POS/PUB 350: Comparative Public Policy

Fall 2012
MWF 11:30-12:25pm
Lecture Center 0023 (LC 23)

Professor: Joel Olufowote
Office: 300G Milne Hall (Downtown Campus)
Office Hours: MW 3:00-4:00pm & By Appointment
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E-mail: jolufowote@gmail.com *note spelling*

1) Course Description: This course is concerned with the politics of public policymaking. We will explore why countries choose to enact the public policies they do, how policy priority and execution is determined, and why specific policies like welfare, education, healthcare, economic, among others, differ considerably from nation to nation. In addition, the role international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, have on public policy will be analyzed. These core questions will be tackled by examining public policy in a comparative context, focusing on a number of policy issues in both industrialized and developing countries. At the end of the course, you should have good knowledge on pertinent public policy issues in nations that differ from our own and also be able to speculate on why they contrast in the ways they do.

2) Course Objectives: This course provides us the opportunity to gain comprehensive understanding of policymaking through a global perspective. In doing so, we first pit focus on the conceptual parameters of the study of public policy, explore phases of the policymaking process, and gain insight on the theoretical underpinnings that influence its study. Being a course firmly fit in the intersection between global politics, comparative politics, and public policy, we will also spend some time on its “comparative” aspect in an effort to evaluate what benefits exist in comparing the process across nations as opposed to its study in a single setting. We will spend most of our time, however, learning about different public policies around the world paying particular attention on how, and why, they differ.

3) Course Requirements
   - **Class Preparation & Attendance:** Your success in this class depends heavily upon your attendance and participation. You are expected to come to class having read the material assigned for the day.
   - **Quizzes:** There will be seven (5 short answer) quizzes given throughout the semester. There are no make-up quizzes. Missed quizzes will be given a zero. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.
   - **Short Papers:** After each topic studied, you will provide me with a one - two page, double-spaced paper explaining a newspaper article, policy brief or blog and illustrate how it relates to class material on the issue covered in the class that week. In particular, I am looking for how what you have learned in class has helped you better understand what the journalist/blogger is describing. You must print out a copy of the source and staple it to your paper. Papers are due in class at the next meeting following the conclusion of our class discussion of the topic. No late papers will be accepted. The following sources are acceptable examples to use for your papers. You may use these or other similar newspapers or journals. They are:
Exams: There will be one exam, a midterm, held in class on Friday, October 19. The final for this class will be in the form of a 10-12 page policy brief which you will then present to your classmates as a poster presentation. Guidelines for the policy brief and poster presentation of your findings/recommendations are contained in the Appendix which follows the tentative course schedule.

Grading:
- Attendance: 10%
- Quiz #1: 5%
- Quiz #2: 5%
- Quiz #3: 5%
- Quiz #4: 5%
- Quiz #5: 5%
- Quiz #6: 5%
- Paper #1: 4%
- Paper #2: 4%
- Paper #3: 4%
- Paper #4: 4%
- Paper #5: 4%
- Midterm: 15%
- Policy Brief: 3%
- Policy Brief: 3%
- Policy Brief: 3%
- Final Policy Brief & Presentation: 15%
- Extra Credit: 1%
- Total: 100%

4) Course Policies
- Absences: Success in this course is contingent on attendance and participation; therefore, multiple absences will result in a reduction of your overall letter grade, while excess absences may result in failure of the course. You are permitted three absences (one full week of classes) through the semester. Any absence in excess of this allowance must be supported with a written excuse from a verifiable source or communicated to me well in advance. Failure to do so will result in a 2% decrease in your overall grade per absence. Please plan accordingly. More than six unexcused absences will result in an automatic failing grade.
- **Missed Assignments:** Late assignments will not be accepted. Papers are due, typed, at the beginning of the class period. Missed assignments will be counted as a 0 which will inevitably reduce your overall grade for the course.
- **Cheating & Academic Dishonesty:** Any student found to be in violation of the University’s policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty will receive an F in this course and be reported to the appropriate authorities. If in doubt, please consult the university handbook.

