

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY--PSC 210-01--SI--UNCG--SPRING 2009

Mr. Jeff Colbert

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REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Public Policy in the United States, 4th Edition, Rushefsky

The Political Science Student Writer's Manual, 5th edition, Scott and Garrison

Daily newspapers, news broadcasts, weekly/monthly periodicals/internet (Regular reading)

We will unearth a little about the "policy process" in our government. As informed folks know, government is a complex web of issues, ideas, interests and institutions. If you successfully complete the course, you will NOT be a policy expert. However, you will know much more about the process, the players and some of the problems. Further, you will realize the hopelessness and flat out stupidity of simplistic solutions in today's political scene and the importance of "groups" in policy-making. The Lone Ranger never made policy.

More specifically, by the end of the course, you should be able to:

- 1.) explain, in detail, Rushefsky's eight stage policy process and many elements within those stages;
- 2.) give examples of these stages and elements in different policy areas;
- 3.) identify players, forces and ideologies that both propel and inhibit the policy process in the US;
- 4.) identify some of the policy problems in the US, some of the proposed solutions, and some of the problems with those solutions;
- 5.) discuss items 1-4 in large group and small group format which will be instructor monitored and critiqued;
- 6.) lead at least one discussion in small group format which will be peer-evaluated;
- 7.) identify, with your group members, a specific policy problem;
- 8.) research, with your group members, library, web and human resources for information and potential ways to deal with your identified problem;
- 9.) develop, with your group members, a policy proposal;
- 10.) write, with your group members, an extensive paper detailing the problem, other attempts to deal with the problem, and a detailed account of your proposal to deal with the problem;
- 11.) participate in an oral presentation of your research findings with your group members.

YOU are crucial to the progression of this course. You are expected to play a large role as an active, informed participant.

It is assumed that you will be in class, will have read all assigned material prior to class, and will regularly watch news broadcasts, read the daily paper, scan periodicals and use the internet. You must understand that this is not a guideline or a request--it is an expectation that will be reflected in your grade. If you don't like to attend class, read, and talk in class, you should drop this course. Should you not be properly prepared, you will discover my ability to create instantaneous and punitive pop quizzes. For the sake of all involved, let's avoid these "discoveries"!! Should you happen to miss class, YOU are responsible for learning what assignments were made and having them ready on time. Missing class IS NOT an acceptable excuse for a late assignment.

This course has been designated a speaking intensive course for this semester. This means that in the process of accomplishing the learning objectives already mentioned, we will attempt to enhance the speaking/presentation skills of the class members. Some of these exercises will involve small group discussion exercises where each of you will be required to serve as a discussion leader at least once. In addition, each of you will be expected to enhance your listening skills. For these activities, feedback will be provided by your colleagues and myself. For many students, speaking in public is a daunting and intimidating task. I hope to ease some of your anxieties and help you improve your skills in public speaking.

NOTE: This course is taught with the presumption that you have completed PSC 100, Introduction to American Government. It is not a prerequisite for this course, but you may find it a bit more difficult without some background in American Government. However, some students have done well in this course without that background, and so can you.

GRADING STRUCTURE

3 exams--10% each (02-09, 03-20, 04-29)	30%
1 cumulative final exam (05-11 8-11 A.M.)	20%
1 group project (including oral presentation—05-06)	35%
Small group discussion evaluation/critiques	10%
Attendance/Pop Quizzes/Class Participation	<u>5%</u>
	100%

Exams are short and long discussion questions, based on lectures, readings and class discussions. Class time can be interesting, informative and sometimes, even fun, but that depends as much on you as it does me. I am normally pretty laid back in most areas, but that works under the assumptions that we are co-participants in this educational "thing" and that you do strictly abide by the rules I have.

SCHEDULE

01-21	Introduction
01-23 thru 02-06	Chapter 1 and in-class exercises
02-09	Test # 1
02-11	Discussion of group project rules/parameters/hints-- GROUPS FORMED!! (P. 3, Items 1 & 2)
02-13/16/18	Chapter 2
02-20	NO CLASS--Lilly Conference
02-23/25/27	Chapter 3
03-02/04	Chapter 4
03-06/09/11/13	NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK!!
03-16	Chapter 4
03-18	Final Topic Due with one page explanation of project/Meet with each group
03-20	Test #2
03-23/25	Chapter 5
03-27	NO CLASS—PI SIGMA ALPHA TRIP TO DC
03-30	Chapter 5
04-01/03/06	Chapter 6
04-08	Chapter 7
04-10	NO CLASS—SPRING HOLIDAY!!
04-13/15	Chapter 7
04-17/20/22	Chapter 8
04-24/27	Chapter 9
04-29	Test #3
05-01	Discuss presentations-- Project Paper due in class at 9:00 a.m. (P. 3, 4a)
05-04	NO CLASS
05-05	NO CLASS (Tues., following a Friday schedule)
05-06	Reading Day—Project Presentations (P. 3, 4b)—10:00 A.M.
05-11	Final (8-11 a.m.)

