

Political Science 4015
American State Politics and Policy Making
Spring 2016

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104 Audubon: TTH 1:30-2:50
Office Hours: Mon. 9-11 (or by appt.)

comparative approach is used to assess the political contexts, governmental institutions, and policies of the various states. We will use Louisiana, Wisconsin, and Texas as case studies to explore the political process and

Exams

There is a mid-term exam and a final exam (dates listed on the syllabus). These tests will consist of objective-style question (multiple-choice, short-answer, and/or brief essay questions). Note that a makeup exam is only administered when a student can produce a valid written excuse. Note also that makeup exams are all-essay exams. If you anticipate a problem, please let me know as soon as possible. Also, for anyone who has special needs or who requires accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation in advance of the exams so arrangements can be made.

General Policies

Academic Honesty

Students are required to abide by the academic conduct policies outlined in the LSU Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs>). Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: cheating on exams, plagiarizing, buying or selling assignments, altering grades, intentional deception, and collaborating with others without permission. I reserve the right to investigate when I suspect a violation of any of these policies. All violations of the

Classroom Rules

Please be respectful to those around you who are trying to listen, take notes, and participate in the class. Please make every effort to be on time to class. Be seated and ready to begin at 1:30 and leave early only for emergencies. Turn cell phones and pagers to silent. Most importantly, do not talk during class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave immediately.

Absolutely no audio or video recording devices are allowed to be used unless special permission is granted. Please do not take photographs of the overheads. Photography or videography of any kind is forbidden. This rule is strictly enforced during exams and during review of exam materials. All violators of this policy will be asked to leave the classroom immediately and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students. These restrictions are in place to ensure the integrity of testing materials and to protect student privacy.

You are free to use laptop computers and other electronic devices for class purposes (e.g., taking notes, looking up relevant information, etc.). But please do not simply play on the internet, check e-mail, or use social networking sites.

Late Assignments and Missed Work

In an effort to provide a level playing field, I take deadlines very seriously and hold everyone to an identical standard. Make every effort to take scheduled exams and hand in work on time. However, I recognize there are legitimate reasons for missing a deadline or an exam. The following reasons are some, but probably not all, of the excuses that are considered acceptable: a documented illness, a family emergency, some severe mechanical failure (related to transportation, computing, etc.), or a scientifically documented anomaly in the space-time continuum. Please note that most job-related issues are not considered acceptable excuses (although see university regulations concerning military duties, official university-sponsored events, etc.). A penalty for handing in the paper late is assessed based upon the circumstances, but will generally involve a substantial loss of points (5 points for missing the deadline, and 5 points for each 24-hour period thereafter). Recognize that for reasons of fairness to other students in the class, credit cannot be given at the end of the semester for missed exams or papers not handed in. In other words, when you experience a significant problem that prevents you from meeting a deadline or taking a test, it is your responsibility to let me know about it in a timely manner and to make arrangements to make up the missed work. Excuses must be provided within one week of your return, NOT at the end of the semester. Excuse forms are available on Moodle where they must be submitted along with any

Graded Work

I do not make grades available on Moodle and I will not e-mail grades. I will return your midterm exam and your policy project to you in class. During office hours I am happy to review grades with you and talk with you about ways to improve your performance. Please note, however, I will not estimate your current grade for you (the percentage that each grade counts toward your final average is provided above).

Graduate Credit or Honors Credit

For students taking this course for graduate credit or for those who wish to receive special Honors credit, it is the student's responsibility to contact me at the beginning of the semester to make appropriate arrangements.

Special Needs

For students who have special needs or require accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation so arrangements can be made.

Course Schedule

March 17

Interest Group Influence

x Reading #35 /LSWRQ (ULF ' /REE\LVWV % HD New York Times October 28 X UVX H
x Reading #36 2J\|P\ -RVKXD ' \$VVHVVLQJ WKH a Post-Drift War Interest Groups LVOD
, QIOXHQFH LQ 8 6 State Politics and Policy Quarterly H.V μ

March 22

Spring Break

March 24

Spring Break

March 29

Direct Democracy

x Text: Gray, Hanson, and Kousser, Chapter 5.
x Reading #37: Nicholson, S W H S K H Q 3 ' 7KH 3ROLWLFDO (QYLURQLHQW D
Journal of Political Science 47: 398-410.
x Reading #38: /HZLV 'DQLHO & '%\SDVVVLQJ WKH 5HSUHVHQQWDWLR
Democrat \ , Q VWLWXWLR State Politics and Policy Quarterly 22.
x Reading #39 6 WHLQKDXHU -HQQLIHU ')LJKW New York Times 2% HLQJ

Making and Evaluating Public Policies

March 31

Elements of the Public Policy Process

x Text: Gray, Hanson, and Kousser, Chapter 14 and 15.

April 5

Fiscal Policies

x Text: Gray, Hanson, and Kousser, Chapters 10.

April 7

No Class

April 12

Education Policies

x Text: Gray, Hanson, and Kousser, Chapters 12 and 13.
*** Policy Presentations: Set #1 ***

April 14

State Corrections Policies

x Text: Gray, Hanson, and Kousser, Chapter 9.
x Reading #40 6 PLWK .HYLQ % ' 7KH 3ROLWLFV RI 3XQLVKPHQW (
Journal of Public Administration 66: 925-38.
*** Policy Presentations: Set #2 ***

April 19 1431.8T.3134 *Corrections Policies Continued*

x Reading #41 /LQG 'DUD ' 7KH 7ZR 6LPSOH)DFWV WKDW ([SODLQ :