

PUP 3002: Current Controversies in Public Policy

University of Florida

Fall Semester 2020

Instructor: Cristian Pérez Muñoz

Office: Anderson 206

Office Hours: Tuesdays (10 am–1 pm) (by appointment)

E-mail: cperezmunoz@ufl.edu

Class Hours: MWF (10:40 – 11:30 AM)

Phone number: (352) 273-2369

Course Description

This course examines current controversies and normative problems that arise during the design and implementation of public policies. The course is structured around two units. In the first unit, we will study the process of policymaking and policy implementation. In the second unit, we will identify and evaluate controversies that surround public policies. We will consider issues such as voting rights, campaign finance, homelessness, climate change, immigration, tobacco use regulation, drinking and driving, labor strikes, and conditional and unconditional income transfer programs.

Course Objectives:

- Be familiar with the different phases of public policy-making
- Learn to identify and analyze controversies in the field of public policy
- Apply analytical tools to address controversial issues and make informed choices about policy alternatives.

Course Requirements

This course will have six instances of evaluation. Students will be evaluated based on their participation in class, five In-class quizzes, three short (one page) essays, and a policy brief (10 pages). The characteristics of each instance of evaluation are explained below.

1. **Participation:** Students are expected to come to class with the readings completed and prepared for discussion. Absence will adversely affect your participation grade. Participation will represent 20% of the final grade.
2. **In-Class Quizzes:** Quiz items may be multiple choice or true/false, to answer in the first 10 minutes of five class sessions. Each in class-quiz will be graded as pass/fail. To obtain a pass score, it is necessary to correctly answer at least 60% of the quiz. In-Class Quizzes will represent 10 % of the final grade.
3. **Short essays:** Each student must write two brief essays (one page, single-spaced, Times New Roman) on a public policy issue. The public policy problem selected must be found on the news (national or international). The deadlines for submission of short essays are: **first (Monday, 10/12)** and **second (Monday 10/26) and (Monday 11/16)**. Note: short essays cannot be submitted beyond these deadlines. They will represent 30 % of the final grade (10 % each)
4. **Policy Brief:** The policy brief may be written individually or collaboratively in groups of no more than three students. This document will have an extension of five pages (simple space, times new Roman 12 or equivalent). Students should identify a controversial policy and write a policy report aimed to convince a hypothetical policymaker about a particular course of action. Further details of how to write this assignment will be given to you in class and on the course website. This item will represent the 40 % of the final grade. **Policy Brief is due on Monday 12/14**

Grade Distribution:

Class participation	20%
In-Class Quizzes	10%
Short Essays	30%
Policy Brief	40%

Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 94	A	74 - 76	C
90 - 93	A-	70 - 73	C-
87- 89	B+	67 - 69	D+
84 - 86	B	64 - 66	D
80 - 83	B-	60 - 63	D-
77 - 79	C+	<61	F

Important Dates:

Short Essays: First (Monday, 10/12),
Second (Monday 10/26), Third (11/16)
Policy Brief: Monday 12/14

Course Policies¹**During Class**

These are challenging times for the whole world. We are a diverse group of people, and every one of us has a different relationship with the pandemic and its consequences. It is crucial to treat your instructor and classmates with respect and kindness during class meetings and activities. For more information on netiquette guidelines, see the [UF Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#).

Attendance Policy*

Attendance at all lectures is mandatory and will be recorded. A penalty of one point will be subtracted from the final grade for each unexcused absence. Late work is not accepted. Exceptions include documented illness, legal, or civic/university duty situations. If you miss an assignment and have a valid excuse, please email me within the same week to evaluate the situation and eventually arrange a makeup. "The requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies". [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#)"

Privacy

Unauthorized audio or video recordings of the class are not allowed.

¹The items with an asterisk(*) are textually copied from [UF Policy on Course Syllabi](#).

Grading Policy*

This course is consistent with current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. For detailed information, visit this [link](#).

Academic Integrity and Honesty*

“UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.”

Accommodations for Disabilities*

“Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.”

Online Course Evaluation*

“Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.”

Technical Support*

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Health and Wellness*

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care](#) website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent. Please note that the schedule of activities and procedures in this course are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Any change in the syllabus will be communicated to all students in the class. Changes will be posted on Canvas and announced in class.