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED DURING THE GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

GROUP PROJECT

In teaching this course, I have become convinced of the value of students investigating a topic in depth in order to examine how the process has worked, is working, and should work. This assignment will allow you to do just that. It is not a "Gripe and Moan" paper, detailing the horrible ineptitude of our system and its' players. You do get to critique the past and present but you also must develop reasonable, workable, affordable NATIONAL policy options. Since in a few years it will be your job anyway, let's see how smart you are! While other details will work themselves out during the semester, the format is essentially this:

- 1.) Class members will self-select themselves into groups of 4-6 in order to work together on this group project;
- 2.) By 02-11, each group will inform me, in writing, of the following:
 - a.) their group members;
 - b.) the class/work schedules of each individual in the group;
 - c.) their probable policy topic (topics cannot be changed after 03-18);
 - d.) and their common meeting time (at least a two hour block).
- 3.) At the end of the semester, each group will have prepared;
 - a.) a 30 page (minimum) formal research paper detailing the problem as it exists today, past/present attempts to alleviate the problem and their recommendations for future policy solution(s) (due 05-01). Your recommendation(s) must comprise at least one-half (fifteen pages) of your proposal. This assignment will be strictly graded on appearance, grammar, spelling, punctuation, proper and adequate citations as well as substance (see next page for details).
 - b.) a 20 minute (minimum) to 25 minute (maximum) oral presentation, covering all elements of your paper but emphasizing the solutions (presentations will be on 05-06). This is a formal presentation in which all members of the group must verbally participate with a professional appearance. If you're unsure as to the definition of "professional appearance", watch Congressmen/women on C-Span/C-Span2 for examples.
 - c.) A complete log of all group/subgroup meetings with accurate records as to time, place and members in attendance (turned in after your presentation and no later than reading day, 05-06).
- 4.) Each member must turn in, no later than the exam date (05-11), a specific written evaluation of each member's participation, **including themselves**. Students who perform exemplary work may be rewarded. Students who attempt to ride the back of others to get a good grade will be severely punished. Regardless of your grades, students who do not turn in the evaluations will receive an "Incomplete" for the course.

While this is a large assignment, please note that it also comprises 35% of your grade (a lot of work = a lot of credit). Some groups misunderstand this project and think the key to this paper is the writing. That is incorrect. It must be written correctly, but the keys are research and teamwork! You must begin early and work hard. This will be further discussed in class.

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED DURING THE GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS.

The research paper must adhere to the following rules/restrictions:

- *As a guideline for form and structure, you will use The Political Science Student Writer's Manual (5th edition)
except for any variations noted below;
- * these are formal papers--no creative writing, questionable language or solely opinion-based comments;
- * 30 (minimum) pages in content length--graphs, charts, etc. are expected, but are in addition to the 30 pages;
- * pages are to be numbered in the top right corner;
- * the pages will be bound together in some fashion that is attractive/professional in appearance;
- * your group members' names will be on a separate sheet attached to the back of your paper--your names are
not to appear anywhere else in or on your paper;
- * include a title page;
- * typewritten, double-spaced, Times New Roman-12 font;
- * margins will be ½ inch on right/left and 1 inch on top/bottom;
- * the paper will be graded on style/spelling/grammar/punctuation/substance;
- * because these are research papers, they obviously will be completely filled with information gained from
other sources. Accordingly, these papers are to be cited properly and extensively. If you have any
questions
about this, they are to be asked well before your paper is completed. Ignorance will not be accepted as an
excuse once you have submitted your paper. Your citation method is to be the APSA Author-Date
System as
detailed in The Political Science Student Writer's Manual (5th edition);
- *dictionaries, encyclopedia and Wikipedia are NOT sources for a university research paper;
- * as a source, independent Internet sites may be used for no more than 25% of your sources and 25% of
your
content;

Violation of these rules will invoke an automatic one letter grade penalty per infraction. Generally, don't bother me with excuses; I've heard most of them. Real, serious and documented excuses may be considered.

FINAL NOTES AND WARNINGS:

1.) I expect timely attendance. If you are later than 5 minutes late for class, you will not be counted present.

2.) Turn off or turn to vibrate ALL cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices other than your laptop computer. If there is an emergency possibility and you need your cell phone to be on, inform me. Otherwise, they ARE NOT to be heard or seen in class. If you use a laptop computer in class, you may use it for note-taking only unless otherwise directed or approved. Close, not reduce, all other screens. If you are found using your laptop for other purposes in class, your right to use your laptop in class will be forfeited.

