

POLS 4311  
Urban Problems and Public Policy

**Professor:** Dr. M. Gritter

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**OFFICE HOURS:** MW 11-4

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of issues and research areas in selected urban problems and the development of public policy in response to these problems. This course uses the Blackboard platform

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students completing this course will

1. Gain the ability to critically analyze types of public policies
2. Improve written and oral communication skills
3. Demonstrate the ASU Core Value of Community

**MEANS OF ASSESSMENT**

Simulation (20%) Each student will participate in a simulation in which a policy change is developed. Students will assume specific roles and be graded on their participation and performance.

Documentary Review (10%) Students will complete a documentary review in class.

Exams (45%, 15% Each) There will be three exams in the course consisting of short answer questions.

Final Exam (20%) Each student will complete a final exam consisting of short answer and essay questions.

Participation (5%) Students will be expected to participate and attend class. Students with more than three unexcused absences will have their final grade impacted.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

January 18 Introduction

January 20 What is Public Policy?

Public Policy reading on Blackboard

January 25 The Policy Making Process

Public Policy Reading on Blackboard

January 27 The Affordable Care Act

February 1 Introduction to Social Policy

Shaefer and Edin Reading on Blackboard

February 3 Modes of Social Policy

Meyer-Shaefer Reading on Blackboard

February 8 Review for Exam 1

February 10 **Exam 1**

February 15 Food Security

Gritter Reading on Blackboard

February 17 Build Back Better?

Build Back Better Reading on Blackboard

February 22 Responses to Contemporary Problems

Pimpare Reading on Blackboard

February 24 Documentary Shown in Class

March 1 **Documentary Review done in class**

March 3 Introduction to Education Policy

Reading Available on Blackboard

March 8 Continuity and Change in Education Policy

Ravitch Reading Available on Blackboard

March 10 School Reform

Rhee Reading Available on Blackboard

March 22 Review for Exam 2

March 24 **Exam 2**

March 29 Contemporary Challenges in Education Policy

Reading Available on Blackboard

March 31 Introduction to Immigration Policy

How the Immigration System Works Reading on Blackboard

April 5 Immigration Reform

Reading Available on Blackboard

April 7 Current Challenges in Immigration Policy

Reading Available on Blackboard

April 12 Documentary Shown in Class

April 14 Review for Exam 3

April 19 **Exam 3**

April 21 Simulation Part I

April 26 Simulation Part II

April 28 Simulation Part III

May 3 Contemporary Public Policy

May 5 Review for Final

**Final will be May 12 at 8am**

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **GRADING SCALE**

A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%

### ***General Policies related to this course:***

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

Angelo State University Student Handbook

Angelo State University Catalog

### ***Student Disability Services:***

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at [ADA@angelo.edu](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at [www.angelo.edu/ADA](http://www.angelo.edu/ADA). The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is: Ms. Dallas Swafford

Director of Student Disability Services 325-942-2047 [dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu) Houston Harte University Center 112

### ***Title IX***

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term

includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.miller@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.miller@angelo.edu)

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

### ***Religious Holidays:***

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information. It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work.

Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

### ***Student Conduct Policies:***

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the Statement of Academic Integrity

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

## **Copyright Policy**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE**

The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be posted on Blackboard.