



PLSC 4345 701
Public Policy
Fall 2020 Session 001
Delivery Method: Online

Instructor Information



Name: Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Taylor McMichael
Email: mcmichael_t@utpb.edu
Phone: 432-552-2340
Office Location: MB 3236
Office Hours: MW 9:00-11:30 via MS Teams

Course Information

Class Location: Online

COVID-19 Policies

As of writing (July 2020), COVID-19 has taken the lives of 516,000 people which does not include the likely millions of deaths not reported by the People's Republic of China under the control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). In Texas alone, the number stands at 2,520, and, as a result, the lives of all Americans have been greatly affected including the incredible economic impact of the pandemic.

As a result, this course will grant considerably leniency to all students who believe they are sick, are currently awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, or recently tested positive for COVID-19. If you have been affected by the pandemic in this manner, please let me know as soon as possible and I'll grant whatever extensions are needed so that you can get healthy first and second complete the course to the very best of your ability. The university also possesses considerable resources to help students affected by the global pandemic and I can point you in the direction of those resources if needed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

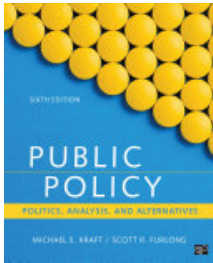
Course Description

An examination of the processes theories and institutions of public policy making in the U.S. Specific policies include: economic policy environmental policy education policy and crime policy.

This course is numbered as PLSC 4345: Public Policy. The catalog provides this description of the course: An examination of the processes, theories and institutions of public policy making in the U.S. Specific policies include: economic policy, environmental policy, energy policy, and foreign policy.

However, a more detailed description of the course is warranted. This course introduces students to the concept and theories regarding public policy making, policy analysis, and then multiple policy areas. In the policy analysis portion of the course, students will also gain a practical experience in developing policy analysis as they would in providing their analysis to a policy maker.

Required Materials



Title: Public Policy
ISBN: 9781506358178
Authors: Michael E. Kraft, Scott R. Furlong
Publisher: CQ Press
Publication Date: 2017-04-28

Graded Material

Course Activity	Points	Percentage of Total Grade
Exam 1	100	15
Exam 2	100	15
Exam 3	100	15
Policy Analysis Proposal	100	10
Policy Analysis Rough Draft	100	15
Policy Analysis Final Draft	100	20
Discussion 1	100	3.33
Discussion 2	100	3.33
Discussion 3	100	3.34

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the following assessments:

- 3 Objective examinations

- Each is worth 15% of the final course grade and collectively represent 45% of the final course grade.
- 1 Research Paper/Policy Analysis (completed in three separate parts combined to comprise 45% of the final course grade)
 - Research Paper/Policy Analysis Proposal (10%)
 - Rough Draft (15%)
 - Final Draft (20%)
- 3 Intensive Discussion Topics
 - Each is worth 3.33% of the final course grade and collectively represent 10% of the final course grade.
 - I will not actively participate in the actual discussion as it will bias the remainder of the responses, but I will provide feedback on the discussion when grading.

Grading Scale

89.5 and greater	A
79.5-89.4	B
69.5-79.4	C
59.5-69.4	D
59.4 or less	F

I reserve the right to curve final grades accordingly. However, they will never be curved downward.

Important Academic Dates

UTPB [Academic Calendar](#)

Student Learning Outcomes

- Examine the reasons for governmental involvement in public policy.
- Analyze the structure of the United States government and the implications for policymaking capacity
- Assess different types of public policy and how their characteristics affect their development and treatment in the policy process.
- Show how policy analysis is used in the policymaking process
- Explain how to describe, measure, and analyze public problems, and how to think about their causes and possible solutions.
- Distinguish between the different types of decision making and impact analyses
- Describe the role of federal economic policymaking and its challenges.

- Explain the nature of environmental and energy policies and the key concepts associated with them.
- Describe major issues in foreign policy and homeland security.

University Policies

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities. Only those students, who an Instructor has received an official Letter of Accommodation (LOA) sent by the Office of ADA for Students, will be provided ADA academic accommodations.

ADA Officer for Students: Mr. Paul Leverington

Address: Mesa Building 4242/4901 E. University, Odessa, Texas 79762

Voice Telephone: 432-552-4696

Email: ada@utpb.edu

For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within courses, go to [Accessibility and Privacy Statements](#).

Sexual Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy

You may report incidents of sexual misconduct to any University employee. They are obligated to report any incident to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator.

You may also contact:

The UTPB Police Department at 432-552-2786

The Title IX Coordinator at 432-552-2697 or TitleIXCoordinator@UTPB.edu.

