

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of History and Government**  
**GOVT 150 Introduction to Public Policy (3 Credits)**  
**Fall 2021**

**Instructor:** Dr. Carmen Walker  
**E-Mail Address:** cwalker@bowiestate.edu  
**Office:** MLK Bldg Room 0218  
**Contact Phone:** (301)-860-4431  
**Office Hrs:** Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30am–1:30pm via Zoom  
Or by appointment (No in person meetings)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://bowiestate.zoom.us/j/88688591758?pwd=eDFoVUFZYW5YaUVOTmVUNjVzb1F0UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 8859 1758  
Passcode: 613625  
One tap mobile  
+13017158592,,88688591758#,,, \*613625# US (Washington DC)  
+13126266799,,88688591758#,,, \*613625# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
Meeting ID: 886 8859 1758  
Passcode: 613625  
Find your local number: <https://bowiestate.zoom.us/u/kbgaMey5w0>

**I. COURSE PREREQUISITE: ENGL 101**

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to the study of public policy and the models that political scientists use to describe political life.

**III. REQUIRED READING TEXTS**

- Peters, B. Guy. American Public Policy Promise and Performance 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Sage Publishing. ISBN 9781506399584
- Additional required readings will be assigned (Available on Blackboard)

**IV EMERGING ISSUES:** This course is shaped by Bowie State University's overall effort to address issues of environmental preservation and social justice. Throughout this course, students will be encouraged to consider historical and emerging environmental and social justice issues. Additionally, students will be encouraged to reflect on what role and connection they have to these and other issues shaping public policy discussions in the United States and the broader global community.

**V GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES:**

1. Written and Oral Communications: a. Analyze and discuss critical issues and recurring themes in the discipline; f. Conduct research and evaluate information using the appropriate methods of the discipline;
2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning: a. Analyze and understand the physical and biological world as they relate to the political science discipline;
3. Critical Analysis and Reasoning: b. Apply skill in analysis, synthesis, and problem solving; c. Apply logical reasoning in the examination and resolution of tasks.
4. Technological Competency: a. Create a document using word processing software;
5. Information Literacy: a. Identification of key concepts and terms that describe the information needed; d. Understanding of the ethical, legal and socioeconomic issues surrounding information and information technology.

**VI TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:** This is an asynchronous online course which utilizes the university's e-learning system, Blackboard. As with any computer system, there may be glitches during the semester. To access the course, go to <https://bsuonline.blackboard.com>, or click on the Blackboard/BSU online tab from the BSU homepage.

**VII LIBRARY REQUIREMENTS:** Students will be required to utilize the holdings of the university's library as well as other accessible repositories, government sites, and policy think tanks to complete public policy assignments. This course will introduce students to primary and secondary sources/data, reference materials, and resources utilized in public policy proposal writing and discussions.

**VIII COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Develop student's knowledge of the environmental and structural factors that shape public policy in the United States through assigned readings, examination and discussion activities.
2. Introduce students to the American public policy making process through assigned readings, discussion, written assignments, and examination.
3. Develop student's analytical skills through public policy problem solving activities and examination activities.
4. Enhance student's value of information literacy skills through discussions, readings, and activities that demonstrate the ways in which ideology and values shape and bias public policy information.
5. Develop student's communication skills through discussion board activities and written public policy assignments.

**IX STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of this course students will be able to:**

1. ...explain the structural, environmental, and instrumental aspects of public policy.
2. ...analyze the multiple stages of public policy making
3. ...utilize appropriate research skills to examine public policy issues
4. ...create written public policy recommendations for national issues.
5. ...evaluate public policy

**X TEACHING MODES:**

Introduction to Public Policy is a survey or introductory class. Public policy is a subfield within the discipline of political science. This course examines definitions of public policy and instruments utilized to facilitate government responses to public problems in the United States. Because public policy and public policy making does not happen in a vacuum, this course also examines structural, environmental, ideological, and cultural factors that shape how we view and respond to public problems. Additionally, this course will also introduce students to the process of creating, implementing, and evaluating public policies.

The development and enhancement of communication, critical thinking, problem solving, analytical, and information literacy skills shape all required activities for this introductory course on public policy. Students will develop and utilize these skills to create effective public policy recommendations to various issues identified and discussed through this course.

As we consider both historical and contemporary public problems, it is my hope that this course empowers students to consider their role as citizens and change agents in their various local, state, national, and global communities. Public problems are a constant. While public policy making is located within the field of political science, it is very much an interdisciplinary subject. With that said, I look to see how students utilize their disciplines to shape our policy discussions each semester. Social work, Biology, English, Communications, History, and other majors/disciplines have unique perspectives that are important to public policy. All of these areas (and more) shape the face and life of public policy.

