POLS*3250 — PUBLIC POLICY: CHALLENGES, PROSPECTS

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS
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COURSE CONTENT

Course Description
This course gives you the opportunity to think critically about public policy – What is public policy? What are the major theories of policy development? How are policies made? What and who influences public policy? What determines whether an issue makes it to the policy agenda? Who are the actors in public policy development? Where does the public fit? What tools are available to policy makers? How do public policies affect peoples’ lives? Your life?

Learning Outcomes
A. Describe dominant public policy theories, and explain how ideologies inform policy.
B. Identify and discuss contextual factors that influence public policy.
C. Identify and describe the general stages of the policy-making process.
D. Apply an ideological perspective to a specific policy area.
E. Present a persuasive argument about a specific policy area using multiple media.
F. Apply a policy analysis framework to a real or anticipated policy (and its outcomes).
G. Communicate using appropriate language and citation.

Required Text

COURSE ASSESSMENT
In this course, there are both group submissions and individual submissions (subject to change).
1. In-class activities (6) – 15% (individual & group)
2. Policy dilemma overview and group plan – 25% (individual & group)
3. Mid-term – 20% (individual)
4. Policy brief and presentation – 30% (group)
5. Peer and self-assessment – 10% (individual)