

Greene Central Schools
POS 111 – Introduction to Public Policy
SUNY Broome – Fast Forward
Fall 2021



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Office Hours: *9th Period
unless otherwise informed

Fast Forward Statement:

You have been selected to take this course through SUNY Broome’s Fast Forward Program, allowing you to experience the academic standards, increased workload, and personal responsibility required to be successful in college study. You will enter college with completed coursework, save money on tuition, and perhaps lessen the time to your college degree. Please take this course seriously. It starts your official academic record regardless of the college you choose.

Course Objectives:

This course offers students an analytical survey of policy formulation and implementation in the United States, together with an examination of the impact of policy upon individuals and groups in American society. Topics covered will include: policy making processes, policy analysis, federal and state policies, rationality and irrationality in public policy, incrementalism, special interests, public choice, and institutional influences.

Credits: 3 Hours; 3 Class Hours

Course Profile:

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Learning Outcomes of the Course:

1. Identify theories used by policy scientists to study public policy.
2. Identify research methods by policy scientists.
3. Compare and contrast a current local, state, or federal public policy with one another U.S. or non-U.S. community.

Materials / Text Needed:

- Binder with loose-leaf and dividers or a notebook and folders; pens and highlighters; flash drive & headphones
- *American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials* by Bardes, Shelley and Schmidt
- *Hardball: How Politics is Played – Told By One Who Knows the Game* by Chris Matthews

Course Assignments:

- **Reading assignments:** Students will be asked to read various media (newspapers, TV news, etc.) daily as well as other sources like the text so as to become more knowledgeable about public policy issues and the involvement of the government and its citizens. You are required to complete all reading assignments so that you can intelligently participate in various discussions from day-to-day.

- Homework/Classwork assignments: Students will be given assignments daily in order to continue or enhance their learning of public policy issues and how they are determined and dealt with. Assignments can require reading, answering questions, simply bringing in an article or political cartoon or watching the news. Homework and class work will occasionally be checked for completion and thoroughness and will count toward your final grades. Those assignments that are not completed when collected will receive penalties.
- Current Events: Students will be asked to collect and retain various articles pertaining to the information and covered in class and on occasion complete a formatted summary, including an in-depth opinion of the main idea/issue. Students may utilize reputable newspapers, magazines, journal entries, etc. in order to locate a credible article. Please choose articles that interest you as well as pertain to the content we are covering in class.
- Projects: There will be various projects assigned throughout the course. Each will vary in its length and complexity however they will be graded based on the content and diligence in which the project has been completed. You should always give your best effort regardless of the assignment. Some projects include presentations (use of PPT, etc.), research projects, etc. **The standard formatting for all research in the social sciences is APA.**

***All assignments will be due at the beginning of the class period on the day that it is due, unless otherwise notified or discussed. Individual penalties will be discussed for each individual assignment. There will be NO use of the printer at the beginning of the period unless for unforeseen circumstances.**
- Tests: Exams and quizzes will be given throughout the course in many different forms including multiple choice, essays, and presentations, among others. You will be graded on your knowledge of government, your depth and understanding of your required reading, various chapters within the text and on a final book review and presentation of a non-fiction book of your choice dealing with a public policy issue.
- Discussions: Students will be asked to discuss and debate various topics and issues with the utmost respect and consideration for their fellow classmates. Grading of discussions will be based on preparation and content knowledge, as well as how the discussion is presented. A rubric will be provided to help you understand how you will be specifically graded.
- Extracurricular assignments: Each student will be asked to attend at least one local meeting of their choice (school board, village, town, or county meeting). You must return to me a copy of an agenda with a signature from an administrator or school/village/town board member as proof of your attendance.

School Board Meetings: are held in the Board Conference Room in the District Offices once or twice a month unless otherwise notified starting at 7:00 pm (dates are all Wednesdays: Sept. 15, Oct. 6, Oct. 27, Nov. 17, Dec. 8, Dec. 22, and Jan. 12). Please **bring a signed agenda** from your meeting.

Village Board Meetings: second Monday of every month – 9/13, 10/18*, 11/8, 12/13, 1/10

Town Board Meetings: second Wednesday of every month – 9/8, 10/13, 11/10, 12/8, 1/12

County Supervisors Meetings: are held in the Supervisors Chambers in the county building in Norwich (dates are on the first Monday of the month) – 9/13*, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6, 1/3

or

You can also fulfill this requirement by contributing to your community via community service for at least 2 hours. You can complete this aspect by finding your own opportunity or through groups like Greene High School Interact. Please get confirmation from me before completing your service. When completed, have an adult or advisor sign a confirmation of your service (include the date and time).

Attendance Policy:

The following is the maximum number of absences allowed before credit is lost for the different length courses taught at GCS.

- *alternate days or single semester courses – 12 days*

Student Responsibilities: This course is a college-level course therefore the following is expected of all students:

1. attend every class to obtain the needed material in order gain an understanding of important concepts so as to have the opportunity to ask questions of the material.
2. make sure to complete all assignments and apply what is learned in discussion, on assignments, and tests.
3. contact me with any questions or concerns so that we can solve any issues or problems that may arise throughout the year.
4. show the instructor and classmates the utmost respect by being considerate of everyone’s right to learn and participate in a safe and collegiate environment.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are not allowed in class and must remain in your locker and out of site unless otherwise instructed. If you are caught using it, the device will be taken and returned at the end of the day.

