

Public Policy Formation

POL-305-01

Tuesday and Thursday – 4:30p – 5:50p

Rutgers University *Online

Student Syllabus – Fall Semester 2020

**GOOD, BETTER, BEST; NEVER LET IT REST; UNTIL THE GOOD IS BETTER AND
THE BETTER IS BEST!**

Professor: **Jo-Leo W. Carney-Waterton**

Classroom: Online

Email: jcarneywaterton@gmail.com

Office Hours: by email for a specific time. Generally, I can be found in the art library during designated times. Please listen for announcement. Use the e-mail address above to contact me

In the Event of an Emergency or Other Concerns Please Contact:

Administrative Assistant – Undergraduate Office:

Ms. Jennifer Watkins,
Hickman Hall – 5th Floor
(848)-932-9582
jsw198@polisci.rutgers.edu

Ms. Jennifer Watkins is to be respected at all times. Please be cognizant of your tone and your manner when addressing her as inappropriate, rude, or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Please refer to the Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct for further explanation.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

When we study public policy we do so to understand the roles played by the different branches of the federal government as well as by state, county, and local governments in various areas of contemporary American life. The study of public policy, in particular, focuses on how American society develops and sets the national agenda as demonstrated in the public policy choices that our elected representatives make and in the effective advocacy of varying interest groups. This course looks at the process of making public policy from setting the aforementioned national agenda to implementation, with a keen eye toward the interplay of government authority, social activism, and special interests influence, often referred to as the *Iron Triangle*. The course will also explore the various theories and approaches to formulating public policy and which ones, if any, guide policy making in the American system of government today. Additionally, we will explore the debates among various interest groups, partisan actors, and experts that help to frame and formulate public policy as well as how to evaluate the overall impact of the policies enacted. **Note: This Course does not fulfill SAS Core Requirements.**

COURSE PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

After taking this course, you will be able to:

- Recognize key concepts in the process of American public policymaking and the steps involved in the public policy process.
- Recognize key groups and bureaucracies involved in the making of public policy within the United States and the roles they play in formulating, implementing, and evaluating policy.
- Analyze the various social, political, economic, religious, military, moral, ethical, and cultural values that form the basis of policymaking decisions.
- Discuss the various debates in contemporary American public policy as they relate to the issues raised and evaluate the arguments made by the parties to the debate.
- Describe the various decision frameworks used by policymakers.
- Identify and emphasize the role of politics in formulating different public policies.
- Fairly and objectively evaluate the effectiveness of public policy measures
- Better appreciate the complex and involved process that goes into crafting public policy.

Course Materials¹

Understanding Public Policy (15th Edition) – Thomas R. Dye

Writing Public Policy – (3rd Edition) - Catherine F. Smith

Freakonomics: The Hidden Side of Everything – Dubner and Levitt

Superfreakonomics: Global Warming, Patriotic Prostitutes – Dubner and Levitt

Attendance

You must not only attend every class, but also be on time, be prepared (all reading or writing assignments completed), and take an active part in class (which includes active listening). Failing to do all of these things creates an unacceptable hindrance to your fellow students and to me. If you arrive more than five minutes late you will receive a tardy for the class. Three tardies will count as one absence. If you are more than **30** minutes late to class, you will be marked absent for that class. Despite this fact, you are still strongly encouraged to come to class because it is more advantageous for you not to miss the class in total. Moreover, once you arrive you are expected to remain for the duration of class. Leaving class early or getting up in the middle of class is considered disruptive behavior and will result in an absence for the class; this includes leaving to

¹ If there are supplemental materials required for the course they will be provided for you on my Sakai page. I will also provide a separate reading list for Freakonomics and Superfreakonomics. Please see the reading list on my Sakai page.

use the restroom (except in an emergency) or to answer your cell phone. Therefore, please use the restroom and/or make and answer all phone calls before you come to class. If you must leave early **I will excuse the early departure if it is a qualified emergency.**

If you are unable to attend class you must contact me, or preferably, another student in the class (via e-mail) regarding missed work. If you miss class you are still responsible for notes, assignments, quizzes, and papers on the missed day and the following class. Work *not* submitted on time is considered late and is reduced by one whole letter grade from the grade that you would have otherwise received for the assignment for every day that it is late.

