STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course: MAPP501  Title: Foundations of Governance and Policy
Length of Course: 8
Prerequisites: N/A  Credit Hours: 3

Description

Course Description: In an increasingly complex geopolitical environment, concepts of “governance,” “polity,” and “policy” need exploration, definition, and clarity. This course lays the multi-disciplinary groundwork for this program, introducing the roots of the field and the expectations of the program. Students will explore the process of policy making, the conditions which influence administrative decisions, and the theoretical underpinnings of the discipline.

Course Scope:

This course introduces students to the foundational ideas and theoretical arguments that underpin contemporary public policy and principles of governance. We first embark on a journey into the historical roots of several fundamental democratic principles. Exploring key ideas in classic texts, including Plato, Rousseau, Locke and others, we trace how their arguments ground the principles behind the American Constitution as well as our own critical techniques as policy analysts. We pay particular attention to the concept and practice of the separation of powers designed to provide consistent checks on the use and abuse of governmental power. We then move to a careful examination of more contemporary theories informing the discipline of public policy, through which you will deepen and refine your grasp of the policy process and how it manages the often competing questions and interests involved in policy making. We conclude by learning how to apply the principles we have explored to analyze contemporary policies and models of governance.

Objectives

1. Examine the roots of democratic principles as they apply to public policy.
2. Evaluate the policy process from design to implementation and evaluation.
3. Formulate a discipline specific lexicon through which you can describe complex social problems.
4. Examine the multi-disciplinary theoretical basis underlying the discipline of public policy.
5. Analyze models of governance in their application to contemporary policy problems.
6. Assess the conditions that influence administrative decisions.

Outline

Week 1: Early Political Philosophers

Learning Outcomes
Examine the roots of democratic principles as they apply to public policy.

Required Readings
See the Week One readings under Course Materials below.

Assignments
Forum 1.1 (Self Intro) and Forum 1.2

Assignment 1: Library Research Project

Week 2: Enlightenment Political Philosophy

Learning Outcomes
Examine the roots of democratic principles as they apply to public policy.

Required Readings
See the Week Two readings under Course Materials below.

Assignments
Forum 2

Week 3: Founding Documents

Learning Outcomes
Examine the roots of democratic principles as they apply to public policy.
Formulate a discipline specific lexicon through which you can describe complex social problems.

Required Readings
See the Week Three readings under Course Materials below.

Assignments
Forum 3

Week 4: Branches of Government

Learning Outcomes
Formulate a discipline specific lexicon through which you can describe complex social problems.
Analyze models of governance in their application to contemporary policy problems.

Required Readings
See the Week Four readings under Course Materials below.

Assignments
Forum 4
Assignment 2: Your local government

Week 5: Theories of Policy Making

Learning Outcomes
Formulate a discipline specific lexicon through which you can describe complex social problems.
Examine the multi-disciplinary theoretical basis underlying the discipline of public policy.

Required Readings
See the Week Five readings under Course Materials below.

Assignments
Forum 5

Week 6: Policy and Legislative Process

Learning Outcomes
Formulate a discipline specific lexicon through which you can describe complex social problems.
Assess the conditions that influence administrative decisions.
Evaluate the policy process from design to implementation and evaluation.

Required Readings
See the Week Six readings under Course Materials below.

Assignments
Forum 6
Assignment 3: Observation and Analysis of a Public Meeting

Week 7: Policy Analysis

Learning Outcomes
Formulate a discipline specific lexicon through which you can describe complex social problems.
Assess the conditions that influence administrative decisions.
Evaluate the policy process from design to implementation and evaluation.
Required Readings

See the Week Seven readings under Course Materials below.

Assignments

Forum 7

**Assignment 4: Policy Issue Brief**

**Week 8: Conclusion: Application to Contemporary Policy Problems**

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**Learning Outcomes**

- Analyze models of governance in their application to contemporary policy problems.
- Assess the conditions that influence administrative decisions.
- Evaluate the policy process from design to implementation and evaluation.

**Required Readings**

See the Week Eight readings under Course Materials below.

