Syllabus
POLI 2070, version 1.2
Effective: April 18, 2018

POLI 2070—Public Policy Making: An Introduction

Course Description: Sequential process of policy making from problem identification through policy formulation, adoption, implementation, and evaluation of impact; application to such areas as civil rights, welfare, urban affairs, taxation, and government spending.

Textbooks and Other Materials

Read the following information carefully, ensuring you order the correct edition by referencing the ISBN's listed below. LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL) is not responsible for student purchases that result in the receipt of the wrong materials. It is your responsibility to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Textbook

B. Guy Peters. *American Public Policy: Promise and Performance*. Tenth edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/CQ Press, 2016.
   ISBN-10: 1-4833-9150-7
   ISBN-13: 978-1-4833-9150-2

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could required different materials.
2. Order using the ISBN above.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

Software: Adobe Flash Player, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint

> We recommend that you use Mozilla Firefox, Safari, or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

> Adobe Flash is required for online testing. Microsoft PowerPoint is required to view slideshows. Word is required to view course documents.

Hardware: Web cam, microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and reliable high speed internet

> Proctored exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. You should review the technical requirements on the ProctorU website and perform the equipment test prior to enrolling in the course. Your internet connection must be stable and fast.

> **ProctorU Technical Requirements**

> **ProctorU Equipment Test**

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Explain the public policy making process, and the actors, both public and private, that impact that process
2. Describe a variety of the public policy areas that impact on the United States and have an understanding of the issues and trends that affect those policy areas

This course is designed to provide a general overview of process of public policy in the United States. The first half of the class will be directed on the examination of the policymaking process, including its structure and the institutions involved in this process. We will specifically focus on agenda setting, implementation, budgeting, and evaluation of public policy. The second half of the class will examine the various areas of public policy, including the economy and taxes, health care, education, and social policymaking.

Working with the Course Materials

Your grade in this course will be determined by module assignments, exams, and a 12– to 15–page paper. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the module learning objectives, the reading assignment, supplemental resources, and the graded module

assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order. Specific recommendations may be provided in the course module instructions, which you should review before beginning the first module.

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.

Reading Assignments

To do well in this course, it is essential that you read and study all the course materials that precede the module assignment. Do not begin the module assignment until you have done so. For all work you prepare for this course, follow carefully the guidelines provided by your instructor.

You will read an average of 50 pages per module. Specific reading assignments will be given in each module.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	Introduction to Public Policy
02	The Structure of Policymaking
03	Explaining Policy Choices
04	Agenda Setting and Legitimation
05	Organizations and Implementation
06	Budgeting
07	Evaluation and Policy Change
	Mid-Course Examination
08	Economic Policy
09	Tax Policy
10	Healthcare Policy
11	Social Security and Welfare

12	Education Policy
13	Energy and the Environment
14	Defense and Law Enforcement
15	Social Values and Public Policy
	Final Examination

Assignments

After completing each chapter reading and viewing the chapter slideshow, you will be required to submit a module assignment to test your comprehension of the chapter's main points. These assignments will be in essay format. You should give comprehensive answers that provide attention to detail, identify and explain concepts, and fully discuss the topic. Accordingly, essays will require at least several paragraphs to complete. This length will be determined by what is required to properly answer each question. Some will be shorter or longer than others. These questions ensure that you are well versed in major concepts of this course.

A paper (12–15 pages, double-spaced, and 10–12 point font) will be required that examines one area of public policy. Your paper should include the following:

1. Why you are interested in this policy area
2. Background and perspective on this policy area
3. Current problems in this policy area
4. Current solutions to the problems in this policy area
5. Your own ideas or opinions on issues

It will be your choice of which area to cover. A one-page prospectus will be due by the mid-course exam outlining the area you wish to cover. The final version of the paper must be submitted and graded before you can take the final exam.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct.* Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work

unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the **ODL Academic Integrity policy** on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

This course has two exams. The mid-course exam covers modules 01–08, and the final exam covers modules 09–15. The questions will be in multiple-choice format and will cover the concepts and topics addressed in the module assignments. The final exam is not comprehensive.

You will have a maximum of three hours to complete each exam.

Your course grade will be determined by the following:
- Module assignments are worth 20 points each.
- The paper and prospectus are worth 200 points.
- Exams are worth 120 points each.
- Course grade = average of module assignments + paper grade + exam scores. Each component is weighted by predetermined percentages.

Course grade =

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	30%
Paper	20%
Mid-Course Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

The following grading scale applies:

97%–100% = A+
93%–96% = A
90%–92% = A-
87%–89% = B+
83%–86% = B

80%–82% = B-
77%–79% = C+
73%–76% = C
70%–72% = C-
67%–69% = D+
63%–66% = D
60%–62% = D-
 0%–59% = F

YOU MUST EARN A PASSING AVERAGE ON THE EXAMS
IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

Qualifying to Take the Final Exam

You must meet the following criteria to be eligible to take the final exam.

1. Enrolled in the course for at least three weeks, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

2. A grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the final paper. This will be graded after your three-week date has passed. Please allow at least seven days after submission for the paper grade to be posted in the grade book.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit the **ODL Policies Page**.

Taking Your Examinations

You are required to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the "Getting Started" module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

There is a separate charge for each proctored exam. You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need access to a web cam, a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and reliable high speed internet to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the **Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page** to view your options.

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