The Dean of Students at 432-552-2600

Reports can also be made via the University Complaint Portal: [UTPB Complaint Management](#)

A **confidential reporting option is available**. Please contact UTPB's Counseling Center at 432-552-3365 or 432-552-2367 or stop by MB 1150.

Student Success at UTPB

UT Permian Basin offers numerous services to help you reach your academic goals. Available both in the Success Center on the 2nd Floor of the Mesa Building (<https://www.utpb.edu/academics/advising-and-support/student-success-center/index>), and online, UTPB Student Success offers the following services to all students:

- O.W .L. (Online Writing Lab) - Submit essays that need to be revised by one of our tutors to owl@utpb.edu.

- Tutoring – For both online and in person tutoring, please use EAB to create an appointment. (Utpb.campus.eab.com) Sign in using UTPB credentials.
- SI/PLTL Sessions - If available for your class, will be communicated to you by the mentor assigned to your class section and students can communicate to their SI or PL through Canvas.
- Peer Mentoring - Incoming freshmen can be paired with a peer mentor who will help you navigate your first year on campus.
- SSC Computer Lab - Come take advantage of the state-of-the-art computers available at the Student Success Center.

Please email success@utpb.edu for more information.

Course Modalities

Both the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) provide standard definitions for basic course types/modalities that have informed the following adopted course definitions.

Online Courses are those in which more than 85 percent of the planned instruction occurs online/virtually (asynchronously) when students and faculty are not in the same place. A fully online course is one in which mandatory in-person meetings occur no more than 15% of the planned instructional time.

Remote Courses are ones in which students, while not required to physically come to campus to attend in-person classes, are required to “attend” virtually/remotely (synchronously) during scheduled days and times, with students expected to log in and participate in the lecture via video conferences.

Hybrid Courses are courses in which the majority (more than 50% but less than 85%) of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are not in the same place. This form of instruction offers a mix of on-campus/in-person and remote/online/electronic learning.

HyFlex Courses are those which, like hybrid courses, offer a mix of on-campus/in-person and remote/online/electronic learning. These courses, however, do not require student authentication since at least 50% of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are in the same place.

Face-to-Face/In-Person Courses are those in which more than 85 percent of the planned instruction occurs when students are in the same place with an instructor(s).

Other University Policies

Office of the Registrar (Course Incomplete/Withdrawal/Grade Appeal)

- All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades for the course are rarely given, will only be granted if the student provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time, and has contacted the instructor prior to the scheduled last class to request an extension. The student signs a contract that includes incomplete course activities and the new due dates.
- Find information and dates regarding drops and withdrawals at
- <http://www.utpb.edu/services/academic-affairs/office-of-the-registrar/adds-drops>
- For grade appeal process go to

- <https://www.utpb.edu/life-at-utpb/student-services/dean-of-students/student-grievances>

End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

- Every student is encouraged to complete an end of course evaluation survey provided by UTPB. During the last two weeks of class, there will be an announcement in Canvas, an email, and a button in your course navigation that will take you to any available surveys.
- The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

Copyright Statement

Many of the materials that are posted within UTPB courses are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for the purpose of the course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.

Distance Education Policy

Distance Education Courses and Student Identity Authentication Requirements and Policy

SACSCOC defines a distance education course as one in which more than 50 percent of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are not in the same physical place. Distance education courses, therefore, include online, remote, and hybrid courses as defined above. Per SACSCOC and University policy, all distance education courses are required to follow our Distance Education Student Authentication Policy procedures (please see below), and these requirements and policies must be stated in the course syllabus. Further, any projected additional student charges associated with verification of student identity must be indicated on the courses schedule and course syllabus.

The Distance Education Student Authentication Policy does not apply to Hyflex Courses--those in which at least 50% of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are in the same place--and Face-to-Face/In-Person Courses--those in which more than 85 percent of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are in the same place. Student authentication and identity verification in these courses may be accomplished by in-person attendance monitoring as well as through in-class instructor proctored examinations and other assessments. These same "in-class" authentication procedures also may be employed in hybrid courses, but in the case of these defined distance education courses, they must be documented on the course syllabus as described below.

Distance Education Student Authentication Policy and Syllabus Requirements

UT Permian Basin's Distance Education Student Authentication Policy requires the University to employ processes (documented in each distance education syllabus) to verify that each student who registers for a distance education course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course.

