

PUBP 101 Survey of Public Policy

Spring 2016, CRN 24951

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Course meetings: 203 Morton Hall, Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00-3:20pm

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00-12:30, Thursdays 3:30-5:00, and by appointment

1. Course description

Welcome to PUBP 101. This 1-credit course introduces students to the multidisciplinary field of public policy. We will learn about the field by hearing from faculty members who teach core or elective requirements for the Public Policy major, and from others with experience in this broad field. For that reason, I like to call this course the “Public Policy Parade of Stars.” Many professors at William & Mary study and teach about interesting policy topics such as health care, social welfare, education, the environment, economic development, immigration, and international affairs, among other things. By meeting these people and completing course assignments you will learn about how people study these topics, what opportunities for student research might be available, and the potential benefits of majoring in Public Policy.

2. Readings

Readings will consist of articles and on-line sources posted to Blackboard. There are no readings to purchase.

3. Assignments and grading

3.1 Overview

I will base final course grades on the following scale, with partial-percents typically rounded to the nearest full percent: A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 88-89, B 83-87, B- 80-82, C+ 78-79, C 73-77, C- 70-72, D+ 68-69, D 63-67, D- 60-62, F <60. Please keep a copy of all work you submit until I have processed final grades.

3.2 Assignments

Preparation for class – 25% Preparing for class will involve doing the assigned reading, reviewing biographical material about the day’s speaker, and then bringing with you to class at least two questions about the readings you would like to ask the speaker. In order to receive credit, you will need to (1) type up the questions, including the questions themselves and the reasons why you want to ask them; (2) print out the questions and your reasons (do not write them by hand) and bring them to class; and (3) turn in the document at the end of class. Late questions will not be accepted.

Attendance and participation – 25%

- **Attendance:** We do not have many class meetings so *attendance at all class sessions* is crucial. A student’s course attendance and participation mark will decrease by 10 percentage points for each missed class. Student absences are only permitted (with documentation) in the case of an illness or emergency, participation in a required William & Mary activity such as a class field trip or athletic contest, or for a religious reason.
- **Participation:** During each class our speakers will present a lecture on their research and teaching interests, which will include much time for discussion. As such, your active participation at all course meetings is absolutely essential. For each class, you should try to ask at least one of the questions you have prepared before class. Of course, you can ask others, too. *Please see me immediately if talking in class makes you nervous.* With my assistance, we can help you to overcome those fears. That will help you succeed in this class and in your others, too.
- **Electronic devices:** Because this is a discussion-oriented class, with light rather than heavy amounts of note-taking and no course exams, the use of laptop computers and other electronic devices *will not be permitted*.

Mid-course and final reaction paper – 50% (calculated as 25% for each paper) These two reaction papers will ask you to address a series of questions to help you reflect on the topics that we have learned about in class. They should be written with attention to detail and with careful prose, but they are not intended to be argumentative essays or research papers. Rather, they can be written in a more informal conversational style. More details on the requirements for each paper will be forthcoming.

3.3 Academic misconduct

I begin by assuming academic misconduct will not become an issue in this class. If it does, for any questions about policies regarding cheating, plagiarism, or other types of academic dishonesty, please see the William & Mary Honor Council's web site and the discussion of the Honor Code in the Student Handbook. If I discover a student cheating, I will initiate an Honor Council proceeding and, at a bare minimum, recommend that the student receive an F for the course. I take this issue extremely seriously, and hope you do, too.

4. Schedule

Links here provide background information on our speakers. Readings will be announced in class or via email, and posted on Blackboard.

Th, 1/21	Course introduction
T, 1/26	Homeland security policy. Prof. Manna (Government, and Undergraduate Coordinator of W&M Public Policy) http://pmanna.people.wm.edu/
Th, 1/28	A view from the field from a policy practitioner. Mr. Matt Lawless (William & Mary alum and Town Manager, Boones Mill, Virginia) http://www.townofboonesmill.org/
T, 2/2	Social welfare policy. Prof. Howard (Government) http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/howard_c.php
Th, 2/4	Environmental policy. Prof. Stafford (Economics, Law, and Director of W&M Public Policy) http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/stafford_s.php
T, 2/9	Mid-course debrief *Mid-course reaction paper due in class*
Th, 2/11	Higher education policy. Prof. Feldman (Economics) http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/dhfeld
T, 2/16	Spatial analysis of K-12 education policy. Prof. Saporito (Sociology) http://www.wm.edu/as/sociology/directory/saporito_s.php
Th, 2/18	Health care policy. Prof. Mellor (Economics, and Director of the Schroeder Center for Health Policy) http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/mellor_j.php
T, 2/23	Ethics and public policy. Prof. Costa (Philosophy) http://www.wm.edu/as/philosophy/people/faculty/costa_m.php
Th, 2/25	Course conclusion *Final reaction paper due in class*