

PSC 370 American Public Policy

Summer Interim 2021

Contact information

Instructor: Dana Patton, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: No live office hours for online courses. Email me to request help via email or to arrange a Zoom meeting.

Description of Course

This course provides a broad overview of public policy in the United States. In addition to learning about the policy process and policy analysis, we will examine the historical context and contemporary status of several policy issues.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to

- Understand public policy and how governments make policy decisions
- Examine implications of policy choices
- Develop critical thinking skills to consider alternative courses of action
- Understand the historical and contemporary nature of multiple policy areas

Required Texts

Kraft, Michael E. and Scott R. Furlong. 2021. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives, 7th edition.

How to Purchase and Access the Textbook

This course utilizes the Access Granted program through UA. This means you have access to your textbook as soon as the Blackboard course is open. You will be charged for the textbook after the add/drop period if you do not “opt out”. You are welcome to purchase the textbook from a different source, but this is the cheapest option available. No deadlines will be extended due to you not having the textbook.

In Blackboard, click on the tab “Textbook” to gain access to the book.

How to Contact Me

- Email me at dana.patton@ua.edu. I do not check the Mail function in Bb. If you email me there, I will not receive your email.
- Email correspondence should have a professional tone.

Course Requirements

Blackboard

- This course is 100% online. You must know how to use Blackboard to succeed in this course. Specifically, you will take quizzes, submit assignments, and utilize the Discussion Board functions.

Quizzes

- You will take a quiz on each chapter. You will have two opportunities to complete each quiz. I will count your highest quiz score toward your final grade. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. You may use your book and notes. You will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz. I strongly suggest you take the quiz the first time on the same day the assignment for the chapter is due. The quizzes are, however, available until the last day of classes.

Assignments

- You will complete an assignment for each chapter. Assignments will consist of Discussion Board participation requiring an original post and a response to a classmate, short papers, and data-based assignments that require data collection and critical thinking.

Turnitin Receipts

- When you submit an assignment via Turnitin, you will see a page in Bb that confirms your submission was processed AND you will receive an email verifying the name of the assignment you submitted and the date and time. I strongly encourage you to create a folder in your email and move all your Turnitin receipts to that folder. If you receive a zero on an assignment and you tell me you are positive you submitted the assignment, I will ask you to send me the Turnitin receipt. That is your proof you submitted the assignment. If you cannot produce that receipt, you will not be able to re-submit the assignment.

Policy on Late Submission of Work

- Quizzes: All quizzes are open until the last day of class at 11:59pm. Hence, there are no make-ups for quizzes.
- Assignments: This is a very compressed course and it's important to submit all assignments on time in order to maximize your understanding of the material. The penalty for late submission of assignments is a one letter grade deduction for each 8 hours late. For example, if submitted between midnight and 8am, the maximum grade you may receive is 89. Twenty-four hours is the maximum time you are permitted to upload a late paper/assignment. After that time, the grade is recorded as a zero.
- The only circumstance under which you may submit an Assignment late and not receive a letter grade penalty is one in which you contact me prior to the due date/time and I respond to you prior to the due date/time granting the no-penalty extension. In other words, emailing me the night it is due for an extension is not likely to result in an extension, since I may not check email at night and respond. Requests for extensions will only be granted for serious circumstances, as judged by the instructor, that would prohibit you from completing an assignment on time. Please note that excuses such as you were traveling and didn't have internet access is not considered a serious circumstance warranting an extension. Work ahead if you know you are going to be traveling or somewhere with poor internet access.
- All students have access to UA Box for free. I strongly suggest you save all your written work there or in some other cloud service to insulate you from the possibility of losing your work if something happens to your computer. Since there is a free service provided to UA students with unlimited space, I do not accept the excuse of laptop crashes, stolen laptops, or other computer failures as an excuse for not submitting work.

What to do if “Bb isn’t working!”

- If you complete a paper or assignment and you are unable to get Bb to accept your assignment, or if you cannot log into Bb for some reason, or any other scenario you can imagine where you would not be able to submit your paper... What should you do??
- **DO** email me and tell me the problem you are having **AND** attach the assignment to that email. If you email me to tell me you’re having a problem submitting your assignment due to a Bb issue, but fail to attach it, the late submission penalty (as outlined above) will stand.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

- All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student. [The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy](#) will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.
- If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me immediately. I check all work for plagiarism and will report any suspected plagiarism to the Dean’s Office.

Disability Statement

- If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please email me your paperwork immediately. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 348-4285 or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Severe Weather Protocol

- In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or

corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

- UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life-saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students ([sign up at myBama](#))
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA 7. WVUA 7 Storm Watch provides a free service you can subscribe to that allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail, pager or cell phone. Check <http://www.wvua7.com/stormwatch.html> for details.

Grading Summary

- Quizzes 10%
- Discussions/Responses 20%
- Paper and Data Assignments 70%

Final Grade Calculation

A+	98-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	≤59
A	93-97	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Additional links and information:

Technical Support

To obtain assistance with technical issues (removing pop-up blockers, opening pages or quizzes, etc.) or if you are unable to see the course content or have other questions regarding the course itself, please visit the [College of Continuing Studies Online Course Technical Support Site](#) to submit a request, or call 205-348-9157 (Toll Free: 1-866-205-1011) during their [regular business hours](#).

System Requirements

This online course requires a modern Mac or PC computer and high-speed internet connection. Your computer must also have a [compatible browser](#), PDF viewer, speakers or headphones, microphone, and productivity software such as Office.

Minimum Student Technical Skills

Taking an online course requires a general computer literacy. Students are expected to be able to use Crimson email, Blackboard, web browsers, and general word processing programs prior to enrolling in an online course. Student needing assistance using Blackboard are encouraged to visit the [UA Blackboard support site](#).

Turnitin

The University of Alabama is committed to helping students uphold the ethical standards of academic integrity in all areas of study. Students agree that their enrollment in this course allows the instructor the right to use electronic devices to help prevent plagiarism. All course materials are subject to submission to TurnItIn.com for the purpose of detecting textual similarities. Assignments submitted to TurnItIn.com will be included as source documents in TurnItIn.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. TurnItIn.com will be used as a source document to help students avoid plagiarism in written documents.

The Capstone Creed

The Capstone Creed was created by the Student Leaders Council. In the spring of 2000, a discussion of campus culture among student leaders led to an effort to identify the core values that sustain us as members of the University community. The Student Leaders Council recognized that the Capstone experience is not limited to our formal affiliation with the University during enrollment and that the University community does not end at the geographic boundaries of campus. As members of the Capstone community, there is a common thread that unites us all, and the Student Leaders Council has endeavored to make those core values manifest through the implementation of a campus-wide creed with which all Capstone stakeholders can identify.

The Capstone Creed reads: *As a member of The University of Alabama community, I will pursue knowledge; act with fairness, integrity and respect; promote equity and inclusion; foster individual and civic responsibility; and strive for excellence in all I do.*

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the [Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest [Severe Weather Guidelines](#) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the [UAct website](#).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at [Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines](#).

UAct Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.