

**POL 285 American Public Policy, 3 credit hours  
SHSU - Fall, 2007**

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:50 p.m., SHB, room 306

Instructor: Dr. Corliss Lentz

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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-9:30; 11:00-12:00 T, Th in Huntsville, 5:30-6p.m. TUC

**The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus, including dates for examinations, presentations, and the due date of materials, as needed. These changes will be announced in class and may appear in Blackboard announcements. It is the student's responsibility to become aware of the changes.**

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

**These textbooks are needed for you to do well in the course. Please obtain them as quickly as possible and stay up on your readings.**

Davis, Edwin S. 2008. *Public Policy: The Basics, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.* Edsal Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-0-9721978-2-3.

Brower, Jennifer and Peter Chalk. 2003. *The global threat of New and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases.* RAND. ISBN: 0833032933 or available online to print off  
<http://rand.org/publications/MR/MR1602/index.html>

United Nations. UNICEF/UNAIDS. 2006. *Africa's Orphaned and Bulnerable Generations: Children Affected by AIDS.* The United Nations Children's Fund. ISBN-13: 978-92-806-4035- or available to print off at [http://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_35645.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_35645.html)  
<http://rand.org/publications/MR/MR1602/index.html>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Social Policy: "A General study of the roles, actions, and problems of modern governments in dealing with social issues such as education, health, housing, transportation, and welfare services." Prerequisite: POL 261.

**Course Expectations:**

The course will require one midterm examinations and a comprehensive final examination. Blue books are recommended for examinations.

First examination	100 points
second examination	100 points
third examination	100 points
Final examination	100 points
Group Projects	<u>100 points</u>
Total	500 points

A=450-500 points, B=400-449 points, C=350-399 points, D=300-349 points, F=299 or less

**There are no opportunities for extra credit;** thus, you should pay attention to doing your best on the regular credit assignments.

Make-ups for examinations, presentations or excused absences will be allowed only if **documentation is provided** for SHSU sponsored activities, illnesses, hospitalizations, funerals, or other emergencies. **Documentation must be submitted prior to the final examination date.** Make-up examinations for SHSU sponsored activities must be completed prior to the class scheduled examination.

**Examinations:**

There will be one in class examination (midterm) and the final exam. The exams will be short answer, multiple choice, and essay. Examinations will be graded on the quality of your argument and references to lecture and textbook material. Failure to refer to the textbook or lecture materials will result in unsatisfactory grades. The final exam will be comprehensive in nature.

Make up examinations are conducted prior to the date of the examination. Please contact the instructor ahead of time so a make up can be scheduled. In event of emergencies, make up examinations will be given, but the examination will be different than the one given at the scheduled time.

**Student grades will be posted on BlackBoard. Students should save all graded items until the final grade is posted.** If there is a problem with your final grade **it cannot be resolved** if you do not have original copies of the paper and examinations. The grade in my record will stand unless you can provide documentation that I have made an error; so, **save everything!**

**COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

This is a basic course in the social welfare and public assistance programs offered to the American poor. We will discuss the foundations of social welfare, including the history of social welfare programs and the definitions used. An overview of the major programs will be provided. Students will be encouraged to formulate their own agenda concerning this aspect of public policy. Objectives will include

- gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)**  
by understanding the policy process through the Davis text.
- acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team through group projects,**
- gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual activity**  
through readings and in class activities,
- developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values**  
through readings and in class activities.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. If you miss class it is your responsibility to become aware of changes in the course syllabus, including any changes in dates for examinations and presentations, and for acquiring class notes. **Students who have 6 or more unexcused absences will fail the course.**

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Cheating on the exams or the paper will result in administrative sanctions including being reported to the Dean of Students, failing the course, or academic expulsion.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

This instructor takes academic dishonesty very seriously and will penalize students who engage in it. SHSU defines “cheating” as

“1) copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.

2) Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.

3) collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.

4) knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test....

7) Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.

5.312 ”Plagiarism” means the appropriation of another’s work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one’s own work offered for credit.”

[Http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty](http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty)

Students engaged in any of the above dishonest activities will receive a grade of 0 on the examination or paper in question and be sent to the Dean of Students. Other academic sanctions including expulsion from the university are possible.

### **COURSE COMPONENTS:**

These is a group project, an opportunity to and report on the project, and examinations.

1. **Researching Disease:** Each student will be assigned to a group and the group will be assigned a specific disease that is a potential public policy threat. The group will research the disease and make a PowerPoint or other type of presentation to the class to explain the public policy implications of the disease. The presentation must cover the history of the disease, the outbreaks, and an assessment of the potential threat to the United States and/or other areas of the world. Is this disease a global threat? A list of references will be provided to the instructor when the presentation is given on p. 4.
- 2). **Presentation:** Your group will make a 20-30 minute class presentation that provides an overview that includes the material presented above. Allow about 10 minutes to answer questions.

PowerPoint presentations are expected. Each student will participate in the preparation and delivery of the presentation.