**Assignments**

Forum 8

**Assignment 5: Policy Issue Town Hall**

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**Evaluation**

**Self Introduction:** The first forum includes a self-introduction, which should include your name, where you are located (country, state, or city), what your current job title is, where you received your undergraduate degree and in what field, any information you care to share about your family and hobbies, and what you hope to get out of the course.

This introduction needs to be at least 250 words and posted during the first week of the class. Do not attach your posting to the forum, type it into the comments box. Failure to complete this forum by the end of the first week of class will result in you being dropped from the class.

**Forum Questions:** You will have eight forum questions, one per week, though the forum may have several parts. For our forum discussions, we will be exploring, analyzing and critically evaluating concepts raised in the readings, developed by our classmates or that come to light in current events. Students must provide a critical review of these issues and reply substantively to the contributions of at least two classmates. A few pointers for getting the most out of your forum discussions might help here: descriptions of ideas, policies or theoretical positions should appear in your post where necessary, but remember that postings should aim to be analytic in nature rather than purely narrative. Consider the concepts and arguments under discussion from different perspectives; analyze by deconstructing them into their component parts; isolate and discuss key concepts using the relevant philosophers’ views in this course to support your choices where appropriate; consider how different interpretations (or contexts) might make them problematic, or contestable, or inconsistent with cognate concepts and arguments and note these critical points in logical sequence in your post. Also, think about the kind of evidence (textual, statistical, logical, example, hypothetical) you can provide to support and bolster your position, including historical, and especially contemporary, examples to illustrate your case. Postings and replies should be free of any grammar errors and properly cited.
Initial Response (posted by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET): At least 500 words and must include scholarly references other than the textbook, preferably from scholarly journals that can be found in the APUS online library under EBSCO or JSTOR. If you reference a government agency please give their website.

Subsequent Replies (at least two, but three for full credit, posted by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET): at least 250 words each.

Assignments

Library Research Project: It is important that you have a thorough understanding of the vast resources our library offers in the area of Government and Public Policy. Our librarian has developed a short presentation and assignment to assist you.

Your Local Government: As we examine the forms and models of government, you will see that they vary considerably between states and between localities and regions within a state. After reviewing the lesson and reading material, please choose a level of your local government to evaluate. It can be anything below the state level, i.e. county, municipality, township, village, etc. You are to write a paper between 3-5 pages, explaining what level you have chosen to analyze and where it is located. You should then describe the form of government in place. Is it a city-manager model? Is there a Council? What powers do they hold? Is there a strong mayor model? How do the different components of the government interact? Finally, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of this form compared to others.

Observation of Government Meeting: For this assignment you are required to attend a local government meeting or observe a virtual recording of a public meeting. This assignment can be completed any time prior to the due date. The meeting must be open to the public and part of the planning process but can be at any level of government. You are to attend the meeting then write a summary that might be publishable on the local government website. The assignment should be approximately 3-5 pages long. It should include information such as who sponsored the meeting, what was proposed, what the reaction by those in attendance was, results of a vote, and proposed future action. The largest part of the write up should be your analysis of the main issue addressed. Think along the following lines as you compile your summary: brief overview of the issue (situate in its local context and identify its importance in that context), relate how (and if) the meeting articulates what is at stake in the issue, and for which interested parties, report at what stage of the policy making process the issue is currently at along with any relevant antecedents, outline the roles of the various participants, determine who has the most influence on this issue, etc. Here is an example of a real summary dealing with “Downtown Financing Options.” While it is a little succinct and does not contain all of the elements outlined above, it does an excellent job of situating the issue, noting what is at stake, and organizing a wealth of information into a clear, persuasive report. You should find it useful.

