

**Political Science 421-001
Public Policy
Dr. Warber
Fall 2009**

Office: Brackett 231A
Phone: (864) 656-1828
Office Hours: MT 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
or by appointment

Class Time: MWF 8:00 am-8:50 am
Location: Brackett 233
Email: awarber@clemson.edu

Scope of the Course

This course examines the theoretical approaches to public policymaking at the federal level in American politics. We will focus our attention on the major theories and models of policymaking, the identification of policy problems, agenda setting, the formulation and adoption of policies, implementation, and policy evaluation. We will also consider the types of participants (governmental and non-governmental) that are actively involved in the policy process and critically analyze the problems they encounter when pursuing their policy goals.

Course Goals

- (1) To expand student knowledge and understanding of public policy and policymaking at the federal level.
- (2) To orient students with the various research approaches and quality source materials used to analyze public policymaking.
- (3) To further enhance a student's critical thinking and writing skills.

Required Works

(These books are available for purchase at the Clemson University Bookstore.)

Anderson, James E. 2006. *Public Policymaking: An Introduction*. 6th ed. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Coppin, Clayton A., and Jack High. 1999. *The Politics of Purity: Harvey Washington Wiley and the Origins of Federal Food Policy*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Mahler, Julianne G. 2009. *Organizational Learning at NASA: The Challenger and Columbia Accidents*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

Vandenbosch, Robert, and Susanne E. Vandenbosch. 2007. *Nuclear Waste Stalemate: Political and Scientific Controversies*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.

Grading System and Assignment Deadlines

	<i>% of Grade</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Prospectus	10%	Sept. 28 (5:00 pm)
Midterm Examination	20%	Oct. 16
Research Paper (15 pages)	35%	Nov. 24 (5:00 pm)
Final Examination	30%	Dec. 10 (11:30 am-2:00 pm)
Attendance	5%	

Grading Scale

A	94-100	C-	70-73
A-	90-93	D+	67-69
B+	87-89	D	64-66
B	84-86	D-	60-63
B-	80-83	F	59 and below
C+	77-79		
C	74-76		

Attendance

Your success in this course partially depends on regular attendance, keeping up with the assigned readings, learning a considerable amount of material, and participating during class discussions. Students who fail to show up for class on a regular basis demonstrate to me that they are not serious about their academic careers. Each student is allowed three, free cuts before their attendance grade begins to suffer. I recommend that you use them wisely. These cuts are there for you to use when you are sick, there is a family emergency, or you have a conflict with this class (i.e., a game or performance away from Clemson University). Please be aware that if you use your cuts up early in the semester for frivolous reasons, you will not have any left to cover excused absences later in the semester. I also expect that students will arrive to class on time. I will consider extreme lateness as an absence, unless a student can demonstrate that he or she has a legitimate reason for arriving late. I will begin to officially record class attendance on Monday, August 24. The formula I will use to calculate your attendance grade is as follows: [(total number of class periods minus the number of classes missed)/total number of class periods]*100.

Examinations

The midterm and final exams will consist of a set of key terms and essay questions. Both of these exams are closed-book and the material will be drawn from the class lectures and assigned readings. Students are required to bring a blue book with them on an examination day. All exam answers are to be written in either blue or black ink.

Make-Up Examinations

Make-up exams will only be given when students provide solid proof of a university-excused absence. I must be notified before an absence arises. If this is not feasible due to an extreme emergency, you must contact me as soon as possible to reschedule an exam. A different set of questions from those issued during the regular exam period will comprise a make-up exam.

Prospectus

Students are required to write a two-page prospectus describing their proposed research project after they have had their topic cleared by me. Your prospectus must identify the core research question that your paper plans to analyze along with a description that indicates the issues that you plan to address within your paper. The prospectus must also include a tentative bibliography of ten quality sources that you will use to write your research paper. The sources must be a combination of primary and secondary materials and they must come from a variety of scholarly sources (i.e, books, journal articles, and government documents). The prospectus must be typed and it is due no later than Monday, September 28 at 5:00 pm. Students must make an office appointment with me to discuss and clear their research topics before they write their prospectus. I will not accept topic ideas by email. In addition, I will not grade any papers whose topics have not been pre-approved.

Research Paper

Students are required to write a fifteen page (refers to pages of text) research paper that critically analyzes an important domestic public policy issue or program involving the federal government. Your paper may address any domestic public policy issue. The following is a list of general topics that you might decide to explore (you will need to narrow your topic down):

Air Pollution	Social Security
Water Pollution	Federal Highways
Monetary Policy	Airline Security

Criminal Rights	Civil Rights
Antitrust Policy	Railroad Regulation
Agricultural Policy	Welfare
Health Care	Education
Voting Rights	Criminal Justice
Veterans' Programs	Military Policy
Medicaid	Medicare
Public Housing	Homeland Security
Taxes	Religion and Policy
Energy Policy	Food and Drug Regulation
Economic Development	Disaster Relief (oil spills, hurricanes, floods)
Conservation	Right to Privacy Issues
Social Equality	Immigration Policy
Consumer Movement	Morality Politics

There are a few guidelines that you must keep in mind when working on your projects. First, this is to be a political science research paper. That is, you must address your topic within a political framework. Specifically, you want to analyze your public policy issue in relation to some aspect of the policy process rather than writing a paper that just describes the substance of a particular policy. The policy area that you choose will determine the direction that your paper will take and the types of research questions that you will explore.

