POLITICAL SCIENCE 120Y
INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
Spring 2015
CLASS TIME: ONLINE January 12th-May 9th

Instructor: Christopher Kulesza
Email: ckulesza@purdue.edu
Phone Number: (248) 990-4317
Office: 2223 Beering Hall

Course Description and Objectives

This course will be a rigorous introduction to the major themes, theories and concepts in public policy and administration. These include institutions, theories, methods, the role of the government in decision making.

By the end of the fall semester, you should be able to understand major concepts in public policy. You will also have an understanding of multiple facets and variables that influence public policy. Most importantly, you should be able to think and write critically on public policy and administration.

This is not a traditional introduction to public policy. Many authors we will be covering in this course will offer unique and unconventional views on the policy process. This course also heavily draws from concepts in economic theory. Please remember that each concept is open to interpretation. In addition this is an online class, which will make the course experience quite different than face to face instruction. If you keep an open mind, I am confident that this class will be a rewarding experience for you.

Welcome to the class and enjoy the semester!

Course Materials:

1. Charles Wheelan Introduction to Public Policy New York: W. W. Norton and Company

2. Online Articles (Can be Accessed Using JSTOR and Blackboard).

3. Current affairs (and the occasional Star Trek/Doctor Who reference) will be incorporated into the class. It is highly recommended that you follow national popular news by reading from major newspapers such as The Washington Post, The New York Times, Chicago Tribune or The Wall Street Journal to name a few. This will serve to broaden your perspective on public policy. If there is a particular article I want you to read, it will be emailed to you before class.

Format

Since this is an online class, face to face lectures will not be possible. This being said, lectures will be made available each week on blackboard. These recordings should provide you with a general
overview for the material. Reading will be vital to doing well in the course. It is imperative that you read all course material to do well in class.

Course Requirements

Class Participation- 20%: Each week students will be asked to log into the invision free board and contribute to class discussion. The forum can be found here http://z13.invisionfree.com/ckpoliticsclass/index.php.

I will post a question asking you to reflect on that week’s readings. Since we have a full class, it will be difficult to require a certain number of posts per individual. That being said, if you never contribute to discussion on the forum, you will receive a zero for this grade. Contribute often and you will do well.

Do not be rude to other students in class conversations. Respect to your classmates is of utmost importance. Anything less will not be tolerated. If you are rude, participation points will be deducted from your grade.

Reading Quizzes- 20%: On Blackboard you will be required to take seven reading quizzes (about one every two weeks). These will test your knowledge of course readings and will consist of fifteen multiple choice questions. They will cover those two weeks of material. You will have 20 mins to complete each quiz. They will be made available by 12:00 PM Monday. You will be required to take each quiz by Sunday at 11:59 PM the week after they were made available (except Quiz 4 which is a one week quiz). You may attempt each reading quiz TWICE.

Midterm- 10%: The midterm scheduled during week 8. This exam will be a mix of short answer and multiple choice questions. The exam will test your knowledge on the readings, class lectures, and your critical thinking abilities. Unless there is a documented emergency (the yellow PUSH card will not count), students will not be able to take the exam at a later or earlier time. You will have one hour twenty minutes to complete the exam online. You should have ample time to finish the exam within the hour. They will be made available by 12:00 PM on the Monday during the fourth week. It WILL cover material from week eight. The exam will close one week later at midnight.

Final Exam- 25%: The final exam will be purely short answer questions. The exam will be cumulative. You will have two hours to complete the exam. The final will be open on Sunday at midnight and close at the end of the university scheduled exam time.

Analytical Essay- 25%: You will be expected to write a 6-7 page essay on a specific policy in the United States. This essay should be argumentative with a clearly defined position. This argument must be based upon facts and evidence, not just your own opinion. Before you get started on this paper, you must clear a topic with me by January 26th. Be sure to identify the appropriate actors, institutions, and outcomes in the paper.
This grading for this paper will be based upon your ability to clearly articulate your thoughts and your ability to think critically and analyze the topic. To do this it is vital to write a clear and well defined thesis statement. If you do not have a thesis statement, or if it is difficult to understand what the paper is arguing, your grade will inevitably suffer. Also, be sure that the essay is coherent and well-constructed. Avoid stray thoughts and make sure the essay flows.