5) **Textbooks & Class Materials**
- There are two required textbooks for this course. All other relevant course material will be available through Blackboard, the Library Reserves, or handed out in electronic or print form. The textbooks for this course are:

6) **Important Dates and Deadlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday September 10</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday September 21</td>
<td>Hand in first short paper</td>
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<td>Monday September 24</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<td>Friday October 5</td>
<td>Hand in paper 2</td>
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<td>Monday October 8</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<td>Friday October 12</td>
<td>Hand in Paper 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday October 19</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Friday October 24</td>
<td>Policy Brief topic due</td>
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<td>Wednesday October 31</td>
<td>Hand in paper 4</td>
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<td>Monday November 5</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
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<td>Friday November 16</td>
<td>Policy issue and recommendation brief due</td>
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<td>Monday November 19</td>
<td>Quiz 5 and hand in paper 5</td>
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<td>Friday November 30</td>
<td>Policy implementation and expected outcome brief due</td>
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<td>Monday December 3</td>
<td>Quiz 6</td>
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<td>Monday December 3-10</td>
<td>Poster Presentations</td>
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<td>Friday December 14</td>
<td>Hand in final Policy Brief</td>
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7) **Course Schedule and Reading Assignments**

**Week 1: Comparative Public Policy: Why Compare?**

- **Monday, August 27:** Introductions: Concepts and Definitions

- **Wednesday, August 29:** Policy Issues and Processes

Friday, August 31: Comparative Politics and Public Policy/Why Compare?

**Week 2: Political Science Basics and Research Tips:**
**Monday, September 3: NO CLASS (Labor Day)**

**Wednesday, September 5: Theory, Hypotheses, and Variables**

Friday, September 7: Issues of Measurement: Validity and Reliability

**Week 3: Comparative Public Policy in Context**

(Q:1) **Monday, September 10: Public Policy in Industrial Nations Explained**

**Wednesday, September 12: Public Policy in Developing Countries Explained**

Friday, September 14: Global Public Policy Explained.
- No readings (In class assignment)

**Week 4: Issues in Public Policy: Trade Policy**

**Monday, September 17: NO CLASS (Rosh Hashanah)**

**Wednesday, September 19: The Domestic Politics of Trade Policy**

(P:1) **Friday, September 21: Trade and Economic Development**

**Week 5: Issues in Public Policy: Social Policy and the Welfare State**

(Q:2) **Monday, September 24: Social Policy and Outcomes**

**Wednesday, September 26: NO CLASS (Yom Kippur)**

Friday, September 28: The Welfare State
**Week 6: Issues in Public Policy: Health Policy**
Monday, October 1: The Rich Countries

Wednesday, October 3: Developing Countries

(P:2) Friday, October 5:
- No reading

**Week 7: Issues in Public Policy: Immigration Policy and Democratic Citizenship**
(Q:3) Monday, October 8: The U.S. Immigration Debate

Wednesday, October 10: Debate/Further Discussion
- No reading

(P:3) Friday, October 12: Democratic Citizenship

**Week 8: Review and Midterm**
Monday, October 15: In Class Review
Wednesday, October 17: In Class Review
Friday, October 19: Midterm

**Week 9: Economic Policy in Context: Privatization and Taxation in Africa**
Monday, October 22: Privatization Policy in Nigeria
- Kelechi A. Kalu, 'Agenda Setting and Public Policy in Africa: Contemporary Perspectives on Developing Societies,' 2004. Ashgate Publishing Company (Chapter 9)

Wednesday, October 24: The Oil Curse and Public Policy

(B:1) Friday, October 26: Environmental Policy in Cameroon

Monday, October 29

(P:4) Wednesday, October 31

**Friday, November 2: NO CLASS (Conference)**

**Week 11: Education Policy in Context: Reforming Higher Education in the UK and US**

(Q:4) Monday, November 5: Education Policy Overview

Wednesday, November 7: Education Policy in the United States
- Review [http://eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED524888.pdf](http://eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED524888.pdf) and be prepared to discuss in class.

Friday, November 9: Education Policy in the UK
- Review [http://eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED524888.pdf](http://eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED524888.pdf) and be prepared to discuss in class.

**Week 12: Education Policy in Context: The Power of Unionized Labor in Latin America and Africa**

Monday, November 12: No readings
Wednesday, November 14: No readings
(B:2) Friday, November 16: No readings

**Week 13: Education Policy in Context: The Power of Unionized Labor in Latin America and Africa**

continued...

(Q:5) (P:5) Monday, November 19: In Class Assignment
Wednesday, November 21: NO CLASS (Fall Break)
Friday, November 23: NO CLASS (Fall Break)

**Week 14: The Role of NGO's and IO's in Shaping Public Policy: A Global Perspective**

Monday, November 26: Non Governmental Organizations

Wednesday, November 28: The Multilateral Trade System

(B:3) Friday, November 30: Discussion of Briefs & Final Presentations

**Week 15: Final Presentations**

(Q:6) Monday, December 3
Wednesday, December 5
Friday, December 7

**Week 16: Final Presentations/Hand in Final Brief**

Monday, December 10
Wednesday, December 12
(FB) Friday, December 14