The policy requires faculty members teaching distance education courses to employ at least two methods of verification to ensure student identities. The first method of verification is accomplished by the student logging into Canvas, our learning management system. To access all UTPB courses, students

must login to Canvas uniqueness personal identifying username and secure password. This is the primary method of student identity verification. The Distance Education Student Authentication Policy requires at least one additional student identification method within the distance learning course that has been determined and approved by the faculty or academic program. The second method of authentication must be explicitly stated in the syllabus. The second method of student authentication maybe:

- Proctored exams using an approved photo ID*.
- Presentation of approved photo ID through a webcam and optional levels of proctoring during assessment.
- Field or clinical experiences using an approved photo ID.
- Synchronous or asynchronous video activities using an approved photo ID.
- In hybrid distance education courses, which have an in-person meeting component, the secondary method of student authentication may be accomplished (as is it may be done in hyflex and face-to-face-courses) by in-person attendance monitoring as well as through required in-class instructor proctored examinations and other assessments.
- Other Technologies or procedures, etc. (which must be detailed in the syllabus).

If faculty require secondary method of verification for which students are charged a fee (e.g. face-to-face proctoring at an off-campus site that charges a fee), this notification must be stated on the course schedule and in the course syllabus as well.

*Approved photo identifications include passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD; dual credit and early college high school students use school district identifications.

- Student Authentication
 - Additionally, students must satisfy a secondary authentication method as required by University of Texas of the Permian Basin policy:
 - The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) maintains policies and procedures to ensure that each student who registers for a distance or correspondence course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to authenticate student identity by employing at least two methods of verification. To access online courses students must login to the Canvas learning management system to establish their identity by using their unique personal identifying username login and a secure password. UTPB's Distance Education Policy allows faculty multiple options for satisfying the second method of validating student identity. This course satisfies the second method of student verification by requiring the following (non-graded but mandatory):

- A clear image of yourself

- In color
- Well lit, and no shadows on your face or your ID that can obscure your image
- Must be taken on the day you submit the photo to reflect your current appearance
- Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera
- With a neutral facial expression and both eyes open
- Then a picture of your ID (can be a UTPB ID or government issued ID) with only your name and picture showing (Picture ID card in which the ID number has been covered (tape over any numbers).

- Make sure to attach both image files in either JPEG or PNG format to the assignment BEFORE you submit it.

Technical Requirements and Emergency Preparation

Technical Requirements

- Technical Requirements as stipulated by Falcon Online: <https://www.utpb.edu/academics/online-learning/reach-center/technical-requirements>
- Students can use a cloud version of Word, PowerPoint, and other Microsoft products through the use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email addresses. For more information refer to Student Services below or visit:
 - <https://www.utpb.edu/university-offices/information-technology/office-365>

Preparation for Emergencies

- Computer Crash:
 - Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.
- Complete Loss of Contact:
 - If you lose contact with course connectivity completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call instructor and leave a message regarding connectivity loss and contact information.
- Lost/Corrupt/Missing Files:
 - You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external drive, UTPB Outlook 365 OneDrive, or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g. virus infection, student's own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc) or any contradictions/problems, you may be required to resubmit the files.

Course Policies

- Over the last few semesters, I have received an increasing amount of emails with information clearly stated in the syllabus. As a result, if you email me with any questions during the course readily found in the syllabus, you will receive an email reply of "Syllabus."
- Students may face circumstances that require communication with me. You may email me or call my office. That being said, I much prefer email. I answer all emails within 48 hours excepting weekends and holidays. I usually only answer my office phone during my office hours. Do not send multiple emails on the same day with the exact same message. I will answer your email within the time frame established in the syllabus.
- Per university requirements, I keep regular office hours during the semester. You can stop by or contact me through virtual office hours via MS Teams.
- I do not require many technical skills in the course. However, you must have a computer, a connection to the internet, Adobe Reader. Additionally, I will post video announcements, so you must be able to view Youtube videos.
- The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be reported and

investigated. A student who engages in scholastic dishonesty that includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will receive an "F" for the course. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. For complete information on UTPB student conduct and discipline procedures consult the [University's Handbook:Scholastic Dishonesty](#).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit.

Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will receive notification through secure communication either verbally or via email. The student may exercise the right to explain themselves or explain how the instructor made an error in judgment regarding the suspicion. If I agree with your reasoning, I will grade your assignment without penalty. If not, you will face one of the following sanctions at the instructor's discretion.

