up exams or assignments. A death in the immediate family and your hospitalization are the only two reasons that come to mind for missing an assignment or exam. In either of these cases, I should be notified as soon as possible and no later than the start of the test or deadline.

In only rare circumstances will I award a grade of Incomplete. As with the exams and assignments, a death in the immediate family and your hospitalization are the only two reasons that would persuade me to give you an Incomplete.

Reasonable Accommodations
Students with disabilities that could affect their ability to participate or perform well in the course should see me early in the semester. I am receptive to these situations and will make reasonable accommodations. Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by ODS of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to me.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty
Established rules covering plagiarism and academic honesty must be followed at all times. It is the student's responsibility to know the meaning of plagiarism and when it occurs. “As members of the academic community, students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The university assumes as a basic and minimum standard of conduct in academic matters that students be honest and that they submit for credit only the products of their own efforts. Both the ideals of scholarship and the need for fairness require that all dishonest work be rejected as a basis for academic credit. They also require that students refrain from any and all forms of dishonorable or unethical conduct related to their academic work.”

The university's policy on academic honesty is published in the Faculty Affairs Handbook and On Campus: The Undergraduate Co-Curricular Affairs Handbook and is available to all members of the university community. The policy represents a core value of the university and
all members of the university community are responsible for abiding by its tenets. Lack of knowledge of this policy is not an acceptable defense to any charge of academic dishonesty. All members of the academic community -- students, faculty, and staff -- are expected to report violations of these standards of academic conduct to the appropriate authorities. The procedures for such reporting are on file in the offices of the deans of each college, the office of the dean of students, and the office of the provost.” (Faculty Affairs Handbook section 409 http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwfhb/sec409.html and GSU Undergraduate Catalogue section 1380 http://www2.gsu.edu/~catalogs/2010-2011/undergraduate/1300/1380_academic_honesty.htm) University, School, and Department policies require that I inform you that plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” on the assignment and likely in the course as well. You should be aware that academic dishonesty may also result in your dismissal from the University.

The policy will be strictly enforced, particularly as it relates to plagiarism and related concerns. I take academic honesty very seriously, so **any cases of dishonesty will result in an automatic F grade and will be reported to the university.**

**Policy on Laptops and Cellular phones**
Students are not allowed to use cell phones during class. Any student using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave the room. Laptops may be used for taking notes and researching relevant PMAP 8011 topics. All other laptop use during class is not permitted.

**Voluntary Withdrawal**
After the last day to add/drop a course, students may "withdraw" from a course when they decide to stop attending. Withdrawing from a course prior to the midpoint of the term makes the student eligible for a grade of W if the withdrawal limit has not been exceeded. This grade is reflected on the student's official record. After midpoint the student will receive the grade the instructor assigns. The last day to withdraw with a W or WF is **October 14.**

**Course Evaluation**
Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State University. Upon completing the course, please take the time to fill out the online course evaluation.
Proposed Course Schedule and Assignments
This schedule will serve as a guide but not a rigid constraint throughout the semester. Any changes in the syllabus or course schedule will be announced in advance by the instructor.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introductions / Administrative Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Public Policy and Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Sep</td>
<td>K&amp;F, Chapter 1; S&amp;W, Chapter 1; Ahler, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Sep</td>
<td>Plagiarism Quiz Due by noon</td>
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<td>3-Sep</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php">http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Sep</td>
<td>Pre-test and Post-test results <a href="mailto:nharvey3@gsu.edu">nharvey3@gsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Sep</td>
<td>Reflection Paper One due by noon in Dropbox</td>
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| Week 3 | Government Institutions and Policy Actors  |
| 10-Sep | K&F, Chapter 2; S&W Chapter 10; Kirkland and Williams, 2014; Testa, Hibbing, and Richie, 2014  |
| 10-Sep | Reflection Paper Two due by noon in Dropbox  |
| 10-Sep | Reflection Paper due by noon 9/11 in Dropbox for Peer Review (use track changes to indicate edits)  |

| Week 4 | Understanding Public Policymaking  |
| 17-Sep | K&F, Chapter 3; S&W Chapters 2-4  |
| 17-Sep | Reflection Paper Three due by noon in Dropbox  |

