

# Introduction to Public Policy

POLI 211  
SUMMER 2018

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

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## Course Description

*Our responsibility is one of decision—for to govern is to choose. - John F. Kennedy*

As stated by President Kennedy, making choices is at the heart of governing. How do policymakers make choices regarding public policy? This course will address this question by examining the policymaking process in the United States.

Throughout this course we will explore the historical and social context in which policymaking occurs; how problems reach the agendas of policymakers and how policies are formed to address those problems; the adoption of specific policy alternatives; how policies are implemented; and, finally, how public policies are evaluated.

## Course Goals and Learning Objectives

The goals for this course are to:

- Understand the public policy process in the US
- Apply various public policy models to real world policy issues
- Analyze the merits of public policy debates
- Analyze the merits of alternative policy solutions to public problems

## Delivery Format

This is an asynchronous online course, and so it is largely self-paced. Students must have access to a **computer** with **high-speed internet access** throughout the course. In addition, students must have access to **OAKS** and *should check OAKS frequently (AT LEAST every other day) to be sure not to fall behind.* Finally, students must have access to their **CofC email**. **Computer failure/unavailability does not constitute an excuse for not completing assignments by the due date.**

It is essential that students stay on top of the course assignments. I will post due dates, but it is your responsibility to make sure you don't get behind, especially in a class this short. Do not make the mistake of thinking this is an easy class because we're meeting online, or an easy class because it's meeting over the summer. The material is quite difficult, and will take a lot of effort on your part to master. *A Summer I class that meets face-to-face normally entails three hours of classroom time per weekday, plus reading and homework each night. The workload for this class will be the same, except our classroom will be OAKS.*

## Technical Issues

If you have technical problems, please contact the Student Computing Support Desk at 843.953.8000 or email [studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu](mailto:studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu).

## Contacting the Professor

If you have questions about course related material, and/or course procedures please *post your question to the Course Questions discussion board on OAKS*, so that other students can benefit from your questions and the answer. I will respond to discussion board questions within 48 hours, *if not sooner*. If you are having problems with *course material*, please feel free to email me at [nowlinmc@cofc.edu](mailto:nowlinmc@cofc.edu).

**Email Policy** I tend to get quite a few emails, so here are a few things to note to make the process easier for us both.

1. Please allow 48 hours for a response from me before sending a second email.
2. Emails asking questions that are easily answered by looking at the syllabus will not receive a response.
3. Emails asking for extra credit opportunities and/or a chance to do “make-up” work will not receive a response.
4. Emails asking for an extension on an assignment will not receive a response.
5. Assignments must be turned in on the dropbox on OAKS and will not be accepted by email under any circumstances, including “issues with OAKS.”
6. If you are having a technical issue with OAKS, I will not be able to help you, so please contact the Student Computing Support Desk.

## Required Materials

- Anderson, James E. 2015. *Public Policymaking* 8th Edition. This book is required and a print version is available at the College Bookstore, or an eBook available here, <https://www.cengage.com/c/public-policy-making-8e-anderson>. *Be sure you have the 8th edition.*
- Access to OAKS. We will make extensive use of OAKS in this course and several of its tools including Discussion Boards, Quizzes, and Dropbox. Tutorials for each of these tools can be found here.

## Navigating This Course

Course material will be organized into 4 content modules that you will be able to access on OAKS beginning each Friday starting on Friday, June 1st. Each module will consist of:

- Course lectures and/or lecture notes
- Video
- Discussion boards

- Case memo assignment
- Module quiz

Each module will be made available at 7:00am on each Friday, and assignments within each module are due by *11:59pm EST on each Thursday*. **Late work will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

## Assignments and Due Dates

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on 4 module quizzes, 16 discussion board posts, 4 case memos, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be available on OAKS.

Assignment	Possible Points	% of Grade
Module quizzes	100 (total)	12.5%
Discussion posts	100 (total)	12.5%
Case memos	400 (total)	50%
Mid-term exam	100	12.5%
Final exam	100	12.5%

*Module quizzes:* Each of the 4 modules will have a 10 question quiz over the readings and lectures for that module. You can use course materials for the quiz, but you must be take each quiz by yourself. *Once you begin the quiz you will 20 minutes to complete it.* Each quiz is worth up to *25 points*. *Module quizzes are due by 11:59pm EST on each Thursday.*

*Discussion Boards:* Within each module there will be *two* discussion boards. The first discussion board will involve a discussion question from the readings and the second discussion board will involve a discussion question from the video. For each discussion board you must a) provide an *answer* to the discussion question and b) *comment* on one other students answer. Each time you post, it should be about a paragraph. Note that you will not be able to comment on another student's post until you provide your answer to the question. Each post is worth up to *12.5 points*. *Discussions will end at 11:59pm EST on Thursdays.*

*You should not make any statement to or about anyone in an email or discussion board that you would not make in person. Be respectful of your classmates. In this course we may address policy issues that are controversial. All discussion of issues will be respectful to differing views. However, this course will be about learning to approach policy issues as scholars and policy analysts, not as partisans for one particular point of view.*

*Case memos:* There will be four case studies about four different policy issues. Within each module I will provide you with a *CQ Researcher* report that you will be required to summarize. Each summary will be 4-5 double-spaced pages. Instructions for the case memos are available on OAKS under Content -> Course Information. Case memos should be placed in the dropbox on OAKS and they are *due by 11:59pm EST on each Thursday*.

