

POLS 3392-01: Economic Policy

3 Credits

Fall 2017

Department of Political Science

Online

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Office Hours: THURSDAY, 2-3pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online course is designed to better understand politics, analysis, and policy choice in the context of economic policy. From the broad sense of public policy in political science, this course explores the political and socio-economic mechanisms in economic policy. In this course, students are expected to gain essential knowledge and sense to understand the role of citizenship in defining policy problems, participating in policymaking, and assessing policy alternatives in economic policy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students enrolled in POLS 3392 will

- 1) Gain factual and analytical knowledge of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in economic policy
- 2) Learn to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions in real world of economic policy

REQUIRED TEXT

The reading for the class comes from:

- "Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives - 5th Edition" Michael E. Kraft and Scott R. Furlong. CQ Press.

For the textbook, the publisher provides a student pricing, though it seems a web-version instead of paper back. If this option seems more reasonable, you can use it by following the link as below:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/referral?term=9781483345772>

All other materials like journal articles will be provided through blackboard if needed.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

Participation (via Discussion Boards)

As this course is online, participation in class topics is evaluated by online discussion. The class sessions are interactive and you are required to participate **every week** by articulating your ideas on key themes and posted questions to proper forum on the **Discussion Board**.

On every Wednesday, topic question(s) will be posted on the Blackboard and you have **FIVE days until every Sunday 11:59 pm** to post your initial opinions and **a FULL WEEK until every Tuesday 11:59 pm** to participate in the discussion by posting your replies to others' initial opinions and answer the others' replies on the Discussion Board. You are expected to be an active participant in each week's discussion, so that you are required to post **one your original opinions or thoughts** on the posted question(s) and **at least one your comment(s)** responding to other students' opinion(s). **In summary**, you are required to **post at least two posts** on the Discussion Board every week.

Three points per week, 12 weeks (week 1-12), No makeups or late participation counted after due. Discussion period ends Tuesday nights (11:59 pm). I will check the Discussion Boards on a regular basis and will answer questions as needed. No makeups or late participation after due time are counted in grading. You are expected to participate in all 13 weeks' discussions, through which you earn three points for each week's participation.

Participation is a matter of not only quantity of posts, but also quality of posts. Please read statements in the next box carefully.

- 1) **Are substantive in content.** While it's nice to give brief feedback like "thanks," "good idea," and "I agree" to your classmates and such messages are not discouraged, they do not count toward your graded contributions. Responses should be substantive and should reference reading assignments, web references, lecture notes or outside resources. Your posts should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion. And you are also expected to back up your examples and opinions with sufficient evidence so that your reader will believe in what you say. If you have any questions about the course please be sure to ask!
- 2) **Are thoughtful and well composed.** Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation and vocabulary appropriate for a university-level course.
- 3) **Are responsive either to the initial question or to someone's reply.** Each week you should be engaged in dialogue with others, not just replying to the initial discussion question. Indeed, it can get mighty redundant in some instances if everyone replies to the initial prompt and no one replies to each other. Part of the nature of this class is for students to collaborate with one another in troubleshooting problems and to develop critical-thinking skills. Working through questions on the forum is an excellent way to develop proficiency in these areas.
- 4) **Extend the conversation in meaningful ways.** Don't just repeat what others have said, but make a new point, provide a new piece of evidence, or ask an insightful question. And questions are just as meaningful and valuable as posts that offer up one's knowledge!
- 5) **Show mutual respect.** It should go without saying, but I'll say it anyway, that while differences of opinion are fine, treating each other with respect is expected at all times. Misuse of the discussion boards will not be tolerated.

Quizzes

There are **7 quizzes** as scheduled in the class schedule box. Each quiz is open in the Blackboard **from Wednesday to Friday (11:59 pm)** in the scheduled week. Quiz is **open book test** and you have **four hours** to complete the quiz. Each quiz covers **class readings from the latest quiz to the present week's class**. Quiz asks multiple choice or true/false questions. Each quiz is constructed to help you on the right track of detailed materials that you learn from this class.

Questions in quiz will be descriptive as well as analytic. Memorizing alone will not suffice for these quizzes; you will have to think about the material as well.

No makeups are allowed. Also, AUTOMATICALLY in blackboard system, late works over due (11:59 pm, Friday) are blocked.

Exercises

You are expected to write **TWO short assignments** (no more than two pages with 1 inch margin, 12 font-size, double-spaced, and Time New Roman font-style). You can choose **ONE of three topics** as I will provide one week before the due date. You are required to submit these assignments **ELECTRONICALLY** through the **SafeAssign** link on the Blackboard system **by 11:59 pm October 17th (Exercise 1) and December 5th (Exercise 2)**. Details regarding each exercise will be posted on Blackboard.

No makeups are allowed. Also, late works over due date will lose two points per each delayed submission day (up to three days).

GRADING AND FINAL GRADES

Grades in this course will be based on 13 participations via Discussion Boards, 7 Quizzes, and 2 exercises. Students are expected to read the materials assigned in conjunction with class lectures and demonstrate their comprehension of the material in writing.

