

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS ENTIRE SYLLABUS

Course Number: POL 285 Sections: 02 Term: Summer I 2008

Course Title: American Public Policy: US National Security & Nation-Building.

Class Meetings: Monday through Friday, 12:00 pm - 01:50 pm, Room AB1 317.

Professor: R. M. Bittick, M.P.A., Ph.D. Office: AB1 319G.

Contact Information: E-mail: rmb004@shsu.edu.

- **Office Hours:** Monday through Friday, 02:00 pm - 03:00 pm, *walk-in/no appointment*. I am willing to meet with students by appointment at other mutually agreeable times.
- **Phone:** 936-294-4105. Messages may be left with the Political Science Department at 936-294-1457.

Class Website: Go to Blackboard <http://www.shsu.edu/blackboard_login.html>.

Students are required to access this website before each class.

Course Description: the following is from the SHSU University Catalog:

POL 285 AMERICAN PUBLIC POLICY. [GOVT 2302] This is a study of national and state policy. Both the policy process and the substance of selected policies will be examined. Topics may include foreign policy, civil liberties, health care, social issues, economic problems, environmental policy, and/or others. **Prerequisite:** POL 261. Credit 3.

Welcome to POL 285! This course is designed for students to learn about American public policy. To do this, we will study each step of the policymaking process and **focus on policy implementation with US National Security Policy/Nation-Building as the specific policy area focus.** Looking at select US nation-building missions since 1945, the course emphasizes institution-building through creating or rebuilding core public administration agencies in various nations. Thus, this course deals with a combination of US National Security Policy and Public Administration.

Course Goals: With the above in mind, students must achieve three goals:

1. **Public Policy Making Process:** conceptualize and understand US public policy;
2. **Policy Implementation/Public Administration:** recognize and understand select characteristics of a successfully implemented public policy;
3. **National Security:** identify and recognize characteristics of regions or nations that are strategically important to US national security; and
4. **Nation-Building:** understand the principles of and core public administration institutions necessary to establish and maintain a civil society.

Course Objectives: to achieve the above goals, students are required to complete the following objectives:

Knowledge: at the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- o Name and explain the steps of the policy making process;

- Identify and distinguish between the elements necessary to successfully implement public policies;
- Explain characteristics of regions or nations that are strategically important to US national security; and
- Explain the phases and core institutional arrangements involved in a nation-building mission, and challenges involved with each.

Assessment: Exams and Class Papers.

Competencies & Related Skills: at the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the degree of clarity of US national security goals regarding select nation-building missions since World War II;
- Identify problems, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing US nation-building policies since World War II;
- Assess the adequacy of US policies to build effective civil administration organizations in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Assessments: Exams and Class Papers.

Values: at the completion of this course, students will appreciate:

- The importance of effective democratic government institutions;
- The challenges and barriers encountered in establishing civil societies;
- The complex nature of the problems faced by public administrators involved in nation-building.

Assessment: Class Discussions.

Required Texts [I will also assign other reading material throughout the semester that will be linked on the course website in Blackboard or handed out in class]:

1. Davis, Edwin. 2002. *Public Policy: The Basics*. Edsal Publishing.
2. Dobbins, James, et al. 2003. *America's Role in National-Building: From Germany to Iraq*. RAND Publication.
3. Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*, Fourth Edition. Bedford/St. Martin's.

Required Activities of Students:

- **Assigned Readings:** These are listed on the schedule. You must plan ahead and schedule your reading time appropriately.
- **Class Attendance:** *Class attendance is mandatory*. If you are not able to attend class on a regular basis, you must drop the course and re-take it in a future semester.
 - Two (2) unexcused absences are allowed without penalty.
 - **NOTE: leaving class early counts as an absence.**
 - You must submit documentation to me to have an absence excused (e.g. doctor's notice, etc.).
 - If you have more than two unexcused absences during the term, 10 points may be deducted from your final grade at the professor's discretion.

- **Exams: Quizzes and a Final Exam.**
 - **Quizzes.** Four (4) quizzes are required for this class. Students must bring a Scantron to class on the day of each quiz.
 - **NOTE:** the dates for the quizzes and the final exam are set at the times specified in order for you to gain the maximum learning benefit. **No make-up exams are allowed.**
- **Class Papers:** two (2) papers are required for this class. Further instructions will provide to you. **NOTE: failure to properly document either class paper will result in a significant reduction in the assigned grade.**

Assessments - the following coursework is required to complete this course:

<u>Required Assignments</u>	<u>Portion of Final Grade</u>
Four (4) Quizzes @ 50 points each:	200 points
Class Paper #1:	100 points
Class Paper #2:	<u>100 points</u>
Sub-Total:	360 points
Subtract 10 points for unexcused absences:	?
Total:	?

NOTE: Students who perform poorly on any of these assignments, or who demonstrate behaviors that are detrimental to learning (e.g., talking to other students, text messaging, talking on cell phones, reading, disrespectful attitudes, reading e-mail messages, surfing the internet, etc.) in class, may be referred to *First Alert* at the professor's discretion. See:

http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/ and *Classroom Rules of Conduct* below.

All university rules and procedures apply to this class.

Academic Honesty: Students are required to read *Academic Policy Statement 810213* found at <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>.

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.

NOTE: all students are required to submit written work both as a hard copy and on electronic media (i.e. as a Word document) so it may be checked using

a plagiarism software program (e.g. Turn-It-In). Students who do not submit work both as a hard copy and electronically as instructed will not receive credit for the paper.

Students caught cheating in any way will receive an automatic "F" (no points earned) for that assignment and may be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs for further counseling and discipline. Students caught cheating may be expelled from class.

Americans with Disabilities Act: See *Academic Policy Statement 811006* at http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf. The student must initiate requests for accommodations. Students seeking accommodations are required to go to the Counseling Center for certification of the disability in a timely manner.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: See *Academic Policy Statement 861001* at http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf.

Instructor Evaluations: students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are required to read this policy found at: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

- **Talking:** do not engage in side conversations with other students during class.
- **Cell Phones & Computers:** turn off or silence your cell phones once class begins.
Do not engage in phone conversations, text messaging, etc., and do not read and reply to e-mail messages or surf the internet during class. Notify the professor before class if you expect an emergency phone call (this must not be a regular occurrence).
- **Reading:** Do not read non-class related material during class (e.g. newspapers).
- **Sleeping:** Do not sleep during class. Students may stand-up in the back of the classroom to stay awake.

Schedule: The current schedule is linked in Blackboard in the Course Information folder. The professor reserves the right to change the schedule as needed. Changes will be highlighted in yellow and linked to the class website in Blackboard in the Course Information folder.