A written warning

A grade of 0 on the assignment

reduction of the final course grade by one letter

A grade of F for the course

- The deadlines in this course may be moved at the instructor's discretion. Additionally, I do not provide make-up exams without documentation. I may be flexible if you inform me before a exam date, but I am under no obligation to do so.
- Grades are maintained in the Canvas course shell. Students may track their progress by referring to Grades. If you have a question regarding any grades, feel free to email me.
- **There is no extra credit in this course for any reason.** If I offer extra credit to one student, I must offer it to all students. This means I could receive many additional items to grade that would frankly result in an unwanted headache. In this course, the work is what it is. Make sure you perform the best you can from the beginning as there are no second chances. Sending an email regarding extra credit will result in a "Syllabus" reply.
- I provide extensive feedback when I return work. Many students that have taken my upper-level classes before know this, but it bears repeating. I will usually write a couple of paragraphs about your work. To do this, I have to read very carefully, so be aware that I read pretty carefully. All written work will be returned one week from the due date.
- You can always check your current status in the course by clicking on the "Grades" button.
- Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. All students are expected to do the work assigned, notify the instructor when emergencies arise. The learning management system contains tracking features. Statistics are collected that quantify how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course.

University Services

Student Support Services

SERVICE	CONTACT
ADA	Services for Students with Disabilities
Accommodation/Support	(432) 552-4696
Testing Services	Testing Services & Academic Accommodations Department (432) 552-2630
Advising	(432) 552-2661 UTPB Academic Advising Center
Bookstore	UTPB Campus Bookstore (432) 552-0220
Email, Office 365, my.utpb.edu	Information Technology
Financial Aid and Scholarship	UTPB Financial Aid (432) 552-2620
Library	The J. Conrad Dunagan Library Online at (432) 552-2370
Registrar	UTPB Registrar (432) 552-2635
Student Services	Student Services (432) 552-2600
Technical Support	Canvas 1-866-437-0867
Tutoring & Learning Resources	If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: Smarthinking Online Tutoring (provides tutoring services), SmarterMeasure (measures learner readiness for online course).

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1: August 26-August 30th

- Lectures
 - Lecture 00: Syllabus
- Readings
 - Kraft, Michael, and Scott Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives, 6th edition. CQ Press. Chapter 1.

Week 2: August 31-September 6

- Lectures
 - Lecture 01: Public Policy and Politics
- Readings

- Kraft, Michael and Scott Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. CQ Press. Chapter 1.

Week 3: September 7-13

- Lectures
 - Lecture 02: Government Institutions and Policy Actors
- Readings
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. Chapter 2.
 - McCubbins, Mathew, D., and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms." American Journal of Political Science 28: 165-179.

Week 4: September 14-20

- Lectures
 - Lecture 02: Government Institutions and Policy Actions
- Readings
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. Chapter 2.

Week 5: September 21-27

- Lectures
- Lecture 03: Understanding Public Policymaking
- Readings
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. Chapter 3.
- Tasks
 - **Complete the Frameworks and Approaches to Public Policy** discussion and exam by Sunday, September 27.
- Complete the Secondary Authentication Requirement by Sunday, September 27.

Week 6: September 28-October 4

- Lectures
- Lecture 04: Policy Analysis
- Readings
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. Chapter 4.

- Tasks

- Complete the Policy Analysis by Sunday, October 4th

Week 7: October 5-11

- Lectures

- Lecture 04: Policy Analysis

- Readings
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. Chapter 4.

Week 8: October 12-18

- Lectures

- Lecture 05: Public Policy Problems and Alternatives

- Readings
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. Chapter 5.

Week 9: October 19-25

- Lectures
 - Lecture 06: Public Policy Problems and Alternatives
- Readings
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. Chapter 6.
- Tasks
 - **Complete the Policy Analysis discussion and exam by Sunday, October 25.**

Week 10: October 26-November 1

- Lecture
 - Lecture 07: Economic and Budgetary Policy
- Reading
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives 6th Edition. Chapter 7.

Week 11: November 2-8

- Lecture
 - Lecture 07: Economic and Budgetary Policy
- Reading
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives* 6th Edition. Chapter 7.
- Complete the *Policy Analysis Rough Draft* by Sunday, November 8.

Week 12: November 9-15

- Lecture
 - Lecture 08: Environmental and Energy Policy
- Reading
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives* 6th Edition. Chapter 11.

Week 13: November 16-22

- Lecture
 - Lecture 09: Foreign Policy
- Reading
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives* 6th Edition. Chapter 12.

Week 14: November 23-29

- Lecture
 - Lecture 09: Foreign Policy
- Reading
 - Kraft, Michael E., and Scott R. Furlong. 2018. *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives* 6th Edition. Chapter 12.
- Tasks
 - **Complete the Policy Areas discussion and exam by Sunday, November 29.**

Week 15: November 30-December 6

- Schedule a meeting if you'd like to workshop your paper.
- Tasks
 - Complete the *Policy Analysis Final Draft* by Sunday, December 6.