

*Knowledge is the thing that separates those with answers from those with opinions.*

## **POLS 2260 - Introduction to Public Policy Fall 2014**

Course: POLS 2260, Section 0, CRN: 44124  
Title: Introduction to Public Policy  
Class Schedule: MWF 10:00-10:50am  
Class Location: Fletcher 200  
Credit: 3  
Professor: Dr. Marcus D. Mauldin  
Office Location: Fletcher 417B  
Office Phone: 423-425-5702  
Office Hours: MW 11:00am-12:00pm; Tuesday 12:00pm - 1:30 and 4:45pm - 5:15pm  
E-mail: Marcus-Mauldin@utc.edu

**Accommodation Statement:** If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, call the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 425-4006 or come by the office, 102 Frist Hall.

<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/DisabilityResourceCenter/>

**Personal Counseling:** If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438.

<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/>.

**Communication:** To enhance student services, the University uses your UTC email address for all communications. Please check your UTC email on a regular basis. If you have problems with accessing your UTC email account, contact the Call Center at 423-425-4000. The course Blackboard will also be used to communicate class-related issues.

### **Course Description**

Catalog Description: Introduction to core public policy concepts, theories, models, and processes

Throughout the course, the focus of our study will be models, theories, concepts, and tools that cut across all substantive policy areas (such as health policy, education policy, immigration policy, etc.). While the course is not structured to cover a list of substantive policy areas, students will have the opportunity to explore substantive policy areas through exercises, case studies, and examples. Even more important, though, students will become equipped to gain a deep understanding of any substantive policy area independently and in future courses, including POLS 3250 American Public Policy.

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### **Course Objectives**

The goal of this course is to enable students to achieve the following learning objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify and describe types of public policies in the United States.
2. Students will be able to describe the policy process through various lenses.
3. Students will be able to understand and apply the dominant theoretic frameworks for describing, justifying, formulating, and evaluating public policies.
4. Students will develop informed ideas about the role of policy studies in democratic governance.

### **Required Texts and Readings**

Public Policymaking (8<sup>th</sup> Edition) by James E. Anderson

Other readings listed in this syllabus are available on the course Blackboard (Bb).

### **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to be full participants in shaping the character of the course. Your participation in classroom discussions and completion of assignments will help you achieve a deeper, richer understanding of public policy and its challenges and opportunities. This requires all students to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and assignments for each session. Students will be evaluated on online quizzes, mental stimulation exercises, policy summaries, and a policy paper.

Student performance will be evaluated as follows:

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Policy Summaries:             | 90 points (3 @ 30 points each) |
| Final Paper:                  | 100 points                     |
| Quizzes:                      | 90 points (9 @ 10 points each) |
| Mental Stimulation Exercises: | 60 points (6 @ 10 points each) |

Grade Scale: A = 306-340; B = 272-305; C = 238-271; D = 204-237; F = <204

### **Important Dates**

October 1<sup>st</sup>: Policy Introduction Section Due

October 6<sup>th</sup>: Burkett Miller Distinguished Lecture

November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Policy History Section Due

November 17<sup>th</sup>: Policy Actors Section Due

December 1<sup>st</sup>: Policy Paper Due

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**Think and Achieve: Critical Thinking**

Critical thinking is the habitual practice of raising questions, identifying problems, analyzing existing information, creating innovative solutions, and reflecting on the process and the product as a means of constant improvement.

**Honor Code Pledge (from the UTC Student Handbook)**

I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any test or assignment. I understand that plagiarism constitutes a serious instance of unauthorized aid. I further pledge that I exert every effort to insure that the Honor Code is upheld by others and that I will actively support the establishment and continuance of a campus-wide climate of honor and integrity.

**Course Schedule**

| DATE                   | TOPIC  | READING                          | ASSESSMENT/ACTIVITIES   |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Week of August 18th    | Course Introduction; Defining Public Policy; Policy Theories | Anderson: Chapter 1              | Mental Stimulation Exercise (MSE)   |
| Week of August 25th    | Application of Policy Theory                                 | Watch "Thirteen Days"            | Online Quiz   |
| Week of September 1st  | Policy Makers and Their Environment                          | Anderson: Chapter 2              | MSE; Online Quiz  |
| Week of September 8th  | Policy Analysis  | Kraft and Furlong: Chapter 4(Bb) | Online Quiz   |
| Week of September 15th | Policy Formulation   | Anderson Chapter 3               | MSE; Online Quiz  |
| Week of September 22nd | Policy Design and Tools                                      | Birkland: Chapter 8 (Bb)         | MSE; Online Quiz  |
| Week of September 29th | Policy Introduction Presentations                            | None                             | Policy Introduction Section Due   |
| Week of October 6th    | Budgeting and Public Policy                                  | Anderson: Chapter 5              | October 6th - Attend Burkett Miller Distinguished Lecuure: "Lessons from the Fiscal History of the United States"; MSE; Online Quiz |
| Week of October 13th   | Policy Adoption  | Anderson: Chapter 4              | Online Quiz   |
| Week of October 20th   | Fall Break; Public Policy in TV and Film                     | TBD                              | MSE   |
| Week of October 27th   | Policy Implementation  | Anderson: Chapter 6              | Online Quiz   |
| Week of November 3rd   | Policy History Presentations                                 | None                             | Policy History Section Due  |
| Week of November 10th  | Impact and Evaluation  | Anderson: Chapter 7              | Online Quiz   |
| Week of November 17th  | Policy Actors Presentations                                  | None                             | Policy Actor Section Due  |
| Week of November 24th  | Final Paper Consultations                                    | None                             |   |
| Week of December 1st   | Final Papers Due   | None                             |   |
| December 5th           | Final Exam: 8-10am   |                                  |   |