• 12 Participations	36 points total (3 points each)
• 7 Quizzes	35 points total (5 points each)
• Exercise 1	15 points
• Exercise 2	15 points
Total	101 points

As shown above, total scores available for this course are 101 points. Final grade is very straightforward and will be calculated by how many points you earned in class activities (**NOT by average scores in blackboard**). Course grades will be calculated according to the following scale: A = 90 points or more; B = 89 to 80 points; C = 79 to 70 points; D = 69 to 60 points; F = 59 point and less. Once the second exercise has been administered, final grades will be posted on Blackboard and submitted to the University.

MAKEUPS POLICY

No Makeup in this course is allowed EXCEPT a student having received **PRIOR permission** from the instructor, and/or a written university approved excuse through the Dean of Student's Office verified documentation ONLY.

If you have an approved excuse, you must make up your missed assignment within three days of the original due date. After three days, penalties of late work are your responsibility. Note that students are responsible for making any necessary arrangements with the instructor to complete outstanding course requirements within the prescribed time frame.

EXTRA CREDIT

NO extra credit will be offered in this course.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

As this is online class, activities through computer and internet are critical. Any technical problem during assignment should be properly reported and solved first via SHSU Online Support Desk. Such problems may include but not be limited to; loss of work or interruption due to bad connection of wifi, power trouble, or any event.

Please remind, if you are in such trouble, contact first and immediately the SHSU Online Support Desk for assistance and record. You can reach them by using Technical Support icon at the top of left navigation menu, or the Need Help link under HELP & HOW TO. It is very important that the fact you are in technical trouble does not waive any of student's responsibility in assignment.

Please note that students are responsible for any kind of technical problem. So, you are highly recommended to keep the secured and stable environments for taking class assignments.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[Dean of Student's Office](#)

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Students with Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center . They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center . For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

Except the changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates (Wed-Tue)	Topic	Activities/ Assignments All Due Dates @ 11:59 PM CST
Introducti on	Aug 23 – Aug 29	Introduction to the Course	Introduce Yourself on Discussion Board by Tue, 8/29 (Not counted as grade but required for the first-day- attendance check) No other assignment
Week 1	Aug 30 - Sep 5	Public Policy and Politics Ch. 1	Discussion 1: Initial Post by Sunday, 9/3 Replies by Tuesday, 9/5
Week 2	Sep 6 – Sep 12	Policy Actors Ch. 2	Discussion 2: Initial Post by Sunday, 9/10 Replies by Tuesday, 9/12 Quiz 1: by Friday, 9/8
Week 3	Sep 13 - Sep 19	Policymaking Ch. 3	Discussion 3: Initial Post by Sunday, 9/17 Replies by Tuesday, 9/19 Quiz 2: by Friday, 9/15
Week 4	Sep 20 - Sep 26	Policy Analysis Ch. 4	Discussion 4: Initial Post by Sunday, 9/24 Replies by Tuesday, 9/26 Quiz 3: by Friday, 9/22
Week 5	Sep 27 – Oct 3	Policy Issues Ch. 5	Discussion 5: Initial Post by Sunday, 10/1 Replies by Tuesday, 10/3 Exercise Topics will be posted
Week 6	Oct 4 - Oct 10	Policy Alternatives Ch. 5 & 6	Discussion 6: Initial Post by Sunday, 10/8

			Replies by Tuesday, 10/10 Quiz 4: by Friday, 10/6
Week 7	Oct 11 - Oct 17	Politics in Economic Policy Ch. 1 & 7	Exercise 1: by Tuesday, 10/17 Discussion 7: Initial Post by Sunday, 10/15 Replies by Tuesday, 10/17
Week 8	Oct 18 - Oct 24	Actors in Economic Policy Ch. 2 & 7	Discussion 8: Initial Post by Sunday, 10/22 Replies by Tuesday, 10/24 Quiz 5: by Friday, 10/20
Week 9	Oct 25 - Oct 31	Policymaking in Economic Policy Ch. 3 & 7	Discussion 9: Initial Post by Sunday, 10/29 Replies by Tuesday, 10/31
Week 10	Nov 1 – Nov 7	Public Problems in Economic Policy Ch. 5 & 7	Discussion 10: Initial Post by Sunday, 11/5 Replies by Tuesday, 11/7 Quiz 6: by Friday, 11/3
Week 11	Nov 8 - Nov 14	Policy Alternatives in Economic Policy Ch. 5, 6, & 7	Discussion 11: Initial Post by Sunday, 11/12 Replies by Tuesday, 11/14
Week 12	Nov 15 - Nov 21	Collaboration in Economic Policy Handout articles	Discussion 12: Initial Post by Sunday, 11/19 Replies by Tuesday, 11/21 Quiz 7: by Friday, 11/17 Exercise Topics will be posted
Week 13	Nov 22 - Nov 28	Thanksgiving Break	No Class & No Assignment

Week 14	Nov 29 - Dec 5	Politics, Analysis, and Policy Choice in Econ Policy Ch. 13	Exercise 2: by Tuesday, 12/5
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