**Comparative Public Policy Analysis**Temple University  
Political Science 2255 Section 001  
MWF 10am-10:50am  
Anderson Hall 107

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Office Hours: TBA

**Purpose of the Course**

This seminar will focus on approaches to studying, explaining, and assessing public policy outcomes as well as their consequences in a comparative setting. Modern day public policy studies have become multidisciplinary in nature and encompass both the empirical and normative traditions of political science. We shall examine not only how but why political actors make the specific decisions they do. Additionally, we will spend some time focusing on the consequences of those decisions on the real world.

**Course Material**

The majority of the material for this course will be available on the blackboard site. Students are expected to have read the material for each class, and they should come prepared to discuss the material each day.

Required Text: Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems

Michael Howlett & M. Ramesh (at least the 2nd edition)

0-19-541794-1

**Evaluation**

Entrance Essay *Monday, January 23rd* 5%

Policy Analysis Project Pt 1 *Friday, February 10th* 10%

Policy Analysis Project Pt 2 *Monday, March 12th* 15%

Policy Analysis Project Pt 3 *Monday, April 9th* 5%

Policy Analysis Project Pt 4 *Wednesday, May 9th* 25%

Class Presentation *Friday, April 27th and Monday, April 30th* 5%

Participation 20%

Final Exam *Friday May 4th (8am-10am)* 15%

*Participation*

You are expected to participate in every class. I believe very strongly that students (and

professors) learn best when we learn from each other. Attendance alone does not count

towards any part of your grade. On this note, I expect that students treat each other in a courteous and respectful manner. Failure to act in a collegial spirit will result in a lowered participation grade. You can also earn participation points outside the classroom, if you wish. You can come to my office hours to discuss the readings or your thoughts on that week’s topic, send me an article that you found interesting and relevant to the course, or even suggest a film clip for the class to watch.

*Grading*

All graded work will be evaluated on a 25 point scale using the rubric attached to this syllabus. When each assignment is returned, you will be given the overall grade as well as the totals for each of the rubric’s categories. Be aware that a significant portion of your grade will depend on the technical writing of each assignment, 10 of 25 points. I strongly encourage students to take advantage of the University’s writing center early in the semester. When submitting your written work, it should be in a standard format – one inch margins, 11 or 12 pt. font, double spaced, etc. I expect a hard copy to be submitted to me in class the day it is due. In the case of the final part of the policy analysis project, you will submit the final paper via blackboard’s digital dropbox *as well as* either a word or pdf attachment to my email.

*Late Work Policy*

If extenuating circumstances arise, you may request an extension, but will need to supply some sort of proof of the major, significant, or highly unusual nature of the situation. Simply asking for an extension does not guarantee you will be granted one. If you do not submit a paper on time, the grade on the paper will drop by one letter grade every 24 hours until it is turned in.

*Entrance Essay*

This essay is meant to gauge your understanding of the role of government and public policy. Your essay should be at least 4 full pages and will address questions regarding your understanding, coming into the class, of policy creation, implementation, and success and the role of various actors in these processes. You need not do any research for this paper; in fact, it is probably better if you simply sit down, think for a bit, and then write without using any outside/external sources.

*Final Exam (15%)*

At the conclusion of the semester, during finals week, a cumulative exam will be given. The exam will be primarily short answer questions. On the final day of classes, I will provide a list of several questions and topics that will be covered in the final exam that you may use to aid in your studying. The final exam is closed note/book.

**Netiquette**

Part of your education involves learning to be professional; this manifests itself in several ways for the purposes of this class. You will not check your email or facebook (or any similar account) during class. Additionally, when communicating with your professors or your peers for the purposes of this class, you should use the professional standards you might use with an employer. This means avoiding “text speak” or unnecessary abbreviations. More specifically, it means including some kind of greeting to introduce your email (Dear Professor X, for instance) – my name is not “Hey” and you ought not to begin your email with such a greeting; “Hey Danielle” is completely acceptable. Additionally, your email should make it clear which class you are in and a clear statement of why you are sending the email. A closing statement and your name are also appropriate to end professional emails. Lastly, as with everything, you ought to proofread your email prior to clicking send.

*Policy Analysis Project*

During the course of the semester, each student will embark on an independent research project comparing one type of public policy in two countries. Students are free to choose any policy area that interests them so long as they focus on domestic policies not international or regional ones. As we progress in the semester, more specific instructions on the different stages will be provided. The project will be completed and evaluated in five stages:

Part 1 *due Friday, February 10th*

For the first part of the project, students are to submit a 4 page paper that is comprised of three parts: a brief exploration of the chosen policy and some preliminary research on each of the countries chosen to study. (10%)

Part 2 *due Monday, March 12th*

After exploring the various approaches to public policy analysis, students will be asked to use the information they have gathered about their chosen country to map their countries and case onto the different approaches we have covered. In a 4-5 page paper, students will be asked to write a brief explanation of how their cases fit or fail to fit into the different typologies used to analyze public policies; they will then be asked to identify and defend the approach(es) most useful to explaining the policies present in each of their cases). (15%)

Part 3 *due Monday, April 9th*

During the week of April 9th, students will meet with me individually to discuss the final part of their policy analysis project. At that meeting, students are expected to bring with them an outline for the final draft of the paper that will be submitted. (5%)

Part 4 *due Wednesday, May 9th* *by 5pm*

The final part of the policy analysis project will be a compilation of the work done so far in the course and an evaluation of the success of the policy. The paper should be broken down into the following parts: a discussion of the public policy type in question, a brief comparison of the country cases, an explanation of the specific policies implemented in each country, an explanation of the process of policy creation, and an evaluation of the implementation and success (or lack thereof) of the policies. (30%)

Presentation *Friday, April 27th and Monday, April 30th*

The last two class periods of the semester, students will give a brief (5-8 minute) presentation of their policy choice, the similarities or differences present in their countries, and the consequences of those policies. (5%)

Limits to country choices:

You may choose the US as one of your countries, but if you do so, you cannot then choose Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or a country that is in the EU. Additionally, you may choose two countries in Europe, but only one of those countries from either the inner six (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) or outer seven (Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK).

**University Policies**

*Plagiarism & Cheating*

Academic dishonesty, i.e. plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Please remember that all work must conform to Temple University’s policy on academic honesty found in the Temple University Bulletin. All work that you submit must be the result of your own efforts. Any student that is found to be copying another student’s work, plagiarizing or any other violation of academic honesty will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment or exam. Under some circumstances, a course grade of 0 may be given and the matter may be referred to the University Dean. Do not cheat.

*Policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities*

As an academic institution, Temple University exists for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well‐being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community. The University and the faculty have a responsibility to provide students with opportunities and protections that promote the learning process in all its aspects. Students similarly should exercise their freedom with responsibility. For more information on your Academic Rights, please see Temple’s full statement available from Temple’s homepage.

*Disability Disclosure*

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Additionally, students should contact Disability Resources and Services at 215‐204‐1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.