You will be expected to uphold proper research standards. This means you must use academic sources as your evidence (those found on JSTOR, Social Science Citation Index etc.). At minimum this essay should include AT LEAST five sources. You will be required to move beyond class material to be successful on this assignment. Be careful not to include questionable sources from the internet. If you have a question if a particular source is appropriate or not, please come and see me. In class I will go over how to use Purdue’s databases so you can utilize them for this course. Be sure to cite all your sources within the text! Also, you will be required to provide a reference page so I know which sources you used while grading.

The format of this paper should follow APSA guidelines. The guide for APSA can easily be found online through a search engine. The paper is to be double spaced using 12 point times new roman font. Standard one inch margins should also be used. Be sure to number your pages and clearly place your name on the paper.

This paper is due April 14th 11:59 PM by email! These papers will graded and back to you before the final exam. If you are unsure about your topic or if you have general questions on the assignment, please do not hesitate to come and see me for guidance. I also suggest visiting the Purdue Writing Center for guidance.

**Grading**

Grades will be assigned using the following grading scale: A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, F: <60. Plusses and minuses will be assigned to your grade where the top two percentage points for each grade will receive a plus, while the bottom 3 percentage points for each letter will receive a minus. Gradual improvement in the class will be considered for calculating the final grade. For example, a 92 would be an A-, while an 88 would be a B+.

**Amendments to the Syllabus**

As the course moves on, it may be necessary to change the syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. For example, this may include major campus emergencies which will inevitably cause assignment due dates, test dates, and reading assignments to change. Because of this, I reserve the right to change the syllabus as needed. I will do everything possible to adhere to the course schedule as outlined in this syllabus.

**Academic Honesty**

The University policy is that “the commitment of the acts of cheating, lying and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of ghost written papers, the use of substitutes for taking
examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations), is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest.” (University Senate Document 2-18. December 15th 1972. Students who partake in such behaviors WILL FAIL THIS COURSE and will be referred to the university administration for further disciplinary action. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes as academic dishonesty.

**Disabilities Statement**

Students with disabilities must be registered with the Disability Resource Center in the Office of the Dean of Students before classroom accommodations can be provided. If you are eligible for academic accommodations because you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please schedule an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs.

**Emergency Statement**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. To get information about changes in this course, email the instructor.

**Online Office Hours**

Since many will be off campus, I will not hold regular office hours at Purdue. This being said, I will be on skype during regular intervals. Feel free to contact me through skype (search christopher.kulesza), or call me at (248) 990-4317. I will take calls between 2 PM-7PM Eastern Standard Time each day, including weekends.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1**-Defining Public Policy (January 12th)

**WEEK 2**- What Makes Policy so Difficult? (January 19th)- MLK Day
Read: Chapter 2 of Wheelan
- Chapter 10 of Calculus of Consent by Buchanan and Tullock
Calculus of Consent by Buchanan and Tullock*

**QUIZ 1 DUE**

**WEEK 3**- Models, Rationality and Individual Behavior (January 26th)
Read: Chapter 3 of Wheelan

WEEK 4- Understanding Group Behavior: Collective Action (February 2nd)
Read: Chapter 4 of Wheelan
-Chapter 1 and 2 of Logic of Collective Action
QUIZ 2 DUE

WEEK 5- Political Process (February 9th)
Read: Chapter 6 of Wheelan

WEEK 6- Political Process II (February 16th)
QUIZ 3 DUE

WEEK 7- Role of Institutions I (February 23rd)
Read Chapter 14 of Wheelan

WEEK 8- Role of Institutions II (March 2nd)
MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 9- The Market System (March 9th)
Read: Chapter 7 of Weelan
QUIZ 4 DUE (ONE WEEK QUIZ)

WEEK 10- Evaluating Social Welfare (March 16th)
Read: Chapter 5 of Wheelan

WEEK 11- Evaluating Social Welfare II/Program Evaluation (March 23rd) SPRING BREAK
Read: Chapter 13 of Wheelan
QUIZ 5 DUE March 30th 11:59 PM

WEEK 12- Program Evaluation II (March 30th)

WEEK 13- Methods (April 6th)
Reah Chapter 10, 11 and 12 of Wheelan
QUIZ 6 DUE

WEEK 14- Policy Design I (April 13th)
-Read Chapter 15 of Wheelan

WEEK 15- Policy Design II (April 20th)
QUIZ 7 DUE
WEEK 16th- Role of Society and Final Exam Review (April 27th)


May 4th-8th FINAL EXAM WEEK