- Summarize the major points of your research and findings.
- **Use note cards and make eye contract** with the audience. It helps to practice your presentation in advance to time it and see how it flows.
- Use large fonts. The smallest font should be 24 point.
- Students will be graded on preparedness, organization, use of notes, and use of time. The instructor will prepare an evaluation of each presentation outlining the strong and weak points of the presentation.
- Be concise. Prepare note cards.
- **Do not bring the paper to the podium.**

3. **Grading the presentation:** The presentation will be worth 100 points of each student's grade. Students will have the opportunity to grade the participation effort of each member of the group. The student evaluation of members will be worth 40% of the presentation grade. Each student can only give 2 A's and 2 B's to group members, so make your evaluations fairly. The people who contributed the most should get A's and the persons who didn't help at all should get F's.
3. **Examinations** will be a combination of essays, short answer identifications and multiple choice questions. Several DVDs on disease will be shown in the class. Examination questions will come from lecture, readings, and DVDs.

### **CONNECTIONS FOR DISEASES:**

#### **EBOLA and other Hemorrhagic diseases**

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/dispages/ebola.htm>

WHO: [www.who.int/crs/disease/ebola/en/](http://www.who.int/crs/disease/ebola/en/)

#### **POLIO**

Chan, Margaret. 2007. *The Case for Completing Polio Eradication*. The World Health Organization. .  
Available at <http://www/hplioeradication.org>.

#### **SARS**

US Center for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/en/>

Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention:  
<http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/SARS/60970.htm>

#### **Smallpox**

US Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov/smallpox>

CDC: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp>

#### **TB**

WHO: <http://www.who.int/tb/en>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/>

#### **West Nile Virus**

US Geological Survey: <http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/>

These maps are very cool! Check them out!

### **GENERAL POLICIES:**

The following policies regard classroom demeanor.

#### **Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances.

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. **Cellular telephones, pagers, M3P players and iPods must be turned off** before class begins.. **Students should put phones away and refrain from texting during the class period. If your cell phone rings or you are texting while you are in class, your phone may be confiscated.** Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result in a directive to leave class and your name removed from the day's attendance role. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. If you leave class prematurely your name will be removed from the day's attendance role.

**Cell phones, pagers, M3P players or iPods must be turned off and placed out of sight during class lectures, presentations, and examinations.**

#### **Americans with Disabilities:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Requests for disability accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. This instructor requires documentation from the Counseling Center in order to provide accommodations. Once documented, discuss with the instructor the best ways that she can accommodate your needs.

#### **Classroom Visitors:**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should

in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process. Visitors are allowed on an occasional basis as long as there is a seat in the room for the visitor. Visitors must abide by the same rules of classroom decorum as students.

### **Instructor Evaluations:**

You may be asked to evaluate this instructor at a later date during the semester. The date will be announced when the evaluations become available.

### **Study Tips:**

There are several ways to do well in this class.

- 1) Take good notes in class and review them at the end of the day to fill in information that you didn't take down. The best time to fill in your notes is when the material is fresh in your mind.
- 2) Make note cards for the vocabulary in the lecture, the texts, and those provided on the study guides. There are some terms that you need to know and "flash cards" are a good way to memorize the material.
- 3) A study guide will be provided for all 2 exams. Be sure to keep the study guides and all your study materials so you can use them for the final examination.
- 4) Find a study partner or two. Reviewing the material with a study partner is an excellent way to study for an exam or review your notes.
- 5) **Don't wait until the night before the examination to study!** Some of the terminology in the course is technical and new to you. Spend a few minutes every day reviewing the vocabulary.

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

You are responsible for reading the assignments prior to the lecture. This will help you better understand the lectures.

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>
Aug. 21 & 23	1. Review of Syllabus Why is policy important?	Davis, ch. 1
Aug. 28 & 30	2. Why study models?	Davis, ch. 2-3
Sept. 4 & 6	3. Who are the Actors? What are the types of policy?	Davis, chs. 4-5
Sept. 11 & 13	4. What happens in each branch of Government?	Davis, ch. 6
Sept. 18 & 20	5. Agenda Setting, Policy Formulation And Implementation	Dais, chs. 7-8
Sept. 25 & 26	6. Policy Evaluation and Budgets	Davis, chs. 9-10

Oct 2 & 4                    7.     Introduction to Infectious Diseases                    Brower & Chalk, summary  
**Oct. 4:     First Examination, Davis, chs. 1-10**

Oct. 9 & 11                8.     The Affects of Globalization                    Brower and Chalk, ch. 1

Oct. 16 & 18              9.     The Affects of Globalization                    Brower and Chalk, ch. 2

Oct. 23 & 15              10.    Malaria

Oct. 30 & Nov. 1        11.    HIV/AIDS    Children Affected by AIDS  
 Brower and Chalk, ch. 3

**Nov. 1: Second Examination, Brower and Chalk,. Summary, chs. 1-2**

Nov. 6 & 8                12     Avian Flu    Brower and Chalk, ch. 4

Nov. 13 & 15            13     U.S. Security and the Risk of                    Brower and Chalk, chs. 5-6  
 Infections

Nov. 20                    14

**Nov. 20: Third Examination, Brower and Chalk, chs. 4, Children Affected by AIDS chs. 1-5**

**Nov. 22:                    Thanksgiving**

Nov. 27 & 29            15     Presentations

Dec. 4 & 6                16     Presentations

TBA:                      Final Examination to cover all material  
 B