Policy Issue Brief: Your goal for this assignment is to write a clear, concise brief that will persuade the decision maker on the issue to see the issue your way and then to take concrete action on the topic. You may approach it as a legislative staffer, a policy analyst or an advocate for a public interest group. Bear in mind that the decision maker has only a limited time to make a decision, so your brief should be no more than 5 pages long. Around 1,500 words is optimal. Your analysis should include a summary of the problem you are addressing, your assessment of the policy responses you propose, the theoretical basis for your position, any questions that remain unanswered, and finally, the action you recommend. Remember to consider the impact not only on the decision maker, but other stakeholders as well. You can browse six example environmental policy briefs here. There is a rather longer and more involved example here. While its reach goes well beyond policy making in the United States, the International Center for Policy Advocacy has a wealth of excellent resources to help you compose your brief, including worksheet templates to help you break down the components easily. The OECD and UN websites also provide templates.

Policy Town Hall: Now that you have your policy brief complete, present your findings to the class by uploading an animated/narrated PowerPoint briefing into the classroom Adobe Connect. This should just be a short, 5 – 7 minute presentation that you would present at a Town Hall meeting advocating the policy you proposed in the Policy Issue Brief assignment. This is to be uploaded in the final forum for week 8 by Thursday of the last week of class to invite “public” comment from your classmates! It should also be uploaded in the assignment tab for a grade.
### Grading:

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<td>Policy Town Hall - Week Eight</td>
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### Materials

**Book Title:** There are no required books for this course.

**Author:** N/A

**Publication Info:** N/A

**ISBN:** N/A

Since this is a foundation course that draws from a broad spectrum of seminal ideas, thinkers and theories, there is no single required text for the course. Instead, a series of required readings for each week have been carefully selected and placed in the APUS library under the eReserves. Supplementary readings and viewings are given in the lessons for each week for students to dip into (or watch over breakfast) during the course duration as and when they require basic background, more detail, or different perspectives on selected topics. There are links that will allow access to these materials, they are not in the eReserves. It is recommended that students select at least one supplementary source for weekly reading/viewing to inform their forum discussions further and make full use of the supplementary resources for their course assignments.

The required reading articles for each week in the eReserves or online are listed below, followed by supplementary reading/viewing:

Readings MAPP501

**Week One: Early Political Philosophers**

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Week Two: Enlightenment Political Philosophy**

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading/Viewing:**


**Week Three: Founding Documents**

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading/Viewing:**

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. (2013) “Originalism and History.”*University of Georgia School of Law.* (Lecture starts at 8:56.)  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3owPefBacVA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3owPefBacVA)


**Week Four: Branches of Government**

**Required Reading/Viewing:**

[http://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_barber_why_mayors_should_rule_the_world](http://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_barber_why_mayors_should_rule_the_world)


**Supplementary Reading/Viewing:**


Governing. (2016) “2016’s top legislative issues to watch.” (State level.)  


Week Five: Theories of Policy Making

Required Reading/Viewing:


Supplementary Reading/Viewing:


Week Six: Policy and Legislative Process

Required Reading:


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Week Seven: Policy Analysis**

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading/Viewing:**


“Policy Analysis: Key Questions.” [Link](https://www.cdc.gov/policy/analysis/process/docs/table1.pdf)


**Week Eight: Conclusion: Application to Contemporary Policy Problems**

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary Viewing:**


Shirky, Clay. (2012) “How the Internet will (one day) transform government.” [http://www.ted.com/talks/clay_shirky_how_the_internet_will_one_day_transform_government](http://www.ted.com/talks/clay_shirky_how_the_internet_will_one_day_transform_government)

Lessig, Lawrence. (2013) “We the people and the Republic we must reclaim.” [http://www.ted.com/talks/lawrence_lessig_we_the_people_and_the_republic_we_must_reclaim](http://www.ted.com/talks/lawrence_lessig_we_the_people_and_the_republic_we_must_reclaim)

**Supplementary Web Sites to Explore:**

The APUS library offers a fabulous resource, the Library Course Guide. Please explore all the tabs. The Articles Tab contains many of the Public Administration Journal links and the web resources are extensive. The eReserves contain links to the article readings in the syllabus.

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university’s academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

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<td>The Whitehouse</td>
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Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 20% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise
Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an ongoing discussion about the assigned content.
- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting viewpoints, we must respect each individual’s own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

University Policies

Student Handbook

- Drop/Withdrawal policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation
- Appeals
- Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation’s military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

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