

Intro to American Public Policy
POLS 2330

- ! Can apply this knowledge of the policy process to any policy-related issue or topic;
- ! Can evaluate public policy problems of current importance and possess

Assignments*:

Date	Reading Assignment	Other Assignments
Unit 1: August 18, 20	Ohrfield article (online); Birkland: Preface.	Discussion Board (Introductions)
Unit 2: August 25, 27	Birkland: Chapter 1; Gordon: pp. 1-20; Rothstein: Preface.	Discussion Board (Why do you think what happened to Michael Brown, Cookie Thornton, and the other individuals discussed by Gordon had such an impact on public policy in the region and nationally?)
Unit 3: September 1,3	Birkland: Chapter 2; Gordon: pp.21-36 (stop at Elmwood Park section; “Déjà vu All Over Again: Charter Reform Fails in St. Louis” (online)	Discussion Board (Why is it difficult to pass charter reform?)
Unit 4: September 8, 10	Birkland: Chapter 3; Gordon, pp.36-49; Rothstein: Chapter 1	Possible Guest Speaker: Former Mayor of St. Louis, Vincent Schoemehl Discussion Board: (How does local land-use zoning hamper African American economic growth) Policy topic due
Unit 5: September 15, 17	Birkland: Chapter 4; Gordon:48-65; Rothstein: Chapter 2	Guest Speaker: Rebecca Hyde, Pius Library 1 st Policy Paper due Sunday by 11:59 pm.
Unit 6: September 22, 24	Birkland: Chapter 5; Gordon: pp.65-79; Rothstein: Chapter 3	Discussion Board: Topic TBD
Unit 7: September 29, Oct. 1	Birkland: Chapter 6; Gordon pp. 82-98; Rothstein: Chapter 4	Discussion Board: Topic TBD
Unit 8: October 6, 8	Birkland: Chapter 7; Gordon: pp. 99-119; Rothstein: Chapter 5	Discussion Board: Topic TBD

Unit 9:
October 13, 15

Birkland: Chapter 8; Gordon:
pp. 120-131; Rothstein:
Chapter 6

2nd Policy Brief: See below.
Due Sunday by 11:59 pm.

Short policy essays between 400-500 words, which translates to roughly 2-3 double-spaced pages. They are to be submitted via Blackboard's Journal tool. This tool allows them to be graded online so that the grade is recorded in Blackboard and counts toward the total points for the entire semester. You can submit the policy brief by either inputting it directly into Blackboard or upload a Word file.

1st Policy essay due on Sept. 20 by 11:59 pm. When we think of public goods the things that come to mind are schools and police. But are **all** schools and police public goods? What about parks? Are goods public or private based entirely on who provides the good, or are there other

Policy briefs consist of a Statement of the Problem, Main Facts (including national, state and local data), History of Action, Real Life Story/Evidence of Problem, Groups that are Working on this Issue, Top Policy Objectives, and Conclusion/Recommendation (see example below)

There will also be a mid-term and, possibly, final exam to be taken during mid-term and final weeks respectively.

* Notes on Writing Assignments: There might not be a discussion board assignment where indicated above. I will see how in-class discussions proceed. Both discussion board and quiz assignments will be on Blackboard unless otherwise indicated. More information about the online assignments are posted on the course's Blackboard page.


Breakdown of Assignment Grading:

Discussion Board	10 pts each/100 total
Policy Essays	35 pts each/105 total
Midterm exam	100 points
Policy Brief	100 points
Final Exam	100 points

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Statement of the problem –

History of Action

Top policy objectives.

