

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 285.05 & 285.16**  
**INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN PUBLIC POLICY**  
3 CREDIT HOURS  
FALL, 2007

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OFFICE HOURS: MWF 1:00-2:00; TTH 3:30-4:00

**TEXTS:**     **Davis, Edwin S., A Public Policy Primer, most recent edition**  
              **Kline, Benjamin, First Along the River, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to acquaint students with the politics of public policy-making within the American political system. Subjects to be addressed include: What is public policy? How are public policies made? How does one evaluate the costs of policies against their benefits? Under what conditions are current policies likely to be maintained, modified, or abandoned? What and whose values are reflected in or neglected by particular policies?

By the end of the semester, students should possess most of the intellectual tools needed to address these and other questions.

This course will focus on environmental public policy. By focusing our attention on one specific policy area, and at the same time highlighting features of the policy process that are common to most areas of public policy-making, we should be able to gain a theoretical understanding of policy-making in general as well as an in-depth knowledge of a particular set of public policies.

Environmental public policy is a broad area of concern, involving among other things air and water pollution, acid rain, global warming, the greenhouse effect, population pressures, nuclear power, energy use and production, transportation, biodiversity, and solid waste disposal.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

▪ The grade in this course will be derived from three (3) examinations, each of which will constitute 25% of the course grade, and cumulatively will represent 75% of the grade in the course.

Exams will be composed short answer essays and multiple choice questions.

In addition, each student will turn in two research assignments, each constituting 10% of the course grade and cumulatively 20% of the course grade.

Students will choose an environmental public policy subject in consultation with the instructor and will be assigned two short research questions to answer in a relatively brief form during the semester.

Each research question will address both factual information and some interpretation/analysis/evaluation on the part of the student.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** See Academic policy Statement 800401. Any attendance policy in this class will be in accordance with that statement.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** See Academic Policy Statement 810213. Any actions taken with regard to academic dishonesty in this course will in accordance with that statement.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with

disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND HOLY DAYS:** See University Policy 8161001. Any needs related to students religious requirements will be considered within the requirements of that statement.

**INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION:** Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

Any actions taken with regard to student conduct will be in accordance with that statement of policy.

### **Tentative Reading Assignments**

1 <sup>st</sup> week	Introduction to the Study of Politics and Policy Davis, Ch. 1-3; Kline, Ch. 1
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	Introduction Environmental Concepts and Issues Davis, Ch. 4-8; Kline, Ch. 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	Public Policy Models and Types; Subgovernments Davis, finish book; Kline, pp. 23-29
4 <sup>th</sup> week	The 1970's, the EPA, NEPA Kline, pp. 29-37
5 <sup>th</sup> week	Role of President, Congress, Courts Kline, pp. 37-42
6 <sup>th</sup> week	History of Air Pollution Policy Kline, pp. 43-51
7 <sup>th</sup> week	Conservation/Preservation Kline, Ch. 5
8 <sup>th</sup> week	Battle of Birmingham; Early Air Pollution Policy Kline, Ch. 6
9 <sup>th</sup> week	Speculative Policy Kline, Ch. 7
10 <sup>th</sup> week	1980's-2007 Kline, Ch. 8
11 <sup>th</sup> week	Sprawl Kline, Ch. 9
12 <sup>th</sup> week	Environmental Interest Groups Kline, Ch. 10
13 <sup>th</sup> week	Post 911 Kline, Ch. 11
14 <sup>th</sup> week	Smart Growth
15 <sup>th</sup> week	Environmental Future