

Spring 1990

Public Administration and Policy Syllabus

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PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

Political Science 235

Spring 1990

Dr. Samson, LUB 206

DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to the American political system with an emphasis on its operative principles and practical issues. The course objectives are as follows:

1. To examine the interaction of public institutions and private organizations in shaping as well as implementing public policy.
2. To review various theories and models of organizational behavior.
3. To develop skills in political research and effective citizenship.
4. To enable students to explore the role of ideological presuppositions that help shape contemporary social and political issues.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for all assigned readings, including handouts and other supplementary materials. Students should keep lecture notes and supplementary materials in a looseleaf notebook.
2. Students will be tested on their knowledge of material covered in the reading assignments and classroom lectures through three regularly scheduled exams (15% apiece) and a comprehensive final exam (30%). The remaining 25% of the grade is divided between two short public policy research papers (10% apiece) and participation in the National Government Mock Senate (5%).
3. One of the public policy research papers (5-8 pages double-spaced) will be chosen from a list of two or three issues assigned to the Mock Senate. This paper is due on March 1st. Be prepared to act as a witness in the Mock Senate in April and to defend your position on an exam.
4. The second research paper (7-10 pages) may be used to examine either a theory of public administration or a public policy issue. It should include background information, a summary of the key points of contention, and an analysis of the competing values and viewpoints represented in the controversy. This paper is due on April 3rd.
5. The National Government Mock Senates are tentatively scheduled for April. Further details will be discussed in class.
6. Each student has the option of substituting a 5-6 page book report for one exam (except the final exam). The report will be graded on a pass-fail basis. It must be well written, topically organized, neatly typed, and double spaced. Reports may be written on any book drawn from the list below and are due a full week before final exams.
7. Extra credit points may be earned by attending two keynote addresses (or one address and one focus session) during the Critical Issues Symposium on February 28th and March 1st.

READING

Henig, Jeffrey R. Public Policy and Federalism: Issues in State and Local Politics (ABBR: H)
Starling, Grover. Managing the Public Sector, 3rd ed. (S)
Supplementary Readings (on reserve)

Books for Extra Credit Reports:

Buzzard, Lynn R., and Samuel Ericsson. Faith and Freedom: The Impact of Law on Religious Liberty (1982).

Eidsmoe, John. God and Caesar: Christian Faith and Political Action (1984).

Hayek, Friedrich. The Road to Serfdom (1944).

Schlossberg, Herbert. Idols for Destruction: Christian Faith and Its Confrontation with American Society (1983).

Williams, Walter E. The State Against Blacks (1982).

CALENDAR

- 1/9 Introduction; Film: "American Experience: The World Moses Built."
1/16 H. 1-2; S. 1
1/23 S. 2-3
1/30 S. 4-5; Topic for First Paper
2/6 S. 6; First Exam (H. 1-2; S. 1-5)
2/13 Winter Recess
2/20 S. 7-8
2/27 S. 9; First Paper Due
3/6 S. 10; Second Exam (S. 6-9)
3/13 S. 11; Topic for Second Paper
3/20 Spring Break
3/27 S. 12; H. 3
4/3 H. 4-5
4/10 H. 6-7; Mock Senate; Third Exam (S. 10-12; H. 3-5)
4/17 H. 8-9; Mock Senate; Second Paper Due
4/24 H. 10-11
5/1 Final Exam