

PUBP 391-01 Survey of Public Policy

Fall 2011 CRN 17915

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Course meetings: 202 Morton Hall, Tuesdays, 12:30-1:50

Office Hours: T 10:00-11:30am, F 2:00-3:30pm, and 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 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

20%	Attendance and participation
60%	Reaction papers (3 @ 20% each)
20%	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 Attendance and participation

Each class our speakers will present a lecture regarding their research and teaching interests. A good part of each class will be reserved for your questions and reactions to our guests’ comments. As such, your active participation and attendance 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. Put simply, this class will flop unless every week, all class members are prepared to exchange ideas and ask questions of our guest speakers. Consider yourself ill-prepared if before class you are not preparing some written notes that will help you react to our speakers’ ideas.

3.2 Papers

More details of these assignments will be forthcoming. In general, the Reaction Papers will provide you with an opportunity to react to the readings and discussions with our guest speakers. The Capstone Paper will provide you with an opportunity 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.

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 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 of topics and assignments

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

- T, 8/30 Hurricane vacation. Thanks, Irene!
- T, 9/6 Course introduction / Obama's Race to the Top education program. Prof. Manna (Government)
<http://pmanna.people.wm.edu/>
- T, 9/13 Higher education policy. Profs. Archibald and Feldman (Economics)
http://www.wm.edu/as/publicpolicy/facultydirectory/core_faculty/archibald_r.php
<http://dhfeld.people.wm.edu/>
- T, 9/20 Social welfare policy. Prof. Howard (Government).
http://www.wm.edu/as/publicpolicy/facultydirectory/core_faculty/howard_c.php

Friday, 9/23 – Reaction Paper #1 due to Prof. Manna's office by 5pm.

- T, 9/27 International development policy. Prof. Basu (Economics)
http://www.wm.edu/as/publicpolicy/facultydirectory/core_faculty/basu_a.php
- T, 10/4 Budget policy. Prof. Gilmour (Government)
<http://jbgilm.people.wm.edu/>
- T, 10/11 No class. Fall break.
- T, 10/18 Law and public policy. Prof. Stafford (Economics and the Law School)
<http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/slstaf/home>

Friday, 10/22 – Reaction Paper #2 due to Prof. Manna's office by 5pm.

- T, 10/25 Surveys for public policy. Prof. Rapoport (Government)
http://www.wm.edu/as/publicpolicy/facultydirectory/core_faculty/rapoport_r.php
- T, 11/1 Environmental policy. Prof. Hicks (Economics)
http://rlhick.people.wm.edu/Rob_Hicks/Welcome.html
- T, 11/8 Health care policy. Prof. Mellor (Economics and the Schroeder Center for Health Policy),
<http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/jmmell> and course conclusion with Prof. Manna.

Monday, 11/11 – Reaction Paper #3 due to Prof. Manna's office by 5pm.

Tuesday, 11/22 (before you leave for Thanksgiving) – Capstone Paper due to Prof. Manna's office by 5pm.