Required readings, written assignments, discussion board activities, computer tasks, and syllabus will be utilized to facilitate this course. As mentioned previously, these modes of teaching are designed to develop communication, critical thinking, problem solving, analytical, and information literacy skills. The course will emphasize the importance of lifelong learning, along with civic engagement and political efficacy on all levels of community and government.

## **XI STUDENT PREPARATION ROLES:**

This course emphasizes course objectives that will introduce students to the subject of public policy in the United States. This course will encourage students to think critically about historical and emerging public problems and consider effective responses along with their role in addressing societal problems. As such, an important preparatory recommendation is for students to regularly read, watch, or listen to news media outlets to stay up-to-date on current domestic and international events and conversations.

Students who have a disability or think that they need special accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Suite 082 (Room 8212) in the Thurgood Marshall Library, or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301.860.4067. Go to the following website for more information:

<https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/support-services/disability-supportservices/>

Bowie State University shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, or veteran status (ADA and Nondiscrimination Policy).

**XII ATTENDANCE and LATE POLICY:** This is an asynchronous online course. Attendance is required to complete the course successfully. Attendance is monitored through weekly assignments and participation. University rules and regulations state that a student may fail a course if he/she misses a certain number of classes [six (6) for a course that meets three (3) times a week; four (4) for a class that meets twice a week; and two (2) for a class that meets once a week]. Students are participate in all activities each week. All students are expected to take examinations and turn in all assignments at the scheduled time. All written assignments and discussion board responses to others are due by Sunday 11:59pm. Initial post for discussion board activities are always due by Thursday 11:59pm. Make-up work will be at the discretion of the instructor. Late work

will be accepted up to one week after original due date with a 10% penalty. (For example 90 - 10%penalty= 81 grade). After one week, the late assignment is converted to a zero. Late discussion board activities cannot be made up. They must be completed during the assigned week. No assignments will be accepted after the final day of class (December 13).

**XIII STATEMENT OF ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE COURSE:** According to the “Code of Student Conduct,” students are to achieve high standards of ethical and professional academic standards. This includes behavior and appearance in the classroom. For written and non-written scholarship, students are encouraged to be creatively responsible for making a contribution to the body of knowledge. This is accomplished through individual and group effort according to assigned activities. Students who commit acts of plagiarism or copying from other scholarship and/or violating academic standards in the classroom will be penalized according to the “Code of Student Conduct” for students as outlined by Bowie State University. “In cases involving academic dishonesty, a failing grade or a grade of zero (0) for either an assignment and/or course may be administered. Students who are expelled or suspended for academic dishonesty are not admissible to other institutions within the University System of Maryland.” Students engaging in academic dishonesty will fail this course!

**XIV Course Requirements**

- Chapter Quizzes (20%)
- Discussion board (15%)
- Midterm (10%)
- Written Assignments (20%)
- Public Policy memo (20%)
- Final Exam (15%)

**XV. Course format guidelines for all assignments:** I thank you for all the effort you will put into this course. Please note the following:

1. It is your responsibility monitor the announcements board and modules for information AND updates regarding your assignments and expectations.
2. Please be sure that all work is typed. I do not accept scanned or copied handwritten work under any circumstances.
3. Please make sure your assignments are submitted on or before the designed deadlines.
4. Participation activities will be assigned and factored into the written assignments grade. Participation activities are not required. However, they can help to improve your final assigned grade.

5. Please do not submit assignments to my email address. They will not be accepted or graded. All class assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard.
6. All papers should be typed using 12 pt New Times Roman, 1-inch margins (top/bottom/sides)
7. Cited and reference page material must be formatted according to either APA or Kate Turabian style guidelines. **Please note: Assignments submitted without citations will receive an automatic zero.**

XVI. **Late Policy:**

1. Late papers, not including final project activities, midterm, and discussion board activities, will be accepted up to 1 week after original due date with a 10 percent penalty. After one week, the assignment is a permanent zero.
2. No late assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes (December 13, 2021) as indicated on University academic calendar for the fall semester
3. Missed midterm examinations or quizzes will be given at the discretion of the instructor. It will be a make-up examination and thus different from the original test.
4. Discussion Board activities must be completed during assigned week. Initial post are due on Thursday by 11:59pm; responses to at least two others are due by Sunday 11:59pm
5. All written activities are due by Sunday 11:59pm.

XVII. Cheating and Plagiarism. Cheating and plagiarism go against the value and mission of this university. Neither will be tolerated. **Cheating or attempts at cheating will result in an “F” for this course.** Cheating involves giving or receiving academic information or work that is deceptive, dishonest or unfair by copying another student’s work, using unauthorized information via electronic devices, theft, talking, notes, or other means. Again, **plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment and possibly this course.** There are no exceptions. Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s words and ideas as one’s own. This misrepresentation is a breach of ethics that seriously compromises a person’s reputation. Professional careers have been ruined by such acts.

