

Course Syllabus*: Pol 285, Public Policy

Summer 2008 (3 credit hours)

Professor: Mike Yawn	
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Office Hours: 3-4:30, TTH (Sam Center)	Class Time: 10-12
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Texts: *The Presidential Difference*, Fred Greenstein; *First off the Tee*, Dan Van Natta, Jr

Course Overview: This course is designed to teach students about the formulation, passage, and implementation of public policy. In this class, we will emphasize the President's role in public policy, covering the major public policy actions by Presidents since the 1930s. Moreover, you will learn how the President's character, conception of the office, staff, style, and the political environment that influence the scope and success of his policy objectives.

Course Objectives: If students study as instructed, they will be able to (1) identify and describe the major public policy issues of the past seventy-five years, (2) identify the major policy makers of the past seventy-five years, (3) know how factors such as elections, crises, and personalities can influence policies, and (4) improve their cognitive processing speed.

Attendance: You are strongly encouraged to attend every class session. You will not be penalized for merely being absent, but you will miss various quizzes, homework assignments, and extra credit opportunities that *cannot be made up*. You are responsible for obtaining notes and handouts that you missed *from other students*. Tardiness will not be tolerated.

Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to treat each other and the professor with respect and courtesy. Students should be attentive and engaged at all times. Cell phones and other electronic or distracting items should not be visible or audible (keep in pockets, purses, or bags—do not remove during class). Students who violate this policy will be penalized one letter grade for each violation.

Missed Work: Missed tests cannot be made up. However, because the final is comprehensive, it includes questions from material covered on the first test, second test, and material covered subsequent to the second test. If you miss a test, I will simply grade separately the questions on the final that correspond to the missed test. The tests will be announced at least a week in advance, but it is your responsibility to accommodate the class schedule. By enrolling in the course, it is assumed that you will make all the classes.

Grades: Your grade in this class will be determined by your performance on three tests, quizzes, participation, and other assignments that I deem appropriate. The grade breakdown is as follows:

Test 1:	(20%)
Test 2:	(20%)
Test 3 (Final):	(30%)
Class participation:	(15%)
Quizzes/Homework:	(15%)

*I reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time for any reason.

Tests: The tests will be objective (multiple choice and matching). The final is comprehensive.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given to ensure that students read their daily assignments. You will have a quiz almost every day there is a reading assignment. *To receive a grade for the quiz, you must stay the entire class period.* Early departures will result in a zero on the quiz.

Homework: Homework may be assigned sporadically throughout the semester.

Participation: You are expected to participate in class. Your participation should be constructive and respectful, both to the instructor and other students. I keep a detailed record of who does and does not participate in class, who was and was not able to answer questions, and who indulged in distracting or otherwise negative behavior. You are expected to keep up with current political events.

Cheating: The *easiest* way to fail this class is to cheat. Do not copy any work from another student, and do not plagiarize (defined as using someone else's work without proper documentation). At the minimum, I will fail you, but I may also seek to have you expelled from the university. Plagiarism in any of its manifestations will be penalized with the grade of a zero or referral to the Dean. Plagiarism is any use of work that is not your own, which includes use of another's language or research without proper citation (see student handbook for more information on plagiarism). Anytime you quote something or refer to a non-obvious fact then you need a citation. In if in doubt, don't. See the student handbook if you have additional questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Classroom Rules of Conduct : The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances.

Q-Drops: A Q-drop is a drop made after the last date for tuition refunds (12th class day for fall/spring; 4th class day for summer) but before the date for which a drop would result in the grade of 'F' as published in the Academic Calendar. Students will be allowed no more than five Q-drops during their academic career at Sam Houston State University. Classes that are dropped prior to the Q-drop date will not count toward the limit. Students who have used their limit of five Q-drops will need to petition their respective dean to drop a class. If the dean refuses to grant permission to drop a class, a student will be required to remain in the class. This limit took effect with the start of the fall 2004 semester. Any drops accumulated prior to the fall 2004 semester will not be included in the five Q-drop limit, nor will Q drops from other universities.

Additional Info: It is a requirement that you keep up with current events. You can subscribe to a newspaper, watch the news extensively, or check out one of the web sites below. I particularly recommend the first web site, which is a compilation of news from newspapers around the country.

www.realclearpolitics.com, www.washingtonpost.com, www.nytimes.com, www.cnn.com
www.patrickruffini.com

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY: <http://www.shsu.edu/schedule/>

SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

Course Schedule: Spring 2008

Note: Virtually every day there is a reading assignment due, you will have a quiz over that assignment.

Date	Topic	Readings Due	Activities
Tue, 6-3	Introduction		
Wed, 6-4	Getting Elected	Qualities of Presidents (BB)	Ads
Thu, 6-5	Governing	Greenstein's Evaluators (BB); Ch 1 (FG)	
Fri, 6-6	FDR	Ch 2 (FG);	
Mon, 6-9	FDR	101-113 (DVN)	
Tue, 6-10	HST	Ch 3 (FG)	
Wed, 6-11	Ike	Ch 4 (FG); Ike's D-Day Letter (BB)	
Thu, 6-12	No Class	No Class	No Class
Fri, 6-13	Ike	55-79 (DVN)	<i>Ike: Countdown to D-Day</i>
Mon, 6-16	Test 1		
Tue, 6-17	JFK	Ch 5 (FG)	
Wed, 6-18	LBJ	Ch 6 (FG)	
Thu, 6-19	LBJ	249-261 (DVN)	LBJ Video Clips
Fri, 6-20	RMN	Ch 7 (FG)	
Mon, 6-23	RMN	225-249 (DVN)	Nixon Video Clips; <i>Futurama</i>
Tue, 6-24	GF/JC	Ch 8-9 (FG)	
Wed, 6-25	Test 2		
Thu, 6-26	RR	Ch 10 (FG)	
Fri, 6-27	RR	Reagan's Pen Pal (BB); Reagan's Alzheimer's (BB)	Reagan Humor
Mon, 6-30	GHWB	Ch 11 (FG)	<i>Flyboys</i>
Tue, 7-1	Final		

The 4th Class Day is the last day to drop without having a "Q" on your transcript. You are only allowed five "Qs" on your transcript during your entire time in college.

BB refers to Blackboard
 FG refers to the Fred Greenstein text
 DVN refers to the Don Van Natta text