If you are absent more than four times during the semester you will be marked down one whole letter grade from your final grade for the class. Only extreme and or extraordinary circumstances will justify an excused absence. Absences due to regular illness, appointments, jobs, and so on, are *not* excused. Late work due to such reasons incurs a late penalty. Absences in the case of religious observances*, mandatory court appearances, incarceration, or hospitalization *are* excused (official documentation required). Late work for these reasons *is not* penalized.

You should note that there will be times when I am late for class, it is a work of the inevitable; however, absent any indication from me, faculty/administrative official, you may leave the class at half past the hour. I will make every effort to inform you beforehand if I am going to be late to class.

*Religious observances refer to nationally or universally recognized days of observance also recognized by Rutgers University. A note is not required to excuse an absence for religious observances.

If you are absent from class you MUST report that absence through the University's **Student Self Reporting Absence Application system, which can be found at: <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>**

Add/Drop Procedures and Periods

If for any reason you decide not to continue with the course you must formally withdraw through the registrar's office. Do not assume that the registrar will "remove" you from the course simply because you no longer attend. If you stop attending my class, but do not formally withdraw with the registrar by **November 26, 2020**, I will record an "F" as your final grade for the course if you stop attending class. Please note the following dates:

September 17, 2020 – Last day to Drop and receive a full refund.

October 29, 2020 – Last day to Withdraw and receive a "w".

November 26, 2020 – Last day to withdraw from classes for the fall 2020 semester. You cannot withdraw after this date and an "F" will be recorded for you if you stop attending.

Grading

Your grade for this course consists of the following:

- Group Policy Memorandum (2-3 pages) – 5%
- Policy Memorandum (3-5 pages) – 10%
- Group Policy Brief – (20 – 25 pages) 40%
- Group Policy Presentation (15-20 minutes per) – 20%
- Examination I – 10%
- Examination II – 10%
- Directed Reading Assignment – 5%

** Examination II will be cumulative.*

ASSIGNMENT	LENGTH	DUE DATE	% OF GRADE
Group Policy Memorandum	2-3 pages	October 4 th	5%
Policy Memorandum	3-5 pages	October 30 th	10%
Group Policy Brief	20-25 pages	December 3 rd	40%
Group Policy Presentation	15-20 minutes per group	November 28-3 rd ²	20%
Examination I	NA	November 15 th	10%
Examination II	NA	December 5 th	10%
Directed Reading Assignment	NA	December 5 th	5%

Please note that there is no final examination for this course.

Assignment specifics can be found on the course Sakai page under the tab Assignments. **Each assignment will open for viewing the day after the previous assignment's due date.** With each assignment you will find instructions on how to complete the project, the grading rubric I will use to grade your submissions, and other helpful hints and guides on how to properly prepare each assignment. **All written submissions must be submitted in hardcopy and electronic form for this class.** The proper heading for this course is as follows. It should be typed flush to the left corner of the paper, double spaced.

Name

Public Policy Formation

Professor J. Carney-Waterton

September 01, 2020

² We can extend the presentations into the 10th if there is a need.

There will be little in the way of traditional homework; however, I reserve the right to give homework if it is clear that you are not grasping certain concepts and or not applying yourself appropriately.

All late submissions incur a penalty of 10% (i.e., a letter grade) per each day or portion thereof after the deadline. This means, an assignment submitted anywhere from one second to one day late that might otherwise have earned a 90 (A-), will instead earn an 80 (B-). If the same assignment was submitted two days late, it would earn a 70 (C-). Any assignment submitted five or more days after the deadline automatically earns a 50 or lower (F). Late penalties are nonnegotiable.

The raw grade that you receive for the course will be what is recorded and submitted to the registrar. I do round grades within the whole letter grade, but not to the next whole letter grade. For instance, if you earn a 74.5 in the class I will round that grade to a 75 so that your final grade for the course would be a C+ instead of a C. If you earn a 79.5 your final grade will be a C+, not a B. The same is true for your examinations and all submitted assignments.

Though you will not be graded on your class participation or attendance per se, if you are absent more than four times during the semester your final grade for the class will be reduced by one whole letter grade for every day you are absent beyond your allotted four absences. For instance, if your final grade for the class is a C+ and you missed five days of classes (one more than the allowable number), your final grade for the class would be a D+.