Course Outline

Readings: All the required and recommended readings are available in [Canvas](#). The only exception are the two books that will be used during the first section of the class. The two books assigned below are available via [e-reserve](#):

- Birkland, Thomas. 2019. *An introduction to the policy process: Theories, concepts, and models of public policy making*, Routledge. **(Required)**
- Cohen, Andrew. 2015. *Philosophy, ethics, and public policy: An introduction*. Routledge. **(Required)**
- Smith, Kevin and Christopher W. Larimer. 2016. *The Public Policy Theory Primer*. Westview press. **(Recommended)**

Week	Content/Reading assignments
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Public Policy (I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Monday, 08/31–Friday, 09/04).</u> - “Introducing the Policy Process” (Birkland Chapter 1) - “Elements of the Policy-Making System” (Birkland Chapter 2)
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Public Policy (II) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holiday. No Class (Monday, 09/07). - <u>(Wednesday, 09/09– Friday, 09/11)</u> - “Agenda Setting, Power, and Interest Groups” (Birkland Chapter 6) - “Policies and Policy Types” (Birkland Chapter 7)
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Public Policy (II) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Monday 09/14– Friday, 09/18)</u> - “Policy Design, Policy Tools, and Decisions” (Birkland Chapter 8). - “Policy Implementation, Failure, and Learning” (Birkland Chapter 9)
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normative implications of Public Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Monday 09/21–Friday 09/25)</u> - ‘Introduction’, ‘Conclusion’ (Cohen chapters 1 and 11,)

Week	Content/Reading assignments
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Monday 09/28– Friday 10/02) – Chapman, Emilee Booth. 2019. “The distinctive value of elections and the case for compulsory voting.” <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 63 (1): 101–112. – Brennan, Jason. 2011 “The right to a competent electorate’, <i>The Philosophical Quarterly</i>, 61 (245):700-724
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money and Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Monday 10/5–Friday 10/9) – Pevnick, Ryan. 2016. “The Anatomy of Debate about Campaign Finance”, <i>Journal of Politics</i> , 78 (4) – Christiano, Thomas. 2012. “Money in Politics”. In David Estlund, ed <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy</i>. Oxford University Press.
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <u>Monday, 10/12–Friday 10/16</u> – Wellman, Christopher Heath. 2008. “Immigration and freedom of association”, <i>Ethics</i> 119 (1): 109–141 – Fine, Sarah. 2010. “Freedom of association is not the answer.” <i>Ethics</i> 120 (2): 338–356. – First Short Essay due: Monday, 10/12
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of Tobacco use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Monday 10/19– Friday 10/23) – Grill, Kalle and Kristin Voigt. 2016. “The case for banning cigarettes”. <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i>, 42 (5):293–301. – Van Der Eijk, Yvette. 2016 “Ethics of tobacco harm reduction from a liberal perspective”. <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i> 42(5):273-7. (Wednesday 10/21) – Flanigan, Jessica. 2016. “Double standards and arguments for tobacco regulation”. <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i>, 42 (5): 305-311 (Wednesday 10/21)

Week	Content/Reading assignments
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Monday 10/26–Friday 10/30) – Waldron, Jeremy. 1991. “Homelessness and the Issue of Freedom”, <i>UCLA Law Review</i> 39 – Van Leeuwen, Bart and Michael S. Merry. 2019. “Should the Homeless Be Forcibly Helped?” <i>Public Health Ethics</i> – Second short essay due: Monday 10/26
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Obligations and Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Monday 11/02–Friday 11/06) – Sinnott-Armstrong Walter. 2005. “It’s not my fault: global warming and individual moral obligations”. In: Sinnott- Armstrong W, Howarth RB, eds. <i>Perspectives on Climate Change</i>. Oxford: Elsevier; 2005, 285–307. – Cripps, Elizabeth. 2011. “Climate change, collective harm and legitimate coercion”, <i>Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy</i>, 14(2): 171–193
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking Alcohol and Driving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Monday 11/09–Friday 11/13) – Husak, Douglas N. 1994. “Is drunk driving a serious offense?” <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> (1994): 52-73. (Monday 11/9) – Holiday (Wednesday 11/11) – Grill, Kalle and Jessica Fahlquist. 2012. “Responsibility, paternalism and alcohol interlocks.” <i>Public Health Ethics</i> 5 (2): 116–127. (Friday 11/13)
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditional and Unconditional Income Transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Monday 11/16–Friday 11/20) – Van Parijs, Philippe. 2004. “Basic income: a simple and powerful idea for the twenty-first century.” <i>Politics and Society</i> 32 (1) (2004): 7–39. – White, Stuart. 1997. “Liberal equality, exploitation, and the case for an unconditional basic income.” <i>Political studies</i> 45 (2): 312–326. – Third Short Essay due: Monday, 11/16

Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Strikes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Monday 11/23)</u> - Gourevitch, Alex. "The Right to Strike: A Radical View." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 112.4 (2018): 905–917. (Monday 11/23) - Holiday (Wednesday 11/25) - Holiday (Friday 11/27)
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Strikes (Cont) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Monday 11/30–12/04)</u> - Medearis, John. 2020. "On the Strike and Democratic Protest," <i>NOMOS LXII</i>, (Monday 11/30) • Ordeals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rose, Julie L. 2020. "Rationing with time: time-cost ordeals' burdens and distributive effects." <i>Economics and Philosophy</i>: 1-14.
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordeals (Cont) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Monday 12/07–Wednesday 12/09)</u> - Hausman, Daniel M. "Ordeals, inequalities, moral hazard and non-monetary incentives in health care." <i>Economics and Philosophy</i>: 1-14. (Monday 12/7) - Summary: Wednesday 12/9 - (Friday 12/11: No class)