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## PAEA 501 Public and Environmental Affairs I

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## **PAEA 501: Public and Environmental Affairs I**

Professor Mack Mariani

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Class Meeting Time: 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Mondays

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will introduce students to fundamental challenges faced by public policy makers in the fields of public and environmental affairs, analyze the roles played by institutions and actors at various stages in the public policy process, and critically analyze public policy decision-making and outcomes in real-life policy questions and situations. This course will meet online, with one set meeting on Monday nights. Students will also participate in online discussion boards and assignments throughout the week. The course culminates in a required three-day immersion to explore, in-depth, an important policy issue facing the Cincinnati region.

### **ZOOM OFFICE HOURS**

In weeks 1-4 of the class, I will be available by appointment for Zoom office hours on Wednesdays between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon, and other times by mutual agreement. In weeks 5 & 6, my availability will be Wednesdays 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm by appointment. Just text or e-mail me and I'll put you on the schedule. The link for the zoom office hours can be found [here](#) (Links to an external site.).

### **REQUIRED BOOKS**

- Randy S. Clemons and Mark K. McBeth. 2016. *Public Policy Praxis: A Case Approach for Understanding Policy and Analysis*. Third Edition. Routledge.
- James L. Wescoat, Jr. and Gilbert F. White. 2003. *Water for Life: Water Management and Environmental Policy*. Cambridge University Press.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

In this course, students will:

- Explain the importance of political ideas, institutions and culture and how they shape public policy (Maps to SLO #1: Academic and Public Communication; SLO #3 Theoretical Inquiry, SLO #4: Habits of Mind)
- Describe the stages in the policy process, identify the main actors who contribute at each stage of the policy process, and analyze the challenges and opportunities that citizens, politicians, interest groups and policy entrepreneurs face at each stage in the process. (Maps to SLO #1: Academic and Public Communication; SLO #3 Theoretical Inquiry)
- Articulate the challenges faced by public policy analysts, the steps that need to be taken to craft a public policy analysis, and the value of policy analysis as a tool for more informed decision-making. (Maps to SLO #1: Academic and Public Communication and SLO #6: Public Affairs).
- Apply the principles of policy analysis into an analysis of a real-world issue, incorporating a range of evidence from individuals and organization affected by the issue and/or involved with the policy process (Maps to SLO #3 Theoretical Inquiry; #4 Habits of Mind, SLO #5 Leadership)

## **PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course introduces students to the following learning objectives;

- SLO #1: Academic and Public Communication - Students will hone their ability to evaluate, synthesize, and articulate academic arguments. Program graduates are proficient writers and speakers, tailoring specialized information to diverse audiences, in order to advocate for positive change in policy, organizational, and public contexts.
- SLO #3: Theoretical Inquiry - Students will demonstrate a philosophical and historical understanding of liberalism, criticisms of liberalism, and the relationship between policies and liberal ideals. Graduates draw on this understanding to examine the implications theories and policies have on class, race, and gender relations.
- SLO #4: Habits of Mind - Students will cultivate values and habits of mind informed by Xavier's Ignatian and liberal arts heritage, including reflection, discernment, and solidarity with marginalized communities. Graduates draw on the insights of humanistic inquiry to frame problems, and to recommend humane solutions, working both within and outside organizations to address complex social and environmental problems.
- SLO #5: Leadership - Students will develop the know-how to effectively navigate formal and informal structures and systems in business, government, the nonprofit sector, and other relevant domains. Graduates work effectively in teams, and positively influence organizations as flexible, enthusiastic learners.

## **GRADING POLICIES**

The final score in the class will be based on the following assignments/requirements:

20%	Discussions
20%	Project Assignments
30%	Final Public Policy Project
30%	Final Exam

The following point totals are needed to secure the following grades:

94%	A	74%	C
91%	A-	71%	C-
88%	B+	68%	D+
84%	B	64%	D
81%	B-	61%	D-
78%	C+	< 61%	F

## **COURSE POLICIES**

The main focus of the course will be completion of the public policy project. In order to complete the project successfully, students will need to meet the timelines for deliverables that they set, in collaboration with the partner organization and the instructor.

Students are expected to come prepared for, attend and participate in course meetings, discussions, and individual and group meetings with the instructor.

Students will lose 3 points in their final grade for every non-excused absence and 2 points for every late discussion and assignment.