The second guideline is that the project should not result in the production of just a purely descriptive paper—the paper must critically evaluate the descriptive evidence obtained from primary and secondary sources as they relate to your policy issue. Third, you must rely on Cooper Library for a majority of your sources. There is a considerable amount of government documents located on the third floor in Cooper Library. There should be an adequate amount of books on various policy issues especially on the first floor in the K and JK sections. In addition, there are also credible websites that might contain some useful materials (i.e., various homepages maintained by federal agencies and executive departments often post primary documents). However, you must be extremely careful as to what materials you rely on from the Internet. If you are unsure as to the credibility of certain materials, either leave that information out of the paper or come talk to me and I will let you know if that information can be used in your study.

The paper must make maximum use of quality, primary sources, and should rely on a variety of materials. Primary source materials that might be useful to your research project include:

- Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports
- Public Papers of the President*
- Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*
- White House documents (i.e., press releases, presidential signing statements, executive orders, proclamations, speeches, and radio addresses)

Congressional Record

Congressional committee and subcommittee reports and hearings
Documents, memoranda, and reports issued by various executive departments and
bureaucratic agencies

*Federal Register**Code of Federal Regulations**The United States Government Manual*

Reports from governmental task forces, commissions, and advisory groups

Public opinion data from reputable polling firms (i.e., Gallup Organization)

Supreme Court decisions

Memoirs of government officials (i.e., presidents, congressmen, White House
staff, Supreme Court justices, and other key policymakers)

Pertinent information culled from secondary sources (i.e., scholarly books, journal articles, and publications such as *Congressional Quarterly Weekly* and *The Gallup Poll Monthly*) that relates to your research topic should also be incorporated into the paper. Popular publications intended for the general public, such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, etc., are not scholarly works and should not be used as an outlet for obtaining information for your paper. In addition, you must be aware that there are numerous publications (including scholarly works) that are ideologically biased. Therefore, it is important that you know what the sources of your materials are before using them in your paper.

The paper must use a minimum of twelve, quality sources, however, a well-researched paper generally requires more than this amount. There are additional guidelines in this syllabus that follow regarding the research paper.

Note: Students must make an office appointment with me to discuss and clear their research topics. I will not accept topic ideas by email. Paper topics must be cleared by me no later than Monday, September 21 at 5:00 pm. I will not grade any papers whose topics have not been pre-approved. I also strongly encourage you to consult with me several times during the semester to discuss the progress that you are making regarding your research project.

General Guidelines for the Research Paper

- (1) Late papers will be penalized by a one grade lowering for each day that they are late (i.e., ten points will be deducted from the grade that I issue for each day it is late). Saturdays and Sundays are each counted in the calculation of late papers. Please note that the research paper is due at 5:00 pm on November 24. Papers received after 5:00 pm on that day are considered to be one day late, those received the next day are two days late, etc.
- (2) All papers must be typed using a 10-point or 12-point font size with 1-inch margins. The text of the paper must be double-spaced.

- (3) Papers must have a title page that is separate from the pages of actual text. A title page should provide a paper's title, student's name, date of paper submission, course number, and the instructor's name.
- (4) All information cited in the paper (whether the material is a direct quote or is paraphrased) from other sources must be properly documented by using either footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical notes. Remember, direct quotations are to be used sparingly.
- (5) A bibliography page must follow the text (or the endnotes section). Please use a standard form for citations. If you are unsure about how to properly cite a source, consult a professional handbook (i.e., *The Chicago Manual of Style*)—do not devise your own method for citing sources.
- (6) The pages consisting of a paper's text, bibliography, and endnotes must contain page numbers. Page one begins on the first page of your text—do not put a page number on the title page.
- (7) When writing the research paper, you should divide the text with headings and subheadings. This will promote better organization within the paper.
- (8) Proofread! Proofread! Proofread! There is no excuse for grammatical errors.
- (9) Papers must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. DO NOT turn papers in with a plastic cover or in any other form of binder and do not paperclip them.
- (10) The political science reference librarian at Cooper Library is Priscilla Munson. Mrs. Munson is always willing to help students find research materials at the library. If you have questions about locating certain materials at the library, you are welcome and encouraged to contact her during the time that she works at the library's reference desk or you can contact her by email at wprisci@clemson.edu. Please allow for a couple of days for Mrs. Munson to reply to your message.

