

**TROY UNIVERSITY PACIFIC REGION**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**IR6612 Comparative Public Policy**  
**Term I, 2016-2017 [15 Aug — 16 Oct 2016]**  
**Weekend/Web-Enhanced at Camp Humphreys, ROK**  
**10-11 Sep, 24-25 Sep 2016**

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**INSTRUCTOR/PROFESSOR:** Daniel Pinkston  
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**MEETING LOCATION, DATES & TIMES:** Classes will meet on two weekends [10-11 September and 24-25 September 2016] from 0900 to 1800. This course includes a “web-enhanced” portion, which is explained below.

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment.

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines the process of policy making in a cross-comparative framework that illustrates how different nation states, both in the developed and the developing worlds, formulate and implement public policy.

**TEXTBOOKS:**

Todd Landman, *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2000), ISBN-13: 9780415187282. [Note: this is available as an e-book through the Troy electronic library → <http://trojan.troy.edu/library>.]

Paul A. Sabatier and Christopher M Weible (editors), *Theories of the Policy Process*, 3rd Edition (Westview Press, 2014), ISBN-13: 9780813349268.

Thomas A Birkland, *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making*, 4th Edition (Routledge, 2015), ISBN-13: 9780765646620.

Eugene Bardach and Eric M. Patashnik, *Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*, 5th Revised Edition (CQ Press, 2015), ISBN-13: 9781483359465.

**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:** Additional readings for the course include:

John L. Campbell, “Institutional Analysis and the Role of Ideas in Political Economy,” *Theory and Society*, Vol. 27, No. 3, 1998, pp. 377-409.

Fritz W. Scharpf, “Institutions in Comparative Policy Research,” *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 6/7, August/September 2000, pp. 762-790.

These articles are available through the Troy electronic library. Students will have to download the articles from the electronic library and read them before class meetings. Students will be expected to review the academic literature, including peer-reviewed journals

available through the Troy electronic library. The articles will depend upon each student's research topic for the final paper, but students should make appropriate use of the scholarly literature relevant to this course.

**OVERALL OBJECTIVES/ PURPOSE:** Students will be introduced to theoretical and substantive/empirical issues in the study of comparative public policy. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to analyze the processes of policy making in a cross-comparative way to show how nations design and implement public policy.

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:** Lectures, class discussion, Blackboard discussion, student presentations.

**BLACKBOARD:** The Troy University MSIR program uses the Blackboard educational technology system for its courses. You will need to access Blackboard to obtain some of the course reading materials. Departmental policy mandates use of discussion boards in Blackboard. Accordingly, a series of questions will be posted in Blackboard. Students must read all discussion boards and must respond to the discussion questions over the course of the term. Discussion posts will account for 10% of the course grade.

**GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Participation in class discussions 15%  
Blackboard discussion 10%  
Class presentation on final paper topic 5%  
Final exam 25%  
Final paper 45%

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to do the readings before class and be prepared to discuss the contents. Participation in class discussions accounts for 15% of your grade.

**WEB-ENHANCED PORTION:** This course combines instruction inside and outside of the classroom. Troy requires 45 hours of instruction for a three-unit course. We will meet for a total of 36 hours in the classroom, so 9 contact hours must be covered outside of class through Blackboard. The additional Blackboard contact hours will include two parts: 1) a personal introduction and the introduction/selection of a preliminary research topic submitted in Blackboard; and 2) reading and discussing Eugene Bardach and Eric M. Patashnik, *Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*, 5th Revised Edition. Discussion questions related to the reading will be posted in Blackboard following our first class meeting. The personal introduction and research topic is due 9 September, before the first day of class. The personal introduction is not to extract personal or private information from you, but to get a better understanding of your educational background and research interests in IR. There are no prerequisites for the course, and a background in political science or IR is not required. You can change your research topic after our first class meeting.

**PRESENTATION:** Students will present an overview of their final paper topics on the last day of class (25 September 2016). A PowerPoint presentation is fine but not required. You should only feel obligated to present slides if they are useful for conveying key ideas or data,

otherwise do not feel obligated.

**FINAL EXAM:** Department policy stipulates that every web-enhanced course must have a final exam no earlier than week 9 of a 9 week term. All written work, including final exams, must be given and graded in Blackboard. Final exams must be in essay format. Students will select two or three questions to answer from a short list of up to five questions.

**FINAL PAPER:** The final paper will be a research paper that compares policy outcomes in two different countries. The policy issues that can be explored include, but are not limited to the following:

- Anti-trust (competition) policy
- Development policy
- Economic policy
- Education policy
- Environmental policy
- Ethno-national relations (migration and national minorities)
- Family policy
- Fiscal policy
- Food policy
- Healthcare policy
- Immigration policy
- Law enforcement (crime and punishment) policy
- National security policy and civil-military relations
- Social policy
- Social welfare (social safety net)
- Trade policy
- Transportation policy
- Urban planning policy

Students will present their research finding on 25 September, the last day of class. The final paper should be about 5,000 to 8,000 words and deadline for submission through turnitin in Blackboard is 12 October 2016.

**STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION/COMMUNICATION:** I do not have regular office hours but meetings are available in Seoul by appointment. We can schedule a time to meet before or after class, or some other mutually convenient time. I will respond to your e-mails as quickly as I can, but if it is extremely urgent, or if you need to discuss something that cannot be addressed through e-mail, you can reach me by telephone. I am available by appointment for discussions by telephone or skype as well.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:** This schedule is subject to adjustment, and the instructor reserves the right to change the reading assignments if necessary. This is unlikely, but any changes will be made with sufficient time for students to complete the readings and assignments.

**10 September (Saturday)**

Course introduction, issues and methods in comparative politics

**Readings:** Landman [e-book]

### **11 September (Sunday)**

History, structure, actors, interests groups, policy design

**Readings:** Birkland; Sabatier and Weible, chapter 1.

### **24 September (Saturday)**

Science and theory, theories of public policy, institutions vs. ideas; implementation, learning

**Readings:** Sabatier and Weible, chapters 2-6; John L. Campbell, "Institutional Analysis and the Role of Ideas in Political Economy," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 27, No. 3, 1998, pp. 377-409; Fritz W. Scharpf, "Institutions in Comparative Policy Research," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 6/7, August/September 2000, pp. 762-790; Bardach and Patashnik.

### **25 September (Sunday)**

Comparing theoretical models, course review, student presentations

**Readings:** Sabatier and Weible, chapters 7-11

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is mandatory. By university policy, the Troy coordinator must be notified if students miss more than 25% of classes.

**INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY:** If a student requests an "INC", he or she must submit to the instructor a signed *Petition for and Work to Remove an Incomplete Grade* form indicating the compelling reason for the "INC". The instructor approving the request will document the required work and the deadline for completion. When the student completes the required work, the instructor will submit a *Change of Grade* form. In cases where a student fails to make up "INC" course work by the end of the next term in which they enroll, the "INC" will automatically be recorded as an "F" grade on the student's record.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):** Troy University, under the guidelines of ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, makes reasonable accommodations for documented physical and mental limitations of otherwise-qualified individuals with disabilities. To provide the best possible services to students, employees, and visitors, Troy University has designated Disability Services Coordinators and Human Resources representatives on each campus as responsible parties for coordinating accommodations for persons with disabilities. For more information about physical access to building or grounds, academic or workplace accommodations, or other ADA related services, individuals should contact a Disability Services Coordinator or Human Resources representative on their campus of attendance. Specific information regarding the ADA, including contact information for responsible parties, can be found at the following link:

<http://trojan.troy.edu/employees/humanresources/documents/ADAPolicy2003.htm>.

**MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Use of any electronic device (mobile phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) by students in the instructional environment is prohibited unless explicitly approved on a case-by-case basis by the instructor of record or by the Office of Disability Services in collaboration with the instructor. Mobile phones and other communication devices may be used for emergencies, however, but sending or receiving non-emergency messages during a class meeting is forbidden by the University. Use of a

communication device to violate the Troy University “Standards of Conduct” will result in appropriate disciplinary action (See pp. 42-52 of the Oracle.)

In order to receive emergency messages from the University or family members, devices must be in a vibration, or other unobtrusive mode. Students receiving calls that they believe to be emergency calls must answer quietly without disturbing the teaching environment. If the call is an emergency, they must move unobtrusively and quietly from the instructional area and notify the instructor as soon as reasonably possible. Students who are expecting an emergency call should inform the instructor before the start of the instructional period.

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:** By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the “Standards of Conduct” as they apply in the Troy University Pacific Region. Students may be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion for the commission of offenses as described in the Graduate Bulletin. As a reminder to graduate students, the “Standards of Conduct” regards dishonesty as an offense, which includes cheating and plagiarism. Students should carefully study the definitions of cheating and plagiarism:

1. Cheating includes:

a) Copying, or relying upon, another student’s answers or submitting another student’s work as one’s own or submitting as new work assignments previously completed for another class, while completing any class assignment, study group assignment, or during in-class or take home examinations.

b) Providing one’s own answers to another student while completing any class assignment, study group assignment (except where approved by the instructor due to the nature of the assignment itself), or during in-class or take-home examinations.

c) Using notes, books, or any other unauthorized aids during an examination; or holding an unauthorized discussion of answers during in-class examinations.

2. Plagiarism is submitting a paper, other required student course requirement in which the language, ideas, or thoughts are identical to published or unpublished material from another source, including material found on the Internet, without correctly giving credit to that source. While computers and the Internet allow students to cut and paste work from other material, new software is making it easier for universities to detect plagiarism. Instructors may screen electronic versions of student assignments using the detection software.

**LIBRARY SUPPORT:**

Students can access online information resources through Troy University web site at <http://www.troy.edu> or the Troy Library Services home page at <http://trojan.troy.edu/library/>. These resources include a variety of full text databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers. Among the most helpful databases are JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, and Lexis-Nexis.