KIDNEY TRANSPLANT EXERCISE

You are at the Scandinavian Medical Center in Houston, Texas. This is the foremost kidney transplant facility in the world. Due to the increase of kidney disease and the rarity and difficulty of dialysis treatment, the demand for kidney transplants is on the rise. However, there are far more applicants than there are available kidneys. Those listed below who do not receive a kidney will likely die in the next two years.

At the Center, a committee of doctors screens all applicants to see who would benefit most from a transplant. For instance, a person with a debilitating disease might not recover from the operation while some people are more likely to be able to locate a matching donor than others. It is assumed that each person listed below has an equal chance of finding a matching donor and remaining alive if allowed the surgery.

Your group is the Center's final screening committee. You must determine who may receive a transplant this year. Normally, there are approximately six kidneys available for transplant. However, some years have seen as many as eight and as few as four. Therefore, your task is to select and rank order eight individuals from the list below.

Jill Biden	Bono	Jimmy Carter	George Clooney
Bill Gates	Mel Gibson	Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Franklin Graham
John Grisham	Ken Halstead	Lee Iococca	Kathy Ireland
Patricia Ireland	Rev. Jesse Jackson	Angelina Jolie	Lebron James
Derek Jeter	Steve Jobs	Michael Jordan	Spike Lee
Madonna	Peyton Manning	Cindy McCain	Paul McCartney
Oliver North	Michelle Obama	Bill O'Reilly	Todd Palin
T. Boone Pickens	Colin Powell	John Roberts	Condeleeza Rice
Julia Roberts	Diane Sawyer	Jimmy Smits	Steven Spielberg
Clarence Thomas	Brian Williams	Oprah Winfrey	Tiger Woods

“GETTING TO KNOW EACH OF YOU”

On this page is a listing of characteristics, each of which uniquely describes a member of your class. You have 10 minutes to match as many of your classmates as possible to their descriptions below. The rules are few and simple:

- 1.) You will approach as many classmates as possible in the time allotted and ask them which set of characteristics or description fits them;
- 2.) At that time, you may reveal to that person which description is you;
- 3.) You may NOT speak loudly so as to reveal yourself to more than one person at a time;
- 4.) You may NOT share any other information with anyone else;
- 5.) This counts as a pop quiz grade—every correct answer is worth 4 points!

- 1.) _____ An only child from Warrenton just started working at PaPa John’s!!
- 2.) _____ Sociology (Crim) major, works at Michael’s, obsessed with her cat.
- 3.) _____ An RA who’s a PSC major and comes from Durham.
- 4.) _____ PSC major who lives in the “Old Irving Park” area, loves to play WOW.
- 5.) _____ BCN major/PSC minor-hopes to co-host “Inside the NFL” with Costas.
- 6.) _____ PSC/PHI double major, works at Village Tavern, supports McCain.
- 7.) _____ PSC/EDU major from Washington, NC, is the baby in a large family.
- 8.) _____ ENG/PSC major from West Palm Beach with 22 first cousins.
- 9.) _____ PSC/Mus (vocal performance) double major from Charlotte.
- 10.) _____ PSC/prelaw from Overland Park, KS-member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.
- 11.) _____ PSC major from Jackson, NC--works at State Employees Credit Union.
- 12.) _____ ECO/BIO double major from Tucson, AZ—likes their # of bike lanes.
- 13.) _____ Env Studies major from Durham-went from UNCG to UNC to UNCG!
- 14.) _____ Sr. PSC major from High Point, plays disc golf, works for PaPa John’s.
- 15.) _____ PSC from Hendersonville, loves Hot Dog World, drives a minivan.
- 16.) _____ Senior PSC major, works at Panera on W. Wendover, from Fayetteville.
- 17.) _____ PSC major, has begun MLS, from Carrboro, has lived in East Europe.
- 18.) _____ BCN/PSC, works at Bruster’s, Youth Advisor at Temple Emanuel.
- 19.) _____ Elem Ed from Gibsonville, Pharmacy Tech at Harris Teeter Pharmacy. .
- 20.) _____ HIS w/teacher certification from Asheboro, likes the NC ZOO.
- 21.) _____ PSC major/ENG minor from Burton, Michigan who loved her house.
- 22.) _____ PSC from Gibsonville--has lived in New York City and Myrtle Beach.
- 23.) _____ PSC major/SPA minor from Newark, NJ. Will study in Spain in Spring.
- 24.) _____ RPM major from Washington, NC--US Army—heading to Iraq soon.
- 25.) _____ Sr. PSC major from Louisville, KY who cannot share dairy products.
- 26.) _____ PSC/HIS major from Pelham, NC, involved in local politics.