

# Public Policy Process

Colgate University

## Class

Semester: Fall 2022

Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:20-2:35

Room: Persson 133

## Instructor

Kevin Walker, Ph.D.

Email: kwalker@colgate.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:40-4:15

## Course Description

Politics is the art of living together in community. Like any art, learning it does not come to us naturally, nor can political science alone show us how to do it. The art of politics, like any skill or craft, must be *practiced*. Like any art, it involves the humility to admit that we don't know all of the answers, but only approximate opinions; that ideology is not a perfect teaching on society and government, but only a proposal for what a good society might be; that political truth is not innate, but gained only through constructive disagreement with our fellow citizens in a spirit of charity. This course is a study in that great art of living in the American political community, with all of its laws, traditions and institutions – a system that is “*made* for people of fundamentally differing views” (Oliver Wendell Holmes, dissenting, *Lochner v. New York*, 1905). We will examine policymaking on all levels – federal, state and municipal – and involving all players – officials, administrators and interest groups. We will begin by looking at the conflicting theories of what the common good is and how government should achieve it, and then turn to a survey of the major issues and debates in social policy: healthcare, welfare, and education. Overall, we will set aside the usual concerns about American politics, and consider the *outcomes*, or how government actually governs, as well as our own ability to see the common good and persuade others about how we might best achieve it.

## Required Texts

Students are required to own the following texts (in order of reading):

Engel, Jonathan. *Unaffordable: American Healthcare from Johnson to Trump*. Madison: Wisconsin University Press, 2018.

Olasky, Marvin. *The Tragedy of American Compassion*. Washington DC: Regnery Publishing, 1992.

Mondale, Sarah, et al. *School: The Story of American Public Education*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2001.

## Course Requirements

Grades will be based on the following (on a 95% scale):

- **Minor Research Presentations (5%)**. Brief presentations on scholarly articles related to public policy.
- **Research Presentation and Peer Review (10%)**. A brief discussion of research and a response to work by a classmate.
- **Three Exams (50% -- Take-Home Exam 10%, Midterm 20%, Final 20%)**. These are exams on the first and second half of the course.
- **Research Essay (35% - Phase I 5%, Phase II 5%)**. This is a 12-14+ page research essay on a topic of your choice related to Public Policy. There will be a prompt, and it will be due in two phases. There will also be presentations and peer responses at the end of the semester.

### Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, or the use of someone else’s text without quotes and proper citation, is considered a violation of the university’s standards of academic integrity and will be grounds for serious disciplinary action. An incident will result in an F on the assignment and a referral to the Dean.

### Office of Disability Services

If you have a disability that prevents you from doing as well as you could in this class, be sure to contact the Office of Disability Services at ods@colgate.edu to discuss your specific needs and set up arrangements.

### Course Outline – REVISED

Each reading listed should be read *for that day* unless the instructor plans otherwise. All primary documents listed are in the class booklet, Readings in Public Policy.

## I. Pursuing the Common Good

### Week 1

#### August 29

U.S. Constitution; Federalist Papers #45-46; #47-51

#### August 31

Woodrow Wilson, “The Study of Administration,” *Political Science Quarterly* (1887)

### Week 2

#### September 5

Rexford Tugwell, “Principles of Planning and Laissez-Faire,” *American Economic Review* (1932)

#### September 7

Milton Friedman, “Why Government is the Problem,” *Essays in Public Policy* (1993); Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, “Libertarian Paternalism,” *American Economic Review* (2003)

**Research Essay Topic Chosen – September 7**

### Week 3

#### September 12

Deborah Stone, *Policy Paradox*, Chapter 1 (1988)

#### September 14

Charles Murray, *The Happiness of the People* (2009)

## II. Healthcare Policy

### Week 4

#### September 19

*Unaffordable* – Introduction and Chapter 1; Harry Truman, Message to Congress Recommending a Comprehensive Health Program (1945); Ronald Reagan, Address on Socialized Medicine (1961)

#### September 21

*Unaffordable* – Chapter 2-3; Patient’s Bill of Rights (1973)

**Take-Home Exam Due Friday, September 23**

**Week 5**

**September 26**

*Unaffordable* – Chapters 4-5

**September 28**

*Unaffordable* – Chapter 6-7; Heritage Foundation, *Assuring Affordable Health Care for All Americans* (1989)

**Week 6**

**October 3**

*Unaffordable* – Chapters 8-9

**October 5**

*Unaffordable* – Chapters 10-12

**Research Essay Phase I Due Friday, October 7**

**Week 7**

**October 10**

Fall Recess

**October 12**

Exam

**Midterm Exam October 12**

**III. Education Policy**

**Week 8**

**October 17**

*School* – David Tyack, Introduction; Part 1; Thomas Jefferson, Bill for the More General Diffusion of Knowledge (1779); Horace Mann, Twelfth Annual Report to the Massachusetts Board of Education (1849)

**October 19**

Archbishop John Hughes, Address of the Catholics to their Fellow Citizens of New York (1840); W.E.B. DuBois, "The Education of Black Men" (1903); Booker T. Washington, Educational and Industrial Emancipation of the Negro (1903)

**Week 9**

**October 24**

*School* – Part 2; John Dewey, My Pedagogical Creed (1897); Mortimer Adler, Tradition and Novelty in Education (1939)

**October 26**

*School* – Part 3

**Week 10**

**October 31**

*School* – Part 4; *A Nation at Risk* (1983); E.D. Hirsch, *Cultural Literacy* (1988); James Banks, "Multiculturalism's Five Dimensions" (1998)

**November 2**

Michael Heise, "From No Child Left Behind to Every Student Succeeds," *Columbia Law Review* (November 2017); Betsy DeVoss, Speech at Harvard's JFK Forum (2017)

**Research Essay Phase II Due November 4**

## IV. Poverty and Welfare Policy

### Week 11

#### November 7

*Tragedy of American Compassion* – Introduction and Chapters 1-2; Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (1845)

#### November 9

*Tragedy of American Compassion* – Chapter 3; Charles Brace, *Dangerous Classes of New York* (1872); Henry George, *Progress and Poverty* (1879)

### Week 12

#### November 14

*Tragedy of American Compassion* – Chapters 4-5; Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," *North American Review* (1889); Charles Davenport, *Influence of Heredity on Human Society* (1909); Samuel Pennypacker, *Veto Message* (1905)

#### November 16

*Tragedy of American Compassion* – Chapters 7-9

### Week 13

#### November 28

*Tragedy of American Compassion* – Chapters 10-11; Michael Harrington, *The Other America* excerpt (1962); Lyndon Johnson, *Special Message to Congress on the War on Poverty* (1964)

#### November 30

*Tragedy of American Compassion* – Chapters 12-13; Mario Cuomo, *Address at the Democratic National Convention* (1984); Ronald Reagan, *Address on Welfare Reform* (1986); George W. Bush, *Address on Compassionate Conservatism* (2002)

**Research Essay Final Draft Due December 2**

### Week 14

#### December 5

Presentations

#### December 7

Presentations