Foundations of Public Policy

Course Reference Number (4): 20184

Winter Quarter: Mondays, 6–10pm

4 Credit Hours

Online (Zoom & Canvas)

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This syllabus is subject to revision.

Course Description: Public policy analysis is often presented as objective, data-driven, and empirical. When analysts work hard to put forth the best ideas based on the best data, it can come as a surprise to see that these ideas are not implemented, but in the real world, public policy is just one part of a continuous struggle between many varied interests that is based in the process of politics. To be effective, applied public policy analysis must be both objective and engaged with the political world.

This course is intended to give students the tools to understand, analyze, and be able to advocate for policy in the political environment. Learning about stakeholders and participants in the policy process, including elected officials, lobbyists, advocates, appointees, and others is a critical first step, but understanding their motivations and interests, as well as external institutional, social, economic, and cultural factors is important as well.

This course will be grounded in the issues and topics of the Washington Legislature during the 2021 legislative session. This class is relatively light on reading, but very intensive on writing. You will have individual assignments due every week, all of which are the building blocks to your final assignment, an in-class presentation about your bill. This course is explicitly designed around skill-building, and skills such as bill tracking, memo writing, testimony preparation, op-ed writing, and interviewing, while challenging, are identified by employers as desirable and useful in the world of public administration and public policy. By the end of the class, you should be an expert in your bill of choice and able to clearly explain it to your classmates.

NOTES ON READINGS:

- **All journal articles or web links will be posted to Canvas**

- **There are two books to purchase: Kingdon (2011) and Clayton, Donovan and Lovrich (2018).**

- **All books are also available on Open Reserve through the Evergreen Library.**

- **These books will also be available at no charge as online E-Books through the Evergreen library.**

Readings

Clayton, Cornell W., Todd Donovan and Nicholas P. Lovrich, eds. 2018. *Governing the Evergreen State: Political Life in Washington.* Washington State University Press.

Kingdon, John W. 2011. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies.* Any edition ed. New York: Pearson.

Legislative Information Center. 2017. "How to Testify in Committee.".

Legislative Information Center. 2018*a*. "Guide to Lawmaking.".

Legislative Information Center. 2018*b*. "How to Search for Bills on the Legislative Web Page.".

Legislative Information Center. 2018*c*. "Selected Bill Tracking.".

Legislative Information Center. 2018*d*. "Tutorial: GovDelivery: How to Receive E-mail Notification for Committee Schedules and Agendas.".

Office of Program Research, Washington House of Representatives. 2020. "Final Summary of Legislation Passed by the Washington State Legislature.".

Seeberger, Edward D. 1997. *Sine Die: A Guide to the Washington State Legislative Process.* Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press.

Senate Committee Services. 2020. "Bills Passed During the 2020 Regular Legislative Session.".

Washington State Legislature. 2020. "Legislative Pictorial Guide of the 66th Legislature.".

NOTES ON ASYNCHRONOUS AND SYNCHRONOUS TECHNOLOGY:

- **Lectures are conducted asynchronously using the tool EdPuzzle (available through Canvas). In lieu of in-person lecturing, you are required to watch all lecture videos and other required videos before class, as well as answer any questions with the videos in order to recieve credit. Each lecture will be accompanied by a Canvas-based discussion board to ask questions about the lecture content.**

- Some readings will be posted online through the tool Perusall (available through Canvas). Perusall allows you to ask questions and get answers through collaborative reading of the text.

- Zoom will be used for synchronous class sessions, including guest speakers, discussions, bill report-outs, presentations, and collaboratively watching *Legislative Review* every week.

Course Policies:

- **Evaluations**

  - Students will be evaluated based on regular attendance and reading, timely submission of thoughtful writing projects, and active engagement with their classmates.
  - Students are required to submit a self-evaluation and a faculty evaluation. You can submit these evaluations via the College's online evaluation system at `my.evergreen.edu`. Students are not required to submit self-evaluations to their transcripts. An evaluation conference is optional.

- **Assignments**

  - **No late assignments will be accepted except under extraordinary circumstances. Please contact me as soon as possible if this occurs.**

- **Attendance and Absences**

  - Regular attendance is expected. You are allowed to miss **1** class (4 hours of instruction time) during the quarter without penalty.
  - Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

Academic Honesty Policy Summary:

From the TESC Statement on Academic Honesty: "Academic honesty is essential in a learning community. It makes coherent discourse possible and is a necessary condition for all sharing, dialogue and evaluation. All forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabricating, facilitating academic dishonesty and plagiarism, are violations of the Social Contract. Cheating is defined as using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise. Fabrication is defined as faking data, footnotes or other evidence. Plagiarism is defined as representing the works or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. It includes, but is not limited to, copying materials directly, failure to cite sources of arguments and data, and failure to explicitly acknowledge joint work or authorship of assignments."

