

# PUBP 391-02 Survey of Public Policy

Spring 2013, CRN 28959

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*Course meetings:* 1 Morton Hall, Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00-3:20pm

*Office Hours:* Wednesdays 12:30-2:00pm, Thursdays 3:30-5:00pm, & by appointment

## 1. Course description

Welcome to PUBP 391 Survey of Public Policy. This 1-credit course introduces students to the interdisciplinary 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. 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, 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

Course grades will be based on the following items:

1/3 -- Preparation for class      1/3 -- Attendance and participation      1/3 -- Final capstone paper

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. Finally, please keep a copy of all work you submit until I have processed final grades.

### 3.1 Preparation for class

For each class period, except for our meetings on 1/17 and 2/20, you should arrive with a brief (150-300 words) typed up reaction to the day’s topic. The best reactions will include at least a couple of specific thoughts on the reading and at least one question that you could ask the day’s speaker. Those papers will be due at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be accepted, but you will be able to have one day, which you choose, that you do not turn in a reaction paper.

### 3.2 Attendance and participation

Attendance: We do not have many class meetings, due to this being a 1-credit class, so attendance at all class sessions is essential. 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 family emergency, participation in a required William & Mary activity such as a class field trip or athletic contest, or for a religious reason.

Participation: Each class our speakers will present a lecture regarding their research and teaching interests, which will include time for your questions and reactions. As such, your active participation at all course meetings is absolutely essential. 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, the use of laptop computers and other similar devices (e.g., tablets, phones, and other gizmos) will not be permitted.

### 3.3 Final capstone paper

The capstone paper will provide you with an opportunity to draw on what we have learned this semester to consider broader aspects of the field of public policy, including potential paths you might take for future study, independent research, or subsequent study or employment (or both) beyond William & Mary. The paper should take the form of a letter or memo to me, so you may compose it using an informal writing style. More details on the specific requirements will be forthcoming.

### 3.4 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 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, 1/17	Course introduction. Prof. Manna (Government, and Undergraduate Coordinator of the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy) <a href="http://pmanna.people.wm.edu/">http://pmanna.people.wm.edu/</a>
T, 1/22	Health care policy. Prof. Mellor (Economics, and Director of the Schroeder Center for Health Policy) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/mellor_j.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/mellor_j.php</a>
Th, 1/24	Law and public policy. Prof. Stafford (Economics and Law, and Director of the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/stafford_s.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/stafford_s.php</a>
T, 1/29	Labor markets and economic policy. Prof. McHenry (Economics) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/mchenry_p.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/mchenry_p.php</a>
Th, 1/31	Legislatures and the policy process. Prof. Evans (Government) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/evans_l.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/evans_l.php</a>
T, 2/5	Budget and tax policy. Prof. Gilmour (Government, and Graduate Coordinator of the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/gilmour_j.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/gilmour_j.php</a>
Th, 2/7	Social welfare policy. Prof Howard (Government) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/howard_c.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/howard_c.php</a>
T, 2/12	Environmental policy. Prof. Hicks (Economics) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/hicks_r.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/economics/faculty/directory/hicks_r.php</a>
Th, 2/14	Foreign aid policy. Prof. Buntaine (Government) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/buntaine_m.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/government/faculty/directory/buntaine_m.php</a>
T, 2/19	Ethics and public policy. Prof. Costa (Philosophy) <a href="http://www.wm.edu/as/philosophy/people/faculty/costa_m.php">http://www.wm.edu/as/philosophy/people/faculty/costa_m.php</a>
Th, 2/21	Course conclusion

Thursday, March 14. Capstone paper due to Prof. Manna's office by 5pm.