

Instructor: **Steve Bale**
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Fall Semester 2009

University of Nevada Reno
PSC 210
American Public Policy

Syllabus version dated: August 18, 2008

Class Times: 1:00-2:15pm, Monday & Wednesday, Room FA 301

Instructor:

Instructor: Steven Bale, Ph.D (abd), JD, MPA
Office Hours: at TMCC Sierra200-D; M-Th 3-5 or by appointment

Course Description

An analysis of the interplay of forces involved in policy-making at all levels of American government. A study of the impact of policy on individuals and institutions. Political Science 210, "American Public Policy", is an introductory survey course designed to provide a broad background in the study of public policy in the United States, although comparisons with policy content and processes in other countries will be made when useful. The course will present a variety of approaches to the study of public policy and will attempt to develop in the student the ability to analyze, appreciate, and understand American public policy from a variety of perspectives. This will be accomplished through the selection of texts (see below) and through lectures and other classroom activities.

Requirements

Class Participation and Attendance (25%): Class participation is critical to your success in this course. There will be numerous in-class activities that require attendance and the class is designed as a mix of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to stay abreast of current events in the media and be prepared to discuss them in class, especially as they relate to issues such as:

- the wars in Iraq/Afghanistan
- the November elections
- health care
- the economy

It is important that you are vocal and raise interesting issues throughout the class. Raising issues is not the same as attacking people verbally. Your activity earns your participation credit throughout the course and all students begin with zero participation

points. Attendance will be taken using in-class exercises. There are no make-ups for in-class assignments if you are late or miss a class. You are allowed to miss up to 3 classes without penalty. Every additional absence will count as 3% of your grade. There are few excused absences – death, hospitalization, IRS audit, jury duty. Please use your three absences wisely and plan for contingencies.

Issue Papers (40%): There will be four "issue papers" and possibly shorter written assignments. Instructions for the papers and the assignments will be provided as the semester progresses. Papers may not be returned, so be sure to produce copies for your own files if you so desire.

Quizzes and Group Exercises (10%): I will give quizzes and group exercises from time to time. They are not announced; they will focus on the readings and they cannot be made-up if you miss them.

Midterm Exam (10%): The midterm will cover material from the first half of the semester. It can include any type of question including a mix of multiple choice, fill-in the blank, short answer and essay question types.

Final Exam (15%): The final is comprehensive; however it will focus primarily on material from the second half of the semester but may include material from the first half as well.

Grading

Grading will incorporate the plus/minus system as follows:

A (4.0)	=	94%
A- (3.7)	=	90%
B+ (3.3)	=	87%
B (3.0)	=	84%
B- (2.7)	=	80%
C+ (2.3)	=	77%
C (2.0)	=	74%
C- (1.7)	=	70%
D+ (1.3)	=	67%
D (1.0)	=	64%
D- (0.7)	=	60%
F (0.0)	=	<60%

Required Readings

There are two books required for this course. They include:

Agendas, Alternatives & Public Policies, 2nd Edition. 2003. John W. Kingdon.

Longman. ISBN: 0321121856. (Referred to as **Kingdon** in schedule).

Public Policy: Preferences and Outcomes, 2nd Edition. 2009. Christopher A. Simon. Longman. ISBN: 0205744826. (Referred to as **Simon** in schedule).

Supplemental readings may be assigned in class with access either through the Knowledge Center or available on-line.

Course Policies

- The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus.
- All materials given to the instructor e.g. homework assignments, become the property of the instructor. The instructor has the right to retain or return anything submitted.
- All assignments are due by the end of class on the day when things are due – **THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOU CAN COME INTO CLASS AND WORK ON YOUR ASSIGNMENTS DURING CLASS. IF YOU DO THIS AND I CATCH YOU, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE ASSIGNMENT.** Late assignments will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances, with permission from the instructor, and may receive a 10% reduction per day.
- Students will be expected to have the appropriate assignment read before each class and to ask and respond to questions about it.
- **Class work should be of the same quality you would submit to an employer. All assignments should be typed, have standard one-inch margins and use 12-point font and follow APA guidelines. Use a white/off white 8.5 x 11 paper for all assignments. Papers not meeting the standard set forth will be penalized accordingly. Sloppy, handwritten assignments may not be accepted, and, at a minimum will receive a 10% reduction.**
- There are very few things in this life that make me mad – plagiarism is one of them. There is an extremely strict policy against plagiarism in this course. You must submit your own written work. If you have any doubt what constitutes plagiarism, please check with the campus writing center or the instructor. You are responsible for knowing the guidelines. Plagiarized work will receive a failing grade for the course and be reported as academic misconduct for further disciplinary action, including expulsion from the class/university. At any time I may ask that assignments be submitted electronically so they may be submitted to an anti-plagiarism service. Failure to comply will earn a zero for the assignment.
- **RULES FOR INTERACTION:** This University does not tolerate sexual

harassment, or harassment of any kind, of its students and employees. For university policy, see www.unr.edu/affaction/policy_harass.htm. If you or anyone you know is experiencing any type of harassment, please contact the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office in Room 208, Clark Administration Building (784-1547).

ADA

Qualified students with documented disabilities have the right to free accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities at UNR. For assistance and clarification of services provided under the ADA, contact the Nevada University Center for Excellence in Disabilities/MS 285, Phone (775) 784-4921, ext. 2355TTY, Line: (775)-327-5234, Fax (775) 784-4997, Program Coordinator: Scott W. Youngs

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Required Reading	Assignment Due/Exam
8/24/2009	Introduction	Syllabus	
8/26/2009	What is Public Policy?	Kingdon 1 Simon 1	
8/31/2009	Public Policy Theory	Simon 2	
9/2/2009	Values & Public Policy	Simon 3	
9/7/2009	No Class	Labor Day	
9/9/2009	Policy Analysis	Simon 4	Issue paper #1
9/14/2009	Agendas	Simon 5 Kingdon 9	
9/16/2009	Policy Formulation	Simon 6	
9/21/2009	Policy Implementation	Simon 7	
9/23/2009	Policy Evaluation	Simon 8	
9/28/2009	Policy Termination	Simon 9	Issue Paper #2
9/30/2009	Federalism & Intergovernmental Relations	Simon 10	
10/5/2009	Defense Policy	Simon 11	
10/7/2009	Participants Inside Government	Kingdon 2	
10/12/2009	Outside of Government	Kingdon 3	
10/14/2009			Midterm Exam
10/19/2009	Studying the Policy Process	Kingdon 4	

10/21/2009	Problems	Kingdon 5	
10/26/2009	Policy Survival	Kingdon 6	
10/28/2009	Facts	Outside Reading	
11/2/2009	Rights & Elections	Outside Reading	Issue Paper #3
11/4/2009	Powers	Outside Reading	
11/9/2009	Health Policy	Simon 12	
11/11/2009	No class	Veteran's Day	
11/16/2009	Social Policy	Simon 13	
11/18/2009	Education Policy	Simon 14	
11/23/2009	The Political Stream	Kingdon 7	Issue Paper #4
11/25/2009	The Policy Window	Kingdon 8	
11/30/2009	Criminal Justice/Civil Liberties	Simon 15	
12/2/2009	Green Policy	Simon 16	
12/7/2009	Cost of Policy	Simon 17	
12/9/2009	No Class	Prep Day	
12/14/2009	12:00-2:00 pm		Final Exam