

# UAPP 225 Crafting Public Policy (Spring 2023)

M/W 8:40 -9:55 am  
Room 228 Allison Hall

## Instructor:

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zoom: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/505147266>  
Office Hours: Mon and Wed 10:00 – noon Location: DGS Annex 261 Academy St.

## Course Description:

Explores how the processes of public policy operate from agenda setting through formulation and legitimation, to implementation and eventual evaluation with examples drawn from several areas of policy (e.g., health, education, environment). Focus primarily on domestic public policy although international policy will be introduced.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the basic structure and political processes of the US government and its theoretical underpinnings.
2. Become familiar with relationships between different levels of US government.
3. Students will learn how problems rise to the level of public problems.
4. Recognize roles in policy process (executive, judicial. Legislative, special interests, political parties, media.
5. Develop critical reading skills and read public policy documents and readings from a variety of sources.
6. Make analytical/practical policy assessments utilizing skills like critical thinking, writing, public presentations.

This course was designed to meet UD General Education Objectives and meet a major requirement for the B.S. Energy and Environmental Policy and the B.A. Public Policy. Additionally, it is one of many courses that may be used to meet the Group C: Social and Behavioral Sciences College Breadth Requirement depending on a student's major. All students should consult with their academic advisor to ensure this course and all others they are enrolled in or have taken meet the program requirements they are hoping.

## UD General Education Objectives:

- 1A: Read Critically
- 1B: Analyze Arguments and Information
- 2A: Communicate Effectively in Writing
- 2B: Communicate Orally
- 3A: Work Collaboratively Across Cultures
- 4A: Critically Evaluate Ethical Implications
- 5C: Reason Scientifically

## Textbooks:

Rinfret, Sara et al. 2019. *Public Policy: A Concise Introduction*, Sage: CQ Press.

## Technology:

Canvas will be used for course activities and communication channels. [Zoom at UD](#) will be used for class.

- Check your email and Canvas regularly.
- Read the material on time, carefully, and thoughtfully.

- Prepare assignments carefully and thoughtfully.
- Regular attendance.
- Being present and engaged during class time.
- Please visit me during office hours or make an appointment.

**Grading:**

Your course grade will be based on the following course components:

Course Component	% of Total
Class Participation	15
Policy Papers (3)	25
Group Project	20
Exams (2)	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Course Grade Components:**

All assignments must be submitted in class by due date as directed for each assignment.

**Class Participation:** This is an active learning class and your participation is an important element. Class participation is comprised of several components, including regular attendance and active engagement including periodic short assignments and group work. In-class assignments or activities that are missed because of excused absences will not impact your class participation grade. However, multiple absences may potentially impact your overall course grade.

**Policy Papers:** Three writing assignments will be required that 1) identifies and describes your policy topic; 2) discusses the policy type and the players involved; and 3) a final policy brief that builds upon your first two papers and provides a more detailed description of the full policy process for your topic. More details will be given out with assignments.

**Group Presentation and Brief:** A critical part of policy work is the ability to collectively consider policies with other policy experts. In most policy work settings, groups comprised of people with different background knowledge of a topic are often formed to analyze and improve public policy. You will have an opportunity to practice this policy collaboration skill as part of your group project. Each team is to prepare one policy brief on a topical area chosen from a selection provided by the instructor. The teams will then develop a policy of choice within the topical area and execute a public presentation. The policy discussion will be given in a 15-minute Power point presentation, accompanied by a 5–8-page policy brief, inclusive of an annotation of bibliographic sources consulted. Further details regarding group projects will be discussed when they are assigned. Partial assessment of the team work will be based on peer assessment.

**Exams:** The exams provide regular assessments of your understanding of course material. There will be 2 exams (midterm and final exam) with a combination of short-answer, multiple choice questions, matching and/or short essay(s). Not all of the material covered in class time will be in the textbook and we will not cover everything in the textbook during class time.

**Attendance:** Absences on religious holidays listed in university calendars are recognized as an excused absence. Absences on religious holidays not listed in university calendars, as well as absences due to athletic participation or other extracurricular activities in which students are official representatives of the university, shall be recognized as excused absences when the student informs the instructor in writing.

**Communication:** I will post announcements and course material on Canvas and by @UDel email regularly. Email or cell phone is the best way to reach me a or even better stop by the office.