Please note that I do not give grades, I record them. As such, the grade that I record for your semester performance is non-negotiable. I will not make any changes to the final grade unless you can successfully prove that I have made a **computational** error. You are expected to perform with an exceptionally high degree of excellence, and for that reason I do not *normally* offer extra credit. *It should be noted that I am not your Professor per se, but a facilitator of learning. I merely dispense knowledge and it is your responsibility to acquire it, assimilate it, and appropriate it accordingly. In short, your academic achievement in this class is largely up to you. Please remember that if you fail this course I take none of the blame; however, if you pass this course I take none of the credit.*

Academic Honesty

You are expected to do your own work. Dishonesty in completing any assignment undermines the learning process and the integrity of a college degree. Engaging in dishonest or unethical behavior is forbidden and will result in disciplinary action, specifically a failing grade for the course and a report to College officials. Such behavior includes

- Cheating – an act of deception by which a student misleadingly demonstrates that s/he has mastered information on an academic exercise. Examples are copying someone's work or allowing another to copy your work; using unauthorized materials during a test (notes, books, computer media, text messaging), communicating during a test in any way with anyone other

than the test administrator, or submitting a paper or major portions of a paper that has been previously submitted for another class.

- Plagiarism – representing the work of another as one’s own without giving credit. Failure to properly cite the materials you used to write your essay constitutes plagiarism.
- Facilitation of Academic Dishonesty – Knowingly or negligently allowing one’s work to be used by another or otherwise aiding others in academic dishonesty
- Please refer to the *Rutgers University Student Code of Conduct* for additional information regarding Academic Honesty and College regulations.

Student Accommodations

If you need any reasonable accommodations, and have received a letter of accommodation from your **Office of Disability coordinator**, please see me *privately* to discuss this matter. If you have a disability but do not have a letter of accommodation, please visit the **Office of Disability Services** immediately to receive one. Without a letter of accommodation you will be required to take all examinations and submit all assignments in the same manner as any other student in the class.

Class Participation

Learning involves a constant flow of information between teacher-student, student-teacher, and student-student. I prefer that everyone speak up in class so I know you are awake. This is, however, not an encouragement of you asking inane questions or making comments merely to show off or challenge me or the Teaching Assistants for challenge sake. Gathering information outside of the classroom that pertains to foreign affairs will greatly improve your class participation. You can keep abreast of international politics throughout the semester by doing some or all of the following:

- Read a newspaper at least a few times a week. I recommend the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Times*, *The Newark Star Ledger*, or the *Washington Post*.
- Watch a TV news program that covers national politics news (ABC, NBC, CNN, BBC, or *The News Hour* with Jim Lehrer).
- Read news and political magazines, such as *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report*. Political magazines are available that span from the left (*The Nation*, *Mother Jones Magazine*) to Clinton-New Deal Democrat Liberal (*The New Republic*, *VOX*, *The Atlantic*) to the right (*National Review*).

- Watch C-SPAN or C-SPAN-2, the networks that provide coverage of Congress in action. These stations also cover other political events of interest. On *Washington Journal*, C-SPAN's morning program, the hosts and guests discuss the day's headlines.

Email Etiquette

Please note that I have responsibilities outside of the University. Though I will try my best to respond to your email as soon as possible, you should note that I will respond as time and circumstance permit; please adjust your expectations accordingly. You should use an email address where your name is fully visible in the email address. Please be mindful of the tone of your writing. If your email reads as disrespectful or ill-mannered I will address that with you in person, during office hours. Finally, do not send lengthy emails or substantive questions by way of email unless I instruct you to do otherwise (often for the same of class time). I think it best to ask those types of question during class, or better yet, during office hours.

Requests for Recommendation

I am always humbled and honored when you request a recommendation from me, however, as recommendations take time to write I must respectfully ask that you submit your request no later than thirty days before the recommendation is due. Your request should answer all of the pertinent questions such as the “who, what, where, when, and how” in a clear, precise, and thorough manner. Please note that I cannot write a true letter of recommendation for a student with whom I have not interacted with much, therefore, please make sure that you meet with me regularly so that I can gain an honest and fuller appraisal of you as a student and person. Please note, you must earn a B+ (85.6%) or higher, by raw score, for me to write a letter of recommendation for you. Thank you in advance for considering me for such a wonderful opportunity.

Dress Code and Personal Hygiene/Grooming

Rutgers University does not maintain a formal dress code, however; you should note that certain attire is not acceptable in the classroom. Please do not wear pajamas or any other bedroom attire in the classroom including bedroom slippers (house shoes). Please refrain from wearing any gang related clothing or accessories that could lead law enforcement or other students to believe that you are gang affiliated. Additionally, please refrain from wearing any clothing that is overtly and or patently offensive to any social group.

