

Cornell College
Prof. Jeananne M. Robins
Public Policy POLS 282
October 2007

PUBLIC POLICY

Course Description

This course is designed to help students develop a fuller understanding of public policy and the ways governments make policy decisions. Eight analytic models used in political science to study public policy will be reviewed and then applied to specific policy areas. The class will explore the implications of various policy choices and work to foster critical thinking about public policy.

Class Hours

Morning classes are 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

We will generally have afternoon classes 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. everyday except on Wednesdays and the second Monday and Friday of the block.

Course Requirements

Two closed-book essay exams, each worth 25% of the course grade, and a 10 - 15 page policy paper worth 40% of the course grade. The policy paper requires a class presentation. Papers are due at 9:00 am the day of the assigned presentation. Late work will not be accepted. Class participation is worth 10% of the course grade.

Class attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absence will result in a one-third grade reduction.

Office Hours

By appointment only after class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. My office is located in Cole Library, Room 218. My office extension is x4126 and my campus residence extension is x4308. You may call my residence anytime between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. You are encouraged to speak with me about any aspect of this course in particular or political science in general.

15 Day Drop Policy

Any student wishing to drop the class on the 15th day of the block will be required to complete all the course requirements.

Academic Policy

All students are required to follow Cornell College's policy for honesty in academic work.

Special Accommodations

Students who need accommodation for learning disabilities must notify me within

the first three days of class to allow time to make special arrangements.

Required Reading

Thomas R. Dye, *Understanding Public Policy* (Pearson Prentice Hall)

Additional materials will be reserved at the Circulation Desk in Cole Library

Date, Topic, and Reading Assignment

10/1	Introduction: the nature, scope, questions, methods, and aims of public policy.
10/2	Chapter 1 Policy Analysis
10/3	Chapter 2 Models of Politics: Some Help in Thinking about Public Policy
10/4	Chapter 3 The Policymaking Process: Decision-Making Activities
10/5	Exam
10/8	Chapter 4 Criminal Justice: Rationality and Irrationality in Public Policy
10/9	Chapter 5 Health Welfare: The Search for Rational Strategies
10/10	Chapter 6 Education: The Group Struggle
10/11	Chapter 7 Economic Policy: Incrementalism at Work
10/12	Chapter 8 Tax Policy: Battling the Special Interests
10/15	Chapter 9 International Trade and Immigration: Elite-Mass Conflict
10/16	Chapter 10 Environmental Policy: Externalities and Interests
10/17	Chapter 11 Civil Rights: Elite and Mass Interaction
10/18	Chapter 12 American Federalism: Institutional Arrangements and Public Policy
10/19	Exam
10/22	Chapter 13 Defense Policy: Strategies for Serious Games
10/23	Chapter 14 Homeland Security: Terrorism and Nondeterrable Threats
10/24	Chapter 15 Policy Evaluation: Finding Out What Happens after a Law is Passed