Plagiarism

I have no tolerance toward anyone who commits an act of plagiarism. There are numerous forms of plagiarism. These include but are not limited to borrowing ideas and paraphrasing them within a paper without properly citing them (i.e., in footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical notes), copying passages directly from sources without enclosing them in quotation marks, purchasing or stealing another person's paper to turn in, having someone else write an assigned paper, or cheating on an exam. If you have further questions regarding plagiarism, you should consult Clemson University's current student handbook for information on rules and regulations related to academic integrity (see pages 29-33 in the 2009-10 edition).

If I come across a plagiarized paper or catch anyone cheating on an exam, the student will be charged with academic dishonesty and he/she will receive a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the class, and I will seek further action in accordance with Clemson University's policies regarding academic integrity.

Academic Integrity

Clemson University's official statement on academic integrity is as follows: "As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a 'high seminary of learning.' Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form."

Course Schedule

(Assigned readings are to be completed by the dates indicated below.)

Wed., Aug. 19

Introduction to the Course

Fri., Aug. 21

The Nature of Public Policy

***Read: Anderson, ix-xi and 1-17**

Mon., Aug. 24

The Nature of Public Policy

***Read: Coppin and High, 1-34**

Wed., Aug. 26

The Nature of Public Policy

***Read: Coppin and High, 35-63**

Fri., Aug. 28

The Nature of Public Policy

***Read: Coppin and High, 64-82**

Mon., Aug. 31

The Nature of Public Policy

***Read: Coppin and High, 83-117**

Wed., Sept. 2

The Nature of Public Policy

***Read: Coppin and High, 118-52**

Fri., Sept. 4

The Nature of Public Policy

***Read: Coppin and High, 153-71**

Mon., Sept. 7

The Nature of Public Policy/Approaches to the Study of Policy

***Read: Anderson, 18-31**

Wed., Sept. 9

Approaches to the Study of Policy

Fri., Sept. 11

Writing the Research Paper—Library Materials on Public Policy

Mon., Sept. 14

The Policy Environment: Federalism and Separation of Powers

***Read: Anderson, 35-67**

Wed., Sept. 16

The Policy Environment: Federalism and Separation of Powers

Fri., Sept. 18

The Policy Environment: Federalism and Separation of Powers

Mon., Sept. 21

The Policy Environment: Political Institutions and the Public

***Read: Vandebosch and Vandebosch, xi-xii and 1-102**

***Everyone must have his/her research topics approved by 5:00 pm today.**

Wed., Sept. 23

The Policy Environment: Political Institutions and the Public

Fri., Sept. 25

The Policy Environment: Political Institutions and the Public

***Read: Vandebosch and Vandebosch, 105-66**

***Film: "Meltdown at Three Mile Island"**

Mon., Sept. 28

The Policy Environment: Political Institutions and the Public

***Prospectus due at 5:00 pm today**

Wed., Sept. 30

The Policy Environment: Political Institutions and the Public

***Read: Vandebosch and Vandebosch, 173-248**

Fri., Oct. 2

The Policy Environment: Subsystem Politics

***Read: Anderson, 67-74**

Mon., Oct. 5

The Policy Environment: Subsystem Politics

Wed., Oct. 7

The Policy Environment: Subsystem Politics

Fri., Oct. 9

The Policy Environment: Subsystem Politics

Mon., Oct. 12

No Class—Fall Break

Wed., Oct. 14

No Class—Professor will be out of town

Fri., Oct. 16

Midterm Examination

Mon., Oct. 19

Problem Identification, Agenda Setting, and Formulation

***Read: Anderson, 80-116**

Wed., Oct. 21

Problem Identification, Agenda Setting, and Formulation

Fri., Oct. 23

Problem Identification, Agenda Setting, and Formulation

Mon., Oct. 26
Problem Identification, Agenda Setting, and Formulation

Wed., Oct. 28
Policy Adoption
***Read: Anderson, 121-57**

Fri., Oct. 30
Policy Adoption

Mon., Nov. 2
Policy Adoption

Wed., Nov. 4
Budgeting Policy
***Read: Anderson, 162-95**

Fri., Nov. 6
Budgeting Policy

Mon., Nov. 9
Budgeting Policy

Wed., Nov. 11
Policy Implementation
***Read: Anderson, 200-48**

Fri., Nov. 13
Policy Implementation
***Read: Mahler, xi-xiii and 3-35**

Mon., Nov. 16
Policy Implementation
***Read: Mahler, 39-99**

Wed., Nov. 18
Policy Implementation

Fri., Nov. 20
Policy Implementation
***Read: Mahler, 100-39**

Mon., Nov. 23
Policy Implementation
***Research Paper Due Tomorrow, Tuesday, November 24 by 5:00 pm**

Wed., Nov. 25
No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Fri., Nov. 27
No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Mon., Nov. 30
Policy Evaluation
***Read: Anderson, 255-95; Mahler, 140-95**

Wed., Dec. 2
Policy Evaluation
***Read: Mahler, 196-214**

Fri., Dec. 4

Policy Evaluation

***Read: Anderson, 302-10**

****Thurs., Dec. 10 (11:30 am-2:00 pm)**

Final Examination