TESC Statement on Academic Honesty
http://www.evergreen.edu/advising/academic-honesty

TESC The social contract – College philosophy
http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=174-121-010

TESC Student Conduct Code
http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=174-123

Authorship

The student must clearly establish authorship of a work. Referenced work must be clearly documented, cited, and attributed, regardless of media or distribution. Even in the case of work licensed as public domain or Copyleft, (See: `http://creativecommons.org/`) the student must provide attribution of that work in order to uphold the standards of intent and authorship.

Online Class Enagement Policies

The online learning environment is challenging for students and faculty alike. In order to gain the most from the class, the expectations of an Evergreen learning community also apply to the online environment. You are expected to treat everyone in the learning community with respect by promoting a cooperative, supportive atmosphere within the community; giving everyone opportunity for self-reflection and expression using high standards in reading, writing, lectures, and comments; handling all disputes in a spirit of goodwill; and respecting differences.

Specifically, in the online format, students are expected to:

- Engage with the asynchronous online tools (Canvas, Perusall, and EdPuzzle) in a timely fashion.

- Provide public comments (in Perusall, Canvas discussions, and Zoom chat) that are respectful of all community members.

- For guest and student presentations and small-group discussions (including paired discussions) connect with the people in the learning community by keeping your camera on and acting appropriately on camera.

Holidays for Reasons of Faith or Conscience:

Please inform me in writing within the first two weeks of class if you will miss specific class sessions because of holidays of faith or conscience, or for an organized activity conducted as part of a religious denomination, church, or organization. If you let me know within that time frame, I will offer you reasonable accommodations, and the absence(s) will be excused. For more information, please refer to the Evergreen policy at: `https://www.evergreen.edu/policy/religious-observance`

Written Assignments (See Course Schedule for Due Dates)

All writing assignments should strictly follow the page limit guidelines, and be submitted in 1.5 spaced, 12 point font. No matter what the format, students should consistently work to become better writers. Readers both academic and professional will always appreciate clear, straightforward writing with *short* paragraphs that avoids the use of jargon. I recommend having on hand *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White, which is small, inexpensive, and available in many editions.

Assignment 1: Issues, Committees, and Bills

Throughout the course, you will focus your work on a particular state bill that *you* select, based on an issue that interests you. Most of your assignments will form the building blocks of your final individual project, which is a presentation about the status of your bill on the last day of class.

Assignment 1a: Tracking Your Issue in the News

Assignment 2: Bill Selection

Assignment 2a: Tracking Bills and Committee Hearings

Assignment 3: Best Practices Memo to Bill Sponsor

Assignment 4: Advocate Interview

Assignment 5: Policy Memo to State Agency

Assignment 6: Legislative Testimony

Assignment 7: Committee Grilling

Assignment 8: In-Class Presentation

Tentative Course Outline:
The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. However, you must keep up with the reading assignments.

Session	Content
January 4	**Introductions, Course overview: The Policy Process** *Readings:* 1. Kingdon (2011, Chapter 1) 2. Clayton, Donovan and Lovrich (2018, Chapter 1) 3. Seeberger (1997, Chapter 4: Committees) 4. *Guide to Lawmaking* (2018a), *OPR: Summary of Legislation - 2020 Regular Session* or *2020 Bills Passed the Regular Legislative Session, Senate Committee Services* (selection for your committee) *Assignments Due:* • Assignment 1 • Assignment 1a
January 11	**Module 2: Theories of Public Policymaking** *Readings:* 1. Kingdon (2011, Chapter 4) 2. Clayton, Donovan and Lovrich (2018, Chapter 8) 3. Seeberger (1997, Chapter 3: Bills) 4. *How to Search for Bills on the Legislative Web Page* (2018b) 5. *Selected Bill Tracking* (2018c) 6. *Tutorial: GovDelivery: How to Receive E-mail Notification for Committee Schedules and Agendas* (2018d) *Assignments Due:* • Assignment 2 • Assignment 2a
January 18	**No Class**
January 25	**Module 3: Bureaucratic and Regulatory Politics** *Readings:* 1. Kingdon (2011, Chapter 9) 2. Clayton, Donovan and Lovrich (2018, Chapter 11) *Assignments Due:* • Assignment 3

February 1	**Module 4: The Politics from Outside Government** *Readings:* 1. Kingdon (2011, Chapter 3) *Assignments Due:* • Assignment 4
February 8	**Module 5: Institutional and Cultural Contexts** *Readings:* 1. Kingdon (2011, Chapter 2) 2. Clayton, Donovan and Lovrich (2018, Chapter 9) *Assignments Due:* • Assignment 5
February 17	**No Class**
February 22	**Module 6: Policy Problems and Opportunities** *Readings:* 1. Kingdon (2011, Chapters 5 & 6) 2. *How to Testify in Committee* (2017) *Assignments Due:* • Assignment 6
March 1	**Module 7: The Political Stream** *Readings:* 1. Kingdon (2011, Chapter 7) 2. Clayton, Donovan and Lovrich (2018, Chapter 4) 3. Washington State Legislature (2020) *Assignments Due:* • Assignment 7

March 8	**Module 8: Class Wrap-Up** *Readings:* • *None.* *Assignments Due:* • Assignment 9: In-Class Presentation