

# INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY

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SPRING 2010

Mary Ann Cofrin Hall, Room 204

POL SCI 202, PU EN AF 202 (#3501, #3523)

2:00-3:20 T/Th

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## OVERVIEW

Through readings, exercises, DVDs, and projects, students will learn about how public policies are made and implemented. The course will help you develop your own skills in policy analysis and give you some understanding of the major public policy issues that are important today - and a way to evaluate them for yourself. My goal is to get you interested in understanding and influencing the public policies that are made at all levels of government, now and once the class is over.

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## READINGS

Kraft, Michael E. & Furlong, Scott R. (2007). *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. (Two outstanding UW-Green Bay professors!)

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## OTHER TOOLS

### D2L

We will use D2L extensively, with continually updating contents and regular use of the quiz and discussion features. At first, you will find a few resources and links on the D2L Content site. As we go through the semester, I will continue to build the site by adding Powerpoint handouts and other files or links. Great support for D2L is available through UWGB's Learning Technology Center and online at <http://www.uwgb.edu/learntech/>

### Clickers

We will use clickers every day in class for points beginning the second week of classes. It is your responsibility to have your clicker with you and functional every class. For an excused absence arranged ahead of time, you will be allowed to "make up" clicker points with a small writing assignment related to the questions you missed. No make-ups for illness, clicker malfunction, or forgetting your clicker. During the time we are using clickers, no talking or flipping through your notes.

### Wiki

We will employ UW-Green Bay's Wiki software to publish our own class' policy analysis, The Wiki is a great way to share information with each other from offsite. We will start the semester learning the software and then move into group work building the Wiki together as a class. The LTC website with help on Wiki's can be found at <http://www.uwgb.edu/learntech/>

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## INSTRUCTOR AND T.A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Lora H. Warner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Public & Environmental Affairs

Address: B-319 MAC Hall, UW-Green Bay, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311

e-mail : WARNERL@UWGB.EDU

Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 and Thursdays 11:00-12:00pm. If these don't work, we'll make an appointment.

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Tom Lind, [lindtb14@uwgb.edu](mailto:lindtb14@uwgb.edu)

Tom will be available in class and via e-mail to answer questions and support your work in this class.

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## POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

University policy for students with physical and learning disabilities: "Consistent with the federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aides or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2671 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services."

### PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES (ASIDE FROM CLICKERS)

Use of laptops, cell phones, Blackberries, and the like are not permitted during class. We are attempting to create a learning community where all of us are engaged and listening to the ideas of others. In my experience, these devices are distracting to me and others in the class.

### REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

In your writing throughout the semester, when citations are required, please use the APA style and guidelines. An excellent resource for how to reference all kinds of information is

Hacker, Diana (2008). *A Pocket Style Manual*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

### HONOR SYSTEM

I make the assumption that all students complete their own original work, except for the group policy analysis that we will all complete together. If I am aware of possible violations of the University honor code, I will alert the student individually and an appropriate sanction will be imposed. Please consult the following website for more information about the honor system.

[http://www.uwgb.edu/deanofstudents/policies\\_procedures/students/uws14\\_17\\_18.html](http://www.uwgb.edu/deanofstudents/policies_procedures/students/uws14_17_18.html)

### INCOMPLETES

Incompletes are not given unless the student works out an arrangement with me in advance and has communicated with me at least a few weeks ahead of time that s/he is having trouble completing the work.

### MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments must be turned in at or before the beginning of class on the day they are due (including e-mailed assignments). Points will be deducted for unexcused late papers according to the amount of time they are late. It is always better to turn in an assignment, no matter how late: partial credit is better than a zero. Extra credit is not offered as a make-up for work you have neglected. If you become concerned about your performance, please come in and discuss your situation as early as possible.

### PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected for most class sessions. In-class activities are designed to help you learn the material, so if you are not there, you will miss a lot of the learning experience. I will not specifically track your attendance, but keep in mind that we will use the clickers most days so if you are not in class, you will not receive any points on the in-class clicker questions.

Total points	Percent	Letter grade
465-500	93-100%	A
440-464	88-92%	AB
415-439	83-87%	B
390-414	78-82%	BC
365-389	73-77%	C
340-364	68-72%	D
Below 340	Below 68%	F

### 1. IN-CLASS CLICKER QUESTIONS

75 PTS

Each class, students will have the opportunity to answer 3 clicker questions worth one point each (incorrect response or absent, 0 points). Your scores will be uploaded to D2L grades weekly. Questions will be on the assigned readings or discussion topics. You will have the opportunity to earn about 80 clicker points overall, so in case you have to miss class, you can still earn an A on this portion of your grade.