Grading Policy: The following is the final grading scale, which will determine your final grade:

- 100% - 93% = A
- 92.99% - 90% = A-
- 89.99% - 87% = B+
- 86.99% - 83% = B
- 82.99% - 80% = B-
- 79.99% - 77% = C+
- 76.99% - 73% = C
- 72.99% - 70% = C-
- 69.99% - 60% = D
- 60% and below = F

Tests: Exams = 100+ points each – *counts twice
Quizzes = 50 points

Projects = 25-50 points for in class projects
100+ points for out of class projects

HW/CW = 10-20 points each (class participation will be looked at too)

Final grade = total points earned (+ extra credit*) / total points

Academic Integrity

SUNY Broome Academic Honesty Policy:

https://www.sunybroome.edu/c/document_library/get_file?p_1_id=142779&folderId=142906&name=DLFE-762.pdf

Fast Forward Student Handbook

Students should review the Fast Forward Student Handbook provided at

<https://www2.sunybroome.edu/ffec/student-handbook/> for information on college expectations, campus resources, and transferring credits.

Course Content / Calendar

Week (no. of days)	Topic	Assignment
*9/9-9/10 (2)	Introduction	Review course syllabus and introduce the course; Look at Citizenship Test-type questions; Review annotation method reading analysis method and current event expectations; “What is public policy?”
9/13-9/17 (5)	PART I: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM	begin research for PPT presentation of government officials CH. 1 – The Democratic Republic; CH. 2 - <i>The U.S. Constitution</i> ; CH. 3 – Federalism; CE – due Friday, 9/17
9/20-9/24 (5)	PART I: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM	CH. 4 – Civil Liberties – <i>The Bill of Rights</i> ; Freedom of religion, expression, right to privacy and rights of the accused; CE – due Friday, 9/24
9/27-10/1 (5)	PART I: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM	CH. 5 – Civil Rights – African Americans, women, other minorities, LGBTQ Exam #1 – CH. 1-5 PPT presentation due by Friday, 10/1 by 3:15 pm
10/4-10/7* (4)	<i>Presentations & Hardball</i>	PPT Presentations Begin Monday, 10/4 Begin reading <i>Hardball: How Politics is Played – Told by One Who Knows the Game</i> by Chris Matthews (Introduction to Chapter 4) and completing guided questions.
*10/12-10/15 (4)	PART II: POLITICS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY	<i>Hardball</i> (Chapter 5 to Chapter 9) and completing guided questions; class discussions. CH. 6 - a look at political socialization and its impacts on the nation and how public opinions and the media influence decision making; CE – due Friday, 10/15
10/18-10/22 (5)	PART II: POLITICS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY	<i>Hardball</i> (Chapter 10 to Chapter 14) and completing guided questions; class discussions. CH. 7 - A look at the impact of interest groups and political parties on American gov’t and politics; CE – due Friday, 10/22
10/25-10/29 (5)	PART II: POLITICS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY	Final Exam assignment for <i>Hardball</i> is due Monday, Oct. 25 CH. 8 – A look at how campaigns and elections are run; watch <i>The War Room</i> CE – due Friday, 10/29 Exam #2 – CH. 6-8
11/1-11/5 (5)	PART III: INSTITUTIONS OF AMERICAN GOV’T	CH. 9 – The Congress: its nature and function, differences between the House and Senate; Congressional elections and apportionment; organization, and law making & budgeting CE – due Friday, 11/5
11/8-*11/12 (4)	PART III: INSTITUTIONS OF AMERICAN GOV’T	CH. 10 – The Presidency: Who can run? The roles and powers of the President – <i>What’s your ideal president?</i> CH. 11 – Bureaucracy: size and budgeting, Cabinet and agencies CE – due Friday, 11/12

11/15-11/19 (5)	PART III: INSTITUTIONS OF AMERICAN GOV'T	CH. 12 – The Judiciary: sources of law, Federal Court System, the Supreme Court procedures and selection of justices, and policy making CE – due Friday, 11/19 Exam #3 – CH. 9-12
11/22-11/23* (2)	Public Policy Analysis	<i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i> : Introduction: The Eightfold Path; PART I: Steps 1-8 & issues, alternatives, criteria and rating; Project exemplar and introduction to the rubric
11/29-12/3 (5)	Public Policy Analysis	Project – begin researching a public policy issue and its alternatives
12/6-12/10 (5)	Public Policy Analysis	<i>A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis</i> - in class research Project – public policy presentations – all presentations are due on Friday, 12/10 by 3:15 pm regardless of when you are scheduled to present (may be submitted via email)
12/13-12/17 (5)	Public Policy Presentations	Students will present their issues and alternatives to the class and be evaluated based on performance, knowledge, material, and overall presentation.
12/20-12/22* (3)	Public Policy Presentations	Students will present their issues and alternatives to the class and be evaluated based on performance, knowledge, material, and overall presentation.
1/3-1/7 (5)	Issues for Debate	Personal Issue – Student Debt – the problem of growing student debt Film – “College, Inc.” – PBS Frontline; Deliberation/discussion CE – due Friday, 1/7
1/10-1/14 (5)	Issues for Debate	Societal Issue – Race in America CE – due Friday, 1/14
*1/18-1/21 (4)	Issues for Debate	Environmental Issue – Global Warming/ Pollution CE – due Friday, 1/21
1/24-1/28 (5)	Review & Final Exam	Final Exam – will be questions based on the readings and discussions from class – Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 1/26-27

*Denotes a shortened week due holidays or conference days

Please be advised that these dates are tentative and subject to change