Researchers, therefore, must be careful to acknowledge sources to give proper credit for borrowed materials. The following rules should be observed to ensure the distinction between one’s own words and ideas and those of others is justly maintained. Submitting a paper that is completely the work of another person is plagiarism in its most extreme form.

1. Words, phrases, and sentences of another person should be enclosed in quotation marks and footnoted in proper form.
2. Paraphrases and summaries of the ideas of others should be indicated with a footnote. These paraphrases and summaries should not represent merely the rearrangement of sentence elements but should be rewritten in one’s own style.
3. Quotations, paraphrases, and summaries should be introduced with the name of the writer being cited.
4. Every item footnoted in the paper (i.e., all sources of other’s words and ideas) should appear in the bibliography in proper form.

5. Footnotes should contain all the information required by standard footnote form and specifically indicate the location of the material cited. Page numbers should be checked for accuracy before a paper is submitted; the reader must be able to find the source of the material quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.

XVIII. Student Online Decorum. To enhance the learning atmosphere and create community please conduct yourself in a fashion conducive to learning and encouragement. **Please be mindful of the language and tone used to express comments online**. We are not expected to agree on all of the topics and issues discussed. However, it is expected that each person is respected. **Disrespectful language is not accepted and will result in your dismissal from the course**. Each behavior construed by the teacher/professor as non-contributive to learning will be recorded, properly documented, and appropriately reported to the student and to the chair of the academic department offering the course. The report will be in written form with a copy provided to both the student and the department chair. Additional student behavior codes may be found in Student Affairs.

XIX. University Policy:

All exams and assignments will be taken or handed in as scheduled. Failure to do so will result in zero points earned for the exercise; therefore, except in the most extreme circumstances, (death, child birth, auto accident, hospitalization). Quizzes may not be made up. Make up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor. An INCOMPLETE (I) grade will rarely be given and only in cases where the student is doing passing work and has a valid excuse (distress or illness). **Student must have a C average by midterm**. Please contact the professor prior to an exam in case of an emergency/illness which would be a cause for an official excuse from the DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. Please note: final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

Students are expected to participate regularly (weekly) in this online class. Weekly attendance (Participation) is monitored.

**Please note that plagiarism and cheating will result in an automatic “F” for both assignment and course.**

Finally, the instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule and organization of the course content.

XX. Disability Statement: Students who have a disability and who would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Room 079 in the Basement of the Thurgood Marshall Library or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-4067.

**XXI COURSE SCHEDULE**

Instructor reserves the right to modify course schedule and syllabus				
	Module	Theme/Question/Topic	Required Readings/Videos/Podcast	Activity
	Module 1	Semester Assignments, Expectations, and Rubrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syllabus and Course Requirements</li> </ul>	Discussion Board Activity-Introduction
	Module 2	What is public policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peters. Chapter 1 What is Public Policy, American Public Policy.</li> </ul>	Written Assignment-Policy Research Paper Topic Selection
	Module 3	Understanding the purpose and study of public policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peters. Chapter 2 The Structure of Policymaking in American Government, American Public Policy.</li> </ul>	Quiz Written Assignment - KWL
	Module 4	Examining the social, economic, political and cultural structures and systems that shape public policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peters. Chapter 3 Explaining Policy Choices, American Public Policy.</li> <li>MOVE Disaster</li> </ul>	Discussion Board Activity  Quiz
	Module 5	Decision making and public policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peters. Chapter 4 Agenda Setting and Public Policy, American Public Policy.</li> </ul>	Written Assignment - Public Policy Worksheet Quiz
	Module 6	Power, Framing, and Agendas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peters. Chapter 5 Legitimizing Policy Choices, American Public Policy.</li> <li></li> </ul>	Quiz
	Module 7	Legitimacy: Why public policy alternatives are accepted or rejected		Discussion Board Activity Written Assignment Final Public Policy Worksheet



	Module 8	Midterm Exam		Multiple choice and essay exam	
	Module 9	Course Consultations			Peters. Chapter 7 and Implementation of Public Policy.
	Module 10	Bureaucracy and Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peters. Chapter 7 Budgeting: Allocation and Public Policy, American Public Policy.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	Quiz Written Assignment - Public Policy Memo	
	Module 11	Financing Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peters. Chapter 8 Evaluation and Policy Change, American Public Policy</li> </ul>	Quiz	
	Module 12	Evaluating Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peters. Chapter 16 Social Values and Public Policy</li> </ul>	Quiz	
	Module 13	Social Values and Public Policy	Peters. Chapter 17 Policy Analysis: Cost-Benefit Analysis and Ethical Analysis, American Public Policy	Discussion Board	
	Module 14	Ethics, Values and Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam Review</li> </ul>	Quiz Written Assignment – Public Policy Memo	
	Module 15			Discussion Board	
		December 13 (Last Day)			