

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - FORT SMITH
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General Syllabus
PLSC 31133 Public Policy

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

The study of the evolution of policy-making in the U.S., theories of policy-making, the policy process, and substantive policy issues.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the evolution of policy-making in America.
2. Apply theories of policymaking.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of how the policy process works in America.
4. Discuss common policy issues.

B. University Learning Outcomes

Analytical Skills:

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will analyze complex ideas by the study of the theory of policy-making.

Communication Skills (written and oral):

Students will develop enhanced communication skills through essays, quizzes, and other assignments.

Global and Cultural Perspectives:

Students will develop broader perspectives by studying important global policy issues.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The historical and structural context of policy-making
- B. The actors in the policy-making process
- C. Agenda setting
- D. Policy evaluation
- E. Understanding statistics
- F. Policies like Social Security, energy, and the environment
- G. The role and future of the federal budget