

Fernando Tormos, Instructor

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Office hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10:30-12:30pm or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

In this course we will study the processes by which societies address or ignore collective problems. After completing this course, students will be able to explain prominent understandings of policy-making, conduct policy analyses, and describe the main elements of select policy issue-areas. There are no prerequisites to this course and students are not expected to have any prior knowledge of public policy.

Required texts

Adolino, Jessica R. and Charles H. Blake. 2011. *Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Six Industrialized Countries*. Washington DC: CQ Press.

(Make sure you get the 2011 edition, which is the second edition of the book.)

Course Schedule: Discussion Topics and Assigned Readings

*The course schedule is subject to change.

Understanding the Policy Process

Week 1:

Introduce course and review syllabus

Assignments:

Navigate Purdue Online Writing Lab writing resources:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1>

Read: Adolino and Blake pages 1-7

The Policy Process

Read: Adolino and Blake pages 8-31

Theories of Policy Making

Read: Adolino and Blake 31-47

Frameworks for Understanding the Policy Process

Read, Sabatier, Paul A. 1999. "The Need for Better Theories," in Paul A Sabatier, ed. *Theories of the Policy Process*. New York: Westview Press. 3-17
(blackboard)

Week 2:

Political Dynamics in Industrialized Countries

Read: Adolino and Blake 47-77

The Policy-making Context

Read: Adolino and Blake 77-100

Problem Definition

Read: Kingdon, John W. 2010, "Chapter 5: Problems," in *Agendas Alternatives and Public Policy*. **(blackboard)**

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 3:

Understanding Policy Issues

Immigration Policy

Assignment: Research Paper Stage 1 Due on Friday

Read: Adolino and Blake 100-159

Fiscal Policy

Read: Adolino and Blake 159- 198

Health Care Policy

Assignment: Research Paper Stage 2 Due on Friday

Read: Adolino and Blake 234-278

Social Policy

Read: Adolino and Blake 278-321

Week 4:

Education Policy

Read: Adolino and Blake 321-364

Assignment: Research Paper Stage 3

Environmental Policy

Read: Adolino and Blake 364-412

Concluding thoughts and paper presentations

Read: Adolino and Blake 412-418

FINAL EXAM

Grading

The grading strategy for this course is designed to give students a chance to show what they have learned through different kinds of assessments: class discussion of assigned readings, critical reviews, a policy research project, and a research paper presentation. Handouts will be distributed with guidelines for each assignment. Please use the APSA Style citation format for all writing assignments.

Evaluation

Class participation (15%)

Please come to class with the assigned readings, comments, and questions that you would like to raise during class discussion. If a student has to miss class for any reason, the student will be responsible for notifying the instructor in advance.

Critical Reviews (15%)

Students will choose two readings that they wish to review provided by the instructor. Reviews should be turned in no later than the day of the midterm

exam. Reviews should follow the following format: What is the author's main argument? How is this argument supported? What critique do you have of the text? The reviews should be no longer than two double spaced pages in Times New Roman font 12 with 1" margins. For further suggestions refer to: Alex-Assensoh's (2008) "Teaching Critical Analysis Skills with Analysis Briefs: What They Are and How They Work."

Policy analysis paper (25%)

Stage I - Identify the problem and review the literature (2-3 pages)

Stage II - Policy history and interaction (3-4 pages)

Stage III - Policy analysis and conclusion (2-3 pages)

Research Paper Presentations (5%)

Students will present their research to the class and provide an understanding of the policy area in which they focused. A separate handout will be given out with further information.

MIDTERM (20%)

This evaluation consists of an in class component and a take home section. More information will be provided prior to the examination.

FINAL EXAM (20%)

Like the midterm, this evaluation consists of an in class component and a take home section.

Extra credit

Throughout the semester, students are encouraged to prepare short (5min) presentations of a news article or documentary film that relates to the assigned readings. The relationship between the week's reading and the news article should be evident. These presentations have to be scheduled with two weeks in advance. Please schedule an appointment with me prior to the week of the presentation to discuss the assessment of this assignment.

Attendance Policy

Purdue's official attendance policy can be found at:

<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/services/classabsence.php>

Students are expected to come to every class with their reading materials and ready to actively engage in class discussion. Please avoid coming to class if you have any infectious sickness. If a student is unable to come to class, please notify the instructor through email in advance. Electronic devices are only accepted if they are being used to read the assigned reading. Students are encouraged to print the reading, bring the book, and avoid the use of electronic devices. Coming to class, engaging in class discussion, and making proper use of electronic devices are crucial components of the class participation grade.

Late Policy

Late assignments are only accepted under extenuating circumstances.

Academic dishonesty and Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to be aware of the university policies against academic dishonesty and have knowledge of the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be reported to the pertinent university authorities. Papers will be checked with software for evidence of copying or cutting-and-pasting. Plagiarism will not be tolerated; students who cheat or copy will fail the course and be turned into the Dean of Students. If you have any questions concerning plagiarism, refer to the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/printable/589>

Course caveat

The itinerary for the course and the readings assigned are subject to change. In case of any emergency or unforeseen obstacles the instructor will email students with information regarding the changes or accommodations made. In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Every student is responsible for checking their mail and being informed about any changes to the course schedule.

Accommodations

Students that need special accommodations should register with the Disability Resource Center in the Office of the Dean of Students. Students may notify the instructor of any assistance needed at anytime throughout the semester.

Online resources

American Political Science Association. 2006. *Style Manual for Political Science*.

Washington, DC: American Political Science Association.

<http://www.ipsonet.org/data/files/APSASStyleManual2006.pdf>.

Purdue Online Writing Lab

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

OWL Avoiding Plagiarism Handout <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>.

American Political Science Association website

www.apsanet.org

C-SPAN Video Archive

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/>

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/>

New York Review of Books

www.nybooks.com

London Review of Books

www.lrb.co.uk