*Mid-term exam:* The mid-term exam will be available on OAKS starting Thursday June 14th at 7:00am and *must be completed by 11:59pm EST on June 14th*. The exam will be posted on OAKS.

Exam questions will come from questions on the module quizzes as well as other questions drawn from the lectures, readings, videos, and/or course discussion from the discussion boards within each module. *You are allowed to use course material for the exam, however, you must take the exam on your own.* The mid-term exam will have two parts, Part I will be 25 multiple choice questions, which you will take on OAKS and Part II will be consist of short-answers and a short-essay, which will be available as a Word document.

*Final exam:* The final exam will be available on OAKS starting Thursday June 28th at 7:00am and *must be completed by 11:59pm EST on June 28th.* The exam will be posted on OAKS. Exam questions will come from questions on the module quizzes as well as other questions drawn from the lectures, readings, videos, and/or course discussion from the discussion boards within each module. *You are allowed to use course material for the exam, however, you must take the exam on your own.* The final is **not** comprehensive and will only cover material covered after the mid-term. The final exam will have two parts, Part I will be 25 multiple choice questions, which you will take on OAKS and Part II will be consist of short-answers and a short-essay, which will be available as a Word document.

## Grades

There are **800** possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of **800**. A: 94 to 100%; A-: 90 to 93%; B+: 87 to 89%; B: 83 to 86%; B-: 80 to 82%; C+: 77 to 79%; C: 73 to 76%; C-: 70 to 72%; D+: 67 to 69%; D: 63 to 67%; D-: 60 to 62%; F: 59% and below.

## Course Content

The following modules will be on OAKS and made available on the dates indicated. Course content and schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced through email.

*Each module in OAKS will contain a checklist and you should complete the required components in the module in the order of the checklist.*

### Module 1: Studying Policy and Policymaking in Context

**Available 7:00am EST on June 1st**

- *Readings:*
  - Anderson chapter 1: *The Study of Public Policy*
  - Anderson chapter 2: *The Policy-Makers and Their Environment*
- *Video:* Trump's Takeover
- *Case Memo:* Charter Schools
- *All assignments due by 11:59pm EST on June 7th*

## Module 2: Identifying and Addressing Problems

Available 7:00am EST on June 8th

- *Readings:*
  - Anderson chapter 3: *Policy Formation: Problems, Agendas, and Formulation*
  - Anderson chapter 4: *Policy Adoption*
- *Video:* Understanding the Opioid Epidemic
- *Case Memo:* Medical Marijuana
- *All assignments due by 11:59pm EST on June 14th*
- **Mid-Term Exam available on June 14th from 7:00am to 11:59pm**

## Module 3: Implementing Policy

Available 7:00am EST on June 15th

- *Readings:*
  - Anderson chapter 5: *Budgeting and Public Policy*
  - Anderson chapter 6: *Policy Implementation*
- *Video:* Blackout in Puerto Rico
- *Case Memo:* Disaster Readiness
- *All assignments due by 11:59pm EST on June 21st*

## Module 4: Evaluating Policy

Available 7:00am EST on June 22nd

- *Readings:*
  - Anderson chapter 7: *Policy Impact, Evaluation, and Change*
  - Anderson chapter 8: *Reflections and Observations*
- *Video:* The Gang Crackdown
- *Case Memo:* Immigration and the Economy
- *All assignments due by 11:59pm EST on June 28th*
- **Final Exam available on June 28th from 7:00am to 11:59pm**

## **Important Information**

### **Center for Student Learning**

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website or call (843) 953-5635.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before any accommodation is needed.

### **Cheating or Plagiarism**

A grade of zero will be given to anyone cheating on any exam, homework assignment or committing plagiarism in a paper. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own ideas, the words, writings, music, graphs/charts, etc that were created by another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. It does not matter from where the material is borrowed—a book, article, material off the web, another student's paper—all constitute plagiarism unless the source of the work is fully identified and credited. Plagiarism is cheating and a violation of academic and personal integrity and will not be tolerated. It carries extremely serious consequences. To avoid plagiarism it is necessary when using a phrase, a distinctive idea, concept or sentence from another source to reference that source in your text, a footnote, or end-note. Please contact me if you need assistance in citing a source.

### **Religious Holiday Policy**

It is the policy of the College to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please see me immediately if you will need to miss class any time during this semester.