### 2. CURRENT POLICY ISSUE PAPER (5-7 PAGES) AND WIKI

115 PTS

- Plan 15 points
- Paper 70 points
- Wiki 30 points

**Papers.** Submit issue paper plans in D2L drop box “Issue Paper Plan.” Submit Issue Papers as hard copy the date assigned for your category. Follow a local, state, or national policy issue that interests you. Complete the project plan to get your topic approved (15 points). During the week that the whole class covers your policy area, be a part of a discussion to share what you have learned with your classmates (e.g., if your topic is No Child Left Behind, it is discussed the week the class learns about Education Policy).

**Wiki.** Each student will post a synopsis of their policy issue research in our class wiki, providing an interactive link and picture along with important content to bring your peers up to speed on your policy issue.

### 3. POLICY ISSUE D2L DISCUSSIONS

50 PTS

Reflect on your peers’ issue paper topics in the D2L Discussion section for 5 of the 6 topic areas. Your posts must be 1) made before we have our discussion on that topic in class; 2) a direct reaction to someone’s policy issue; 3) meaningful and thoughtful posts containing at least 3 or 4 thoughtful sentences, not quick points like “that’s a great idea” or “I liked the picture” or “I did my paper on that topic too.”

### 4. CURRENT EVENT EXERCISES

60 PTS

During the semester you will complete 6 small exercises based on the topics we are studying as we move through the semester. These exercises, worth 10 points each, will be done through the D2L Quiz feature.

### 5. TESTS

TEST 1 AND 2: 50 PTS EACH; FINAL 100 PTS

200 PTS

For tests 1 and 2, multiple choice questions will be worth 50 points. For the final, there will be 75 points on multiple choice questions and a take-home portion will be worth 25 points and will be submitted in a D2L Dropbox.

## Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

January 25, 2010

Date	Activity	Reading Assignment
Jan 26	Why we should care: Understanding public policy Opportunities to influence public policy	
Jan 28	Basic concepts	Chapter 1
Feb 2	Meet in class; half to Computer lab 1129A; switch	3 "clicker" points for completed Wiki entry
Feb 4	Governmental and policy actors The Policy Process Model	<b>Exercise 1 due (track a bill)</b> Clickers begin counting Chapter 2
Feb 9	Policy process model, con't Instruments of public policy	Chapter 3
Feb 11	Policy analysis to define problems, identify alternatives	<b>Exercise 2 due (Think tank)</b> Chapter 4
Feb 16	Policy analysis and evaluative criteria	Chapter 5
Feb 18	Assessing policy alternatives	<b>Issue Paper Plan due in dropbox</b> Chapter 6
Feb 23	<b>Test 1</b>	<b>Chapters 1-6</b>
Feb 25	Economic and Budgetary Policy	Chapter 7
Mar 2	Economic and Budgetary Policy (+3 if economic policy topic chosen-for going early)	Econ Policy Papers and Wiki's due <b>Exercise 3 due (deficit)</b>
Mar 4	Economic policy discussion day	D2L comment posting deadline
Mar 9	Health care policy	Chapter 8
Mar 11	Health care policy	Health Policy Papers and Wiki's due Chapter 8
Mar 16-18	Spring break no class	
Mar 23	Health care policy discussion day	D2L comment posting deadline <b>Exercise 4 due (health care)</b>
Mar 25	Welfare and Social Security Policies	Chapter 9 Welfare/SS Policy Papers and Wiki's
Mar 30	Welfare and Social Security policy discussion	Chapter 9 D2L comment posting deadline
April 1	<b>Test 2</b>	<b>Chapters 7-9</b>
Apr 6	Education policy	Chapter 10 Educ Policy Papers and Wiki's due
Apr 8	Education policy discussion	Chapter 10 D2L comment posting deadline
Apr 13	Environmental Policy	Chapter 11 <b>Exercise 5 due (environment)</b>
Apr 15	Environmental Policy	Chapter 11 Envir Policy Papers and Wiki's due

Apr 20	Environmental Policy discussion	D2L comment posting deadline
Apr 22	Foreign Policy and Homeland Security	Chapter 12 <b>Exercise 6 due (foreign policy)</b>
Apr 27	Foreign Policy and Homeland Security	Foreign Policy Papers and Wiki's due
Apr 29	Foreign Policy discussion	D2L comment posting deadline
May 4	Last class: be a player, stay informed, speak up Review for final	Chapter 13
May 11	<b>1:00 Final exam in class</b> <b>Take Home must be submitted before class</b>	<b>Chapters 10-13, review 3-6</b>