The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs  

Course Title: 
Public Policy for Human Relations Professionals  

Course Number: 
HR 5383-101  

Course Description: 
In this course we will look at how public policies are made, how these policies affect society, and consider some major public policies of interest to students and professionals in human relations fields. Key questions we will consider include: How do problems become public problems, i.e., problems whose solutions will involve the government? How are policy solutions developed, authorized, and implemented? What are some major public policies in place today in the United States? And, what are the consequences of these policies? In short, we will examine both the policy-making process and key policies that have resulted from that process.

A number of instructional methods will be used in this course, but students will be expected to be actively engaged in that process. Much of the learning will come through student presentations and classroom discussions.

Class Dates, Location and Hours: 

Dates: September 16-18 & 23-25, 2011  
Location: Bldg. 201 SE, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma.  
Hours: Fri 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 18, 2011

This military installation is not open to the general public. In order to take courses at this installation, students must have a current military or Department of Defense identification card which allows them to access the installation.

Site Director:  
Christopher Sartorius. Phone: 405-739-7365 or DSN 339-7365; Fax: 405-739-7365; E-mail: aptinker@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information: 

Course Professor: Gary Copeland  
Mailing Address: Department of Political Science  
455 W. Lindsey # 205  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019  
Telephone Number: 405-325-1426  
Fax Number: 405-325-0718  
E-mail Address: copeland@ou.edu  
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.
Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).

   Bundled with:
   The CQ Researcher. (2011). Issues for debate in American public policy, selections from CQ Researcher (12th ed.). (Text prices are available online.)

   NOTE: The texts are available as a bundle. The bundle ISBN is: 9781452202037.

2. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance. Please check D2L on a regular basis for class updates and supplemental course materials.

   Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing this course, students should understand:
- the concept of “public policy” and who makes it,
- the role of government in addressing the problems of society,
- the processes by which public policy is made,
- the vast array of influences on the content of public policy,
- some key public policies or importance to human relations professionals, and
- how citizens are influenced by public policies and how they might influence public policy.

Course Outline:

In this course, we will consider some basic elements of public policy: what it is, factors that influence how policy is made in the U.S, how those factors and others influence the content of policy, and the role of policy analysis in creating and modifying public policy. We will also consider a number of specific public policies.

Much of the classroom instruction will be conducted seminar style with instructor led discussion and/or be led by groups of small students assigned to make presentations over part of the material. While class time will be given to allow groups to prepare presentations, it is essential that students show up to the first class having read both textbooks and prepared to facilitate discussion over the readings.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Pre-class assignments (due at the start of the first class):
1) Read both assigned texts carefully (and check D2L for potential supplementary reading).
2) Write three “mock final exam” questions, i.e., questions that would make good questions for the final exam.
3) Write the pre-class paper, discussed below.
In class assignments:
   1) Be in class.
   2) Be prepared to engage in small group presentations over the material.
   3) Fully participate in class discussions.
   4) A final exam during the last class period.

Post-class assignment (due two weeks after the class ends):
   Complete the post class research paper, discussed below.

The paper assignments:
Pick a public policy issue that has been in the news and/or receiving attention in the popular media.

For the pre-class assignment, summarize the views in the popular media regarding this public policy.
Note: there does not need to be a consensus on the policy so you do not need to artificially create one if it
does not exist. Be sure to sample enough sources that you have the full range of views.

The pre-class paper should briefly describe the public policy and then summarize popular views regarding
that policy (2 - 3 pages).

The post-class assignment will be a more complete policy analysis. We will discuss specific expectations
in class but you should expect to provide a history of the policy and its development and to review more
serious scholarly work that has analyzed the policy. You will make a comparison between coverage in
the popular press and analysis in scholarly research. You will also be expected to make policy
recommendations. (7 - 10 pages, which may include pre-class assignment material)

NOTE: when you pick your policy for the pre-class assignment you might do some literature searches to
be sure you will find related scholarly work.

The papers should follow the American Psychological Association manual of style because this is the
standard adopted by the Department of Human Relations.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-class final exam questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-class paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In class presentations and participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may
adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Gary W. Copeland, Ph.D.

Education

1979 Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Iowa

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 1981
- Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- PSC 5913 Introduction to Analysis of Political and Administrative Data
- PSC 6173 Leading Public Organizations
- HR 5033 Seminar in Leadership in Organizations
- HR 5383 Public Policy for the Human Relations Professional

Majors Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- American Politics (Institutions, Processes and Political Behavior)
- Public Policy
- Comparative Politics
- Methods and Techniques of Research

Representative Publications and Presentations

- With Meier, K.J. (1986). *Tort reform and the regulation of the insurance industry: Medical malpractice liability proposals.* *Publius,* 17, 163-177.

Major Professional Affiliations

- American Political Science Association
- Southwestern Political Science Association
- Referee for NSF, APSR, AJPS, JOP, LSQ, APQ, and others

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- President-Elect of the Southwestern Social Science Association, 2011-2012
- President of the Southwestern Political Science Association, 2000-2001
- Board of Education, Norman Public Schools, 1996-2006
- Outstanding Faculty, by OU’s Students Association, 2001
- Mentor of Distinction, (Outstanding Mentor of Women in Political Science), Women’s Caucus for Political Science, 1993
- American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, 1978-80