

POL 285

PUBLIC POLICY: U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

Dr. W. J. Lukaszewski – Spring 2008

The purpose of this course (POL 285) is to familiarize the student with the field of public policy: how it is made, who and to what extent participates in making it, the substance of it, and how it affects daily lives of the citizens of this country. Rather than examine many policies superficially, this class will focus on one such policy, the national security policy of the United States. During the course of the semester, the class will examine the nature of national security and its international context, review U.S. defense policies from President Truman to Bush (43), contrast Cold War and post-Cold War defense needs, review contemporary national security issues, and study in-depth the national security decision-making process. In the light of the 9/11/01 terrorist attack on the United States, a major portion of the course will be devoted to the study of terrorism and the threat it poses to the national security of the United States. Specifically, the class will examine the complex nature of terrorism, its history, its ideology, its strategies and its relationship to the media in democratic societies. Students will be expected to read the current national and international press concerning the on-going major conflicts around the world. Special emphasis in your readings should be placed on conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and U.S. efforts to contain terrorism. These and other outstanding world issues affecting U.S. national security will be discussed in class.

TEXTBOOKS: Three textbooks have been selected for this course.

COMBS, Cindy C., *Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century* (Fourth Ed.), 2005.

DAVIS, Edwin S., *Public Policy: The Basics*, 2002.

SNOW, Donald, *United States Foreign Policy: Beyond the Water's Edge*, Third Ed., 2005.

Course Objectives:

Students will

1. Acquire substantive knowledge of public policy making processes
2. Develop skills in social analysis and
3. Acquire skills and habits of critical thinking

ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE COURSE:

1. Examination policy

Each student's final grade will be calculated as follows:

- a. four examinations (including the final): 40, 35, 35, 40 questions
- b. each correctly answered question will be worth one point
- c. thus, if from the maximum of 150 points you earn 89 points or less, you will have an "F", 90-104 "D", 105-119 "C", 120-134 "B", and 135-150 "A". (There will not be "curving" of grades.)

2. Consultations

Students are welcome, in fact they are encouraged, to consult with me on any aspect of this course but especially if they encounter academic difficulties. My office is located in AB1, Room 319; telephone ext. 4-4042. My office hours are 1:00 – 2:00 pm on TU, TH, or by special appointment.

3. Attendance policy. Absences from class lectures are strongly discouraged; however, for *emergency* purposes, each student will be permitted four absences (cuts) from class. Each additional cut will *automatically* lower the student's grade by one-half grade.

4. Students are responsible for *all* information disseminated in class, whether or not they are present during the lecture.

5. Under *exceptional* circumstances, make-up tests will be administered; however, no student will be permitted to make up two consecutive tests.

6. Academic Honesty

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 work both in and out of the classroom.

7. Classroom Rules of Conduct

a. Students are expected to behave themselves in classroom in a way which promotes their own learning, does not interfere with the lecture in progress, and does not disturb other students in the classroom.

b. Cell phones, pagers and other electronic equipment will not be permitted in class during examinations.

c. Students will be excused from attending this class, including examinations, for the observance of religious holidays, including travel for that purpose. (Religious holiday is defined as "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Texas Code...)

d. Students wishing to record lectures in this class for their own study purposes may do so, providing they inform the instructor in advance.

e. Students may not bring visitors to the class without prior approval of the instructor.

8. Disabilities Policy: 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 should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION AND ORGANIZATION	
1. Organization of the course	Jan. 17
2. Public Policy: Concepts and Process Davis, Ch. 1, 3-10	Jan. 22, 24
II. NATIONAL SECURITY: POLICY PROCESS	
3. President and the congress Snow, pp. 89-101, 152-166, 175-182; Lecture	Jan. 29, 31, Feb. 5
4. The National Security System Snow, pp. 101-144	Feb. 12, 14
5. The International Environment Snow, pp. 3-21; Lecture	Feb. 19
6. Definition of National Security Lecture	Feb. 21
FIRST EXAMINATION (40 Q.)	Feb. 26
III. A REVIEW OF US DEFENSE POLICIES	
7. National Security from Truman to Bush (41) Snow, Ch. 2; Lecture	Feb. 28, Mar. 4, 6, 18
8. The Ending of the Cold War Snow, Ch. 3; Lecture	Mar. 20, 25
SECOND EXAMINATION (35 Q.)	Mar. 27
9. Post-Cold War Security Environment Snow, pp. 73-85, Ch. 9	Apr. 1, 3
IV. NATIONAL SECURITY AFTER 9/11/01	
10. Terrorism: Definition, Typology Combs, Ch. 1, 2, 4	Apr. 8, 10
11. Who are the Terrorists? Combs, Ch. 4	Apr. 15
12. Ideology of Terrorism Combs, Ch. 3	Apr. 17
13. Terrorism and the Media Combs, Ch. 8	Apr. 22, 24
THIRD EXAMINATION (35 Q.)	Apr. 29
14. State Terrorism and the Media Combs, Ch. 5	May 1
15. Strategies of Terrorism	May 6
16. Summation, Review	May 8
FINAL EXAMINATIONS	May 12 - 15