Please come to class having attended to all of your hygiene and grooming need. Applying make-up in class, brush, combing, or otherwise styling your hair, etc., is not acceptable and if you

are caught doing so you will be asked to leave. **GENTLEMEN: YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WEAR HATS OF ANY TYPE IN THE CLASSROOM ACCEPT IN RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE.**

Expectations

I expect you to:

- Take responsibility for your learning
- Come to class prepared (with all books and supplies)
- Do your homework on time and according to the instructions provided**
- Take appropriate notes and do in-class activities
- Participate either by paying attention and/or contributing to class discussion
- Study for quizzes and tests
- See me about your individual progress or for extra help
- Refrain from disrupting the lesson – this includes
 - being silent when I am lecturing*
 - sticking to the lesson when working in a pair or small group*
 - refraining from unnecessary conversation*
 - turning off cell phones, pagers, and portable music devices*
 - refraining from using these during class, including text messaging*
 - refrain from the use of the computers unless otherwise instructed*
- Remain in class during the class time*
- Take care of personal hygiene before or after class.
- Refrain from bringing food into the classroom. You may bring water (and that is all) as long as you keep the lids or caps on and keep them away from the computers.

**If you fail to meet these expectations you will be asked to rise, leave, and you will be marked absent for the day.*

****If homework is not complete or in the form instructed, the work is considered late and will result in a failing grade for the assignment and dismissal from the class.**

COURSE OUTLINE³

Week of September 1st

Introductions to Public Policy Formation – What is Public Policy?

Hypothetical Scenario and Class Discussion – The Walking Dead as Citizens

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

Understanding Public Policy Chapters 1-2

Week of September 8th

Policy Analysis and Models of Politics
Healthy Debate and the Necessity of Disagreement

Continuing Hypothetical Scenario and Class Discussion – The Walking Dead as Citizens

Selecting Groups for Public Policy Assignments

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

Understanding Public Policy Chapters 3-4 **Writing Public Policy Chapters 1-4**

Week of September 15th

The Policymaking Process and Policy Evaluation

Continuing Hypothetical Scenario and Class Discussion – The Walking Dead as Citizens

Review first Assignment Group Policy Memorandum due October 5th

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

³ This syllabus, its times and formats, are subject to change as time and circumstance require and with notice from your instructor.

**Understanding Public Policy Chapters 5
Writing Public Policy Chapter 1-4 continued and 5-8**

Week of September 22nd

Federalism and State Policies and The Market and Polis

Group Policy Memorandum Due – October 27th

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

**Understanding Public Policy Chapters 6-7
Writing Public Policy Chapters 5-8 continued**

Week of September 29th

Criminal Justice and Welfare Inequality
Equity, Efficiency, and Welfare

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

**Understanding Public Policy Chapters 14-16
Writing Public Policy Chapters 5-8 continued**

Week of October 06th

Civil Rights, Defense Policy, and Homeland Security
Liberty and Security

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

Understanding Public Policy Chapters 14-16

Week of October 13th

Civil Rights, Defense Policy, and Homeland Security
Liberty and Security

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

Understanding Public Policy Chapters 8-9
Writing Public Policy Chapters 5-8 revisited

Week of October 20st

Health Care and Education

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

Understanding Public Policy Chapters 10-11

Policy Memorandum Due – October 27th

Week of October 27th

Economic and Tax Policy

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

Understanding Public Policy Chapters 10-11

Week of November 3rd

Economic and Tax Policy

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

Understanding Public Policy Chapters 12-13

Examination I – Available on Sakai -TBD

Week of November 10th

International Trade, Immigration, Energy and the Environment

Reading Assignment for Next Week's Class:

Understanding Public Policy Chapters 12-13

THANKSGIVING BREAK – NOVEMBER 26th – November 29th
Group Policy Brief Due – December 3rd

Week of November 17th

International Trade, Immigration, Energy and the Environment

Group Policy Brief Due – December 3rd

Weeks of December 2nd – 10th

Group Policy Presentations

Examination II Available on Sakai – TBD

LAST DAY OF CLASS – December 10, 2020.

HAVE A DYNAMIC AND PRODUCTIVE HOLIDAY!