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

On Mondays we have a Zoom class from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We will generally follow this schedule:

6:00 pm	Guest Speaker from Greater Cincinnati Water Works
7:00 pm	Break
7:10 pm	Discussion on Policy Readings
7:50 pm	Break
8:00 pm	Project Update/Discussion
8:30 pm	Adjourn!

From Tuesday through Thursday, students should focus on their public policy project. Students are expected to post updates to the discussion board detailing their progress by Thursday at 10:00 pm.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, students should continue working on their projects and complete the readings for Monday. There will be a public policy assignment due at 10:00 pm on Sunday.

## **READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK 1**

Monday, June 29: Class 6:00-8:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Christopher Burton, Administrative Specialist, GCWW

Read/watch the following ahead of class:

- Syllabus
- Project Summary
- Video Introduction
- *Water for Life*, Ch. 1 (Water and Life)
- *Water for Life*, Ch. 2 (Challenge and Opportunity)
- Water Works Readings (see Canvas Page)

Thursday, July 2: Participate in Discussion Board

Sunday, July 5: Public Policy Project Assignment #1 Due

### **WEEK 2**

Monday, July 6: Class 6:00-8:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Jeff Swertfeger, Water Quality Superintendent, GCWW

Read/watch the following ahead of class:

- “Public Policy, Power, the People, Pluralism, and You,” Chapter 1 in *Public Policy Praxis*
- *Water for Life*, Ch. 3 (Ecosystem Change)
- *Water for Life*, Ch. 4 (Groundwater)
- Water Works Readings (see Canvas Page)

Thursday, July 9: Participate in Discussion Board

Sunday, July 12: Public Policy Project Assignment #2 Due

### **WEEK 3**

Monday, July 13: Class 6:00-8:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Tiffany Hardy, Assistant Superintendent of Communications and Marketing, GCWW

Read/watch the following ahead of class:

- “The Rational Public Policy Method,” Chapter 2 in *Public Policy Praxis*
- “The Positivist Toolbox.” Chapter 3 in *Public Policy Praxis*
- *Water for Life*, Ch. 8 (River...Floodplains)
- *Water for Life*, Ch. 10 (Domestic Water Mgmt)
- Water Works Readings (see Canvas Page)

Thursday, July 16: Participate in Discussion Board

Sunday, July 19: Public Policy Project Assignment #3 Due

### **WEEK 4**

Monday, July 20: Class 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Cathy Bailey, Executive Director, GCWW

Guest Speaker: Christopher Smitherman, Vice Mayor, City of Cincinnati (possible)

Read/watch the following ahead of class:

- “Critiques of the Positivist Approach.” Chapter 4 in *Public Policy Praxis*
- “The Non-rational (Political) Approach.” Chapter 5 in *Public Policy Praxis*
- *Water for Life*, Ch. 11 (Decision Processes)
- *Water for Life*, Ch. 12 (Integrative Processes)
- Water Works Readings (see Canvas Page)

Thursday, July 23: Participate in Discussion Board

Sunday, July 26: Public Policy Project Assignment #4 Due

### **WEEK 5**

Monday, July 27: Class 6:00-8:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Verna Arnette, Treatment Superintendent, GCWW

Read/watch the following ahead of class:

- Water Works Readings (see Canvas Page)

Thursday, July 30: Participate in Discussion Board

Sunday, August 2: Public Policy Project Assignment #5 Due

**WEEK 6**

Monday, August 3: Class 6:00 pm – 8: 30 pm

Guest Speaker: Christopher Burton, Administrative Specialist, GCWW

Project Presentations

Thursday, August 6: Project Deliverables Due

Sunday August 9: Take Home Final Exam Due; Summary of Contributions to Project Due

READING AND ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR, SUMMER 2020

	MONDAY	TUES.	WEDS.	THURS.	SAT.	SUN.
Week 1: 6/29-7/5	Class 1			Discussion Board 1		Project Assignment 1
Week 2: 7/6-7/12	Class 2			Discussion Board 2		Project Assignment 2
Week 3: 7/13-7/19	Class 3			Discussion Board 3		Project Assignment 3
Week 4: 7/20-7/26	Class 4			Discussion Board 4		Project Assignment 4
Week 5: 7/27-8/2	Class 5			Discussion Board 5		Project Assignment 5
Week 6: 8/3-8/9	Class 6 Project Presentations			Project Deliverables Due		Final Exam Due