Course Description:
There are an estimated 56 million individuals with disabilities living in the United States. In fact, they are one of the largest minority populations in the country, yet, they are also one of the least recognized and researched groups when it comes to politics and policy. This course will serve as an introduction to disability politics for students. It will explore the political participation of people with disabilities, the history of the disability movement, and the role that 'politics' plays when policymakers are considering, creating, implementing, and evaluating disability related policies. Utilizing key disability related policies, guest speakers, and experiential learning, students will learn about both disability policy and the 'politics' of disability in the United States.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Describe the fundamental ideas, frameworks, and themes that impact disability policy and politics in the United States.
- Assess how politics influence disability policy discussions.
- Critique different theories surrounding disability politics and policy.
- Identify and compare the different contexts within which disability policy decisions are made and the actors that make and influence those decisions.
- Evaluate the national and state level implementation of key disability legislation.
- Discuss and formulate arguments about how and why disability politics and policy matter in the United States with others, using evidence from contemporary political issues to construct coherent arguments in writing and orally.
Course Text:
All course readings will be accessible through Blackboard or handed out in class (as necessary).

You will be expected to complete assigned readings that will be discussed and applied on the day listed on the syllabus. (I.e. if the reading is listed on October 5th you should be prepared to apply it in class on October 5th.)

Course Requirements:
The course is graded A-E. Formal requirements, in addition to full participation in class discussion on the basis of the assigned readings, are:

- Attendance & Participation: 250 pts
- Current Events Discussion: 150 pts
- Policy Memos: 200 pts (2 at 100 pts each)
- Paper Prep Assignments: 100 pts
- Final Paper and Presentation: 300 pts

Grade Breakdown: In this class your grade will be based out of 1000 total possible points. Each assignment and portion of the course is worth a set number of points and will be graded accordingly. At the end of the class your final grade will be based on your total number of points earned throughout the class.

Final Grade Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start of grade range</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>63</th>
<th>67</th>
<th>70</th>
<th>73</th>
<th>77</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Divide final points by 10)

Attendance & Participation:
This course has a great deal of in class discussion and work. Attendance is graded, but participation is also a crucial component of the course requirements and your overall grade. Since graded in-class discussions constitute a significant part of your grade, frequent absences will doubly affect your overall course grade.
If you are absent from the course for an extended period of time you will be expected to follow the University policy on excused absences. The following links outline information about the University policy:

http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicalexcuse.shtml
http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html

If you are unable to complete the course based on extensive absences or other extenuating circumstances you will be expected to follow the University policy on Incomplete grades. The following link outlines information about the University policy:

https://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/grading.php

Academic Dishonesty:
I take academic dishonesty extremely seriously. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Academic dishonesty includes a number of actions (plagiarism, cheating, multi-submissions, forgery, unauthorized collaboration, falsification, etc.) Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade on the first assignment in which a violation has occurred. If a student engages in a second violation they will receive a failing grade for the entire course. All cases of dishonesty, regardless of degree or number, will result in the filing of a Violation of Academic Integrity Report.

For more information on what academic dishonesty is, how to avoid it, and what the violation report entails, reference:

www.albany.edugraduatebulletinrequirements_degree.htm
www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html
http://library.albany.edu/infolit/integrity

Students with Disabilities or special requests:
Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of the Disability Resource Center (Campus Center 130, 518-442-5490, DRC@albany.edu). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations.

If you need any class accommodations due to a disability or other circumstances, please let me know at the beginning of the course or well in advance of any assignments requiring specific accommodation(s). In some cases an academic accommodation letter will be required from Disability Services, in others, the student and professor will work out the best alternative.

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Assignments:

Current Events Discussion:
Each student will be expected to complete a short write up (1pg), present, and lead a brief discussion on a ‘current’ event that relates to class readings for a pre-selected and scheduled week of class. The submitted written overview and action of leading a class discussion will be worth 150 pts. More detailed instructions for the assignment will be posted on blackboard in the “assignments” folder.

*No late submissions or presentations will be allowed. Any student who fails to submit the written overview and lead the class discussion on their scheduled date will receive a ‘0’ for the assignment.

Policy Memos:
All students are required to complete 2 policy memos for the course. Each memo will be worth 100 pts. More detailed instructions for the assignment can be found on blackboard in the “assignments” folder.

Policy Memo Due dates*:
  Memo #1:  10/2/18
  Memo #2:  11/6/18

*Memo’s turned in on time on the due date will be eligible for 100 of the possible points. Papers turned in after that but by the end of class, 2 days later (Memo 1: 10/4, Memo 2: 11/8) will be eligible for 75 of the possible points. No papers will be accepted beyond the 2-day late period. Anyone that has not turned a paper in by the late date will receive an E (0 points) for the assignment.

Paper Prep Assignments and Final Paper:

Students will be expected to write an 8-10 page research paper and present their research to classmates during the last week of class. The paper will be worth 250 pts and the presentation will be worth 50 pts, for a total of 300 pts. Additionally, students will be expected to complete and submit ‘prep’ work for the research paper, throughout the semester (research question and hypothesis, annotated bibliography, and an outline) which will be worth 100 pts. The ‘prep’ assignments will allow students to obtain feedback throughout the semester in order to strengthen their final paper.
More details about the paper and prep assignments can be found in the ‘paper’ folder on blackboard.
**Paper Prep and Final Paper Due dates***:

- RQ and Thesis: 9/20/18
- Bibliography: 10/18/18
- Paper Outline: 11/20/18
- Final Paper: 12/04/18
- Class Presentation: 12/04-12/06/18

*Final Papers turned in on time on the due date will be eligible for 250 of the possible points. Papers turned in after that but by the end of class, 2 days later (12/6) will be eligible for 200 of the possible points. No papers will be accepted beyond the 2-day late period. Anyone that has not turned a paper in by the late date will receive an E for the assignment.

*Students who do not present their research papers to the class during the last week, will not be eligible for the 50 presentation points.

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**If there are any questions about any of the above outlined requirements, assignments, and/or policies please feel free to visit me during office hours, ask me in class, or via email.**

*Syllabus Change Disclaimer: Information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.*
**Course Schedule**

*Course Schedule/Readings Change Disclaimer:*
Information contained in the course schedule and assigned readings may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<td>8/28-8/30</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/4-9/6</td>
<td>Public Policy Overview</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/11-9/13</td>
<td>Elections, Campaigns, &amp; Elected Officials</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/18-9/20</td>
<td>Voting</td>
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<td>9/25-9/27</td>
<td>Movements &amp; Political Action</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/2-10/4</td>
<td>Accessibility Policy (ADA)</td>
<td>Policy Memo #1 Due (10/2)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/9-10/11</td>
<td>Education Policy</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/16-10/18</td>
<td>Employment Policy</td>
<td>Annotated Bib. Due (10/18)</td>
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<td>10/23-10/25</td>
<td>Health &amp; Social Welfare Policy</td>
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<td>10/30-11/1</td>
<td>Housing Policy</td>
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<td>11/6-11/8</td>
<td>Transportation Policy</td>
<td>Policy Memo #2 Due (11/6)</td>
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<td>11/13-11/15</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Policy</td>
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<td>11/27-11/29</td>
<td>Wrap-up and Presentation Prep</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>12/4-12/6</td>
<td>Class Presentations</td>
<td>Final Paper Due (12/4)</td>
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