

# POLS 4391

## Independent Study in Public Policy

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class explores several policy areas that face urban areas and beyond. Unlike states, cities have no constitutional standing and policy is created and executed through interactions between federal, state and local government entities in addition to interest groups and private sources of capital. As a result, policy making is often difficult. The course will begin with an overview of the history of urban governance and of how public policy is made. Through focusing attention on health care, criminal justice, social and immigration policy we explore issues that have been prevalent throughout urban areas across the country that will inform our study of public policy. Particular attention will be paid to policy making in Texas.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students completing this course will:

1. Understand the basic aspects of urban governance and federalism
2. Acquire knowledge of specific public policy areas
3. Gain the ability to critically analyze types of public policies
4. Improve written and oral communication skills
5. Demonstrate intercultural awareness and civic engagement.

### COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

2 page Postings (60%, 12% Each)

3 page Documentary Review (20%)

3 page Book Review (20%)

### 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 Boone, 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.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@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.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Module 1: What is Public Policy?

Readings and PowerPoint Available on Blackboard

Posting 1 Due 2/1

Module 2: Health Care Policy

Readings and PowerPoint Available on Blackboard

Posting 2 Due 2/15

Module 3: Mass Incarceration Policy

Readings and PowerPoint Available on Blackboard

Posting 3 Due 3/1

Documentary Review Due 3/12

Module 4: Education Policy

Readings and PowerPoint Available on Blackboard

Posting 4 Due 3/31

Module 5: Social Policy

Readings and PowerPoint Available on Blackboard

Posting 5 Due 4/15

Module 6: Housing Policy

Readings and PowerPoint Available on Blackboard

Book Review Due 5/9