| Week 5 | Theories of the Policy Process  |
| 24-Sep | S&W, Chapters 5-7  |
| 24-Sep | Reflection Paper Four due by noon in Dropbox  |
| 24-Sep | Reflection Paper due by noon 9/25 in Dropbox for Peer Review (use track changes to indicate edits)  |

| Week 6 | Theories of the Policy Process, Part II  |
| 1-Oct | S&W, Chapters 8-9, 11; Egan, 2014  |
| 1-Oct | Reflection Paper Five due by noon in Dropbox  |
| 1-Oct | Reflection Paper due by noon 10/2 in Dropbox for Peer Review (use track changes to indicate edits)  |

| Week 7 | Midterm Exam (In Class)  |
| 8-Oct |

| Week 8 | Citizen Participation  |
| 15-Oct | Position Paper One due by noon in Dropbox  |
Week 9  Economic and Budgetary Policy  
22-Oct  K&F, Chapter 7; New, 2010; Orth, 2001  
Position Paper Two due by noon in Dropbox

Week 10  Health Care Policy/Welfare and Social Security Policy  
29-Oct  K&F, Chapters 8&9; Brady and Kessler, 2010; Jacobs, 2010  
Position Paper Three due by noon in Dropbox

Week 11  Education Policy  
5-Nov  K&F, Chapter 10; Hagelskamp, et.al., 2014  
Position Paper Four due by noon in Dropbox

Week 12  Environmental and Energy Policy  
12-Nov  K&F, Chapter 11; Djupe and Olsen, 2010  
Position Paper Five due by in Dropbox

Week 13  No Class (Group Work)  
19-Nov

Week 14  Thanksgiving Break  
26-Nov

Week 15  Foreign Policy and Homeland Security  
3-Dec  K&F, Chapter 12; Kertzer, et.al. 2014

Week 16  Final Requirement Group Presentations 7:00 – 9:30p  
10-Dec  (note time change)
Assignment Descriptions

Reflection Papers
Each student will write five individual short papers 1-2 pages in length (300-500 words). Please cite all references using a recognized citation style (e.g. APA, MLA). The papers will be evaluated on the quality of writing and clarity of ideas. Paper will be submitted by the deadline in the D2L Dropbox. Several papers will be subject to peer review to help improve your writing and the presentation of your ideas. No late submissions will be accepted for credit.

Position Papers
Take a position on the assigned policy issue. Why do you feel this way? What are your assumptions? Explain your position well. Each paper will be written and researched using course materials, online resources, and precedent public policy literature. Please cite all references using a recognized citation style (e.g. APA, MLA). The papers will be evaluated on the quality of writing and clarity of ideas. Paper will be submitted by the deadline in the D2L Dropbox. 2 pages in length (500 words)

Final Group Project
Welcome to the United States Senate! You are legislative aids and Senator Harvey wants your expertise to solve a policy problem and propose appropriate legislation (that’s why you all were hired). What is your strategic policy advice? What should the government do? Why? What are the considerations, challenges, anticipated opposition, and opportunities?

There is a 20 double-spaced page limit on this project (not including exhibits and references). Please cite all references using a recognized citation style (e.g. APA, MLA). The papers will be evaluated on the quality of writing and clarity of ideas. Paper will be submitted by the deadline in the D2L Dropbox. Each student in the group will be graded individually, however, there will be a shared score based on the submitted application and paper, which will be evaluated on the clarity of the ideas, the quality of the writing and the presentation quality of the overall proposal, the scores will then be adjusted for each team member based on their contribution to the group and to the written assignment taking into account team member assessment. This paper must be submitted in the D2L Dropbox by noon and a hard copy at the beginning of class on December 3 at 7:15p. No late submissions will be accepted for credit.

Final Presentation
Each group is responsible for preparing a PowerPoint slideshow to share their proposal with the class on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 during the final exam period 7:00-9:30p (please note time change). Each student in the group will be evaluated on their clarity of communication, their level of professionalism and the quality of the slideshow. Each student will be evaluated by her/his group as to their quality participation in the final presentation and project. Peer evaluations influence final group project grades.

The final presentation PowerPoint must be submitted in the D2L Dropbox by noon on December 10.

(The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary.)