**Student Mental Health & Wellbeing:** In addition to impacting your overall wellbeing, diminished mental health can interfere with optimal academic performance. If this course is causing or contributing significant mental or emotional stress, then please reach out to me directly. However, problems with other parts of your life can also contribute to decreased academic performance. UD's Center for Counseling & Student Development (CCSD) provides cost-free and confidential mental health services to help you manage personal challenges that threaten your emotional or academic well-being. CCSD is open and available remotely, and 24/7 mental health support remains available on the UD Helpline at 302-831-1001 for any student in need of someone to talk to. Visit CCSD's website for information and resources.

**COVID-19 Guidelines:** All students are to abide by most current UD COVID19 policy (masking, testing, boosters).

**Academic Integrity:** Please familiarize yourself with UD policies regarding academic integrity at [udel.edu/student-conduct/sgup/](http://udel.edu/student-conduct/sgup/) Office of Student Conduct, 218 Hullihen Hall, (302) 831-2117. E-mail: [student-conduct@udel.edu](mailto:student-conduct@udel.edu) Students are expected to do their own work and neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance.

**Harassment and Discrimination:** The University of Delaware works to promote an academic and work environment that is free from all forms of discrimination, including harassment. Please familiarize yourself with these policies at [www.udel.edu/oei](http://www.udel.edu/oei). You can report any concerns to the University's Office of Equity & Inclusion, at 305 Hullihen Hall, (302) 831-8063 or you can report anonymously through UD Police (302) 831-2222 or the Ethics Point Compliance Hotline at [www1.udel.edu/compliance](http://www1.udel.edu/compliance).

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Any student who thinks he/she/they may need an accommodation based on a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) office as soon as possible. Reach DSS in the following ways: Phone: 302-831-4643, fax: 302-831-3261, DSS website. Email: [dssoffice@udel.edu](mailto:dssoffice@udel.edu) or visit at 240 Academy Street, Alison Hall Suite 130.

**Non-Discrimination:** The University of Delaware does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, disability, religion, age, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in its employment, educational programs and activities, admissions policies, and scholarship and loan programs as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. UD also prohibits unlawful harassment including sexual harassment and sexual violence. For inquiries related to non-discrimination policies, please contact: Office of Equity & Inclusion-[oei@udel.edu](mailto:oei@udel.edu), 305 Hullihen Hall Newark, DE 19716 (302) 831-8063.

**Biden School Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** The Biden School is committed to meaningful action that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence. We value diversity of all types including race, ethnicity, religion, color, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and national origin. Together with the faculty, staff, and students, particularly those from BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, we understand the need for urgent action. We offer a steadfast commitment to ongoing listening, support of productive dialogue, and increased awareness to drive inclusion and meaningful, sustained positive change within our communities.

**Course Outline:**

This is an outline of the course and subject to revision depending on student interest in specific topic areas. Assignments will not change nor will exams or their due dates unless circumstances present.

Week	Dates	Theme/Topic	Readings	Notes
1	Feb 6 and 8	Introduction. Theory & Constitutional Foundations of US. Gov't.	Rinfret, Ch. 1 & 2	<b>Welcome!</b>
2	Feb 13 and 15	Policy Process, Federalism, Regulatory Policy, Bureaucracy	Rinfret, Ch. 3 & Ch. 4	
3	Feb 20 and 22	Rulemaking and Budget, Political Parties and Interest Groups	Rinfret, Ch. 5	
4	Feb 27 and Mar 1	Crime and Public Policy. Gun Control	Rinfret, Ch. 6	<b>3/1: Policy Paper No. 1 due 500–750-word op ed</b>
5	Mar 6 and 8	Education Policy	Rinfret, Ch. 7	
6	Mar 13 and 15	Civil Rights and Immigration Policy	Rinfret, Ch. 8	
7	Mar 20 and 22	Social Welfare & Health Care Policy	Rinfret, Ch. 9	<b>Mar 22 midterm exam issued Ch. 1-8</b>
8	Mar 27 and 29	Spring Break		<b>Spring Break</b>
9	Apr 3 and 5	Environmental, Energy, and Climate Policy	Rinfret, Ch. 10	<b>Apr 5: Policy Paper No. 2 due</b>
10	Apr 10 and 12	International Relations	Readings to be assigned	
11	Apr 17 and 19	Fairness & Justice. Racism and Discrimination	Readings to be assigned	
12	Apr 24 and 26	Poverty and Inequality	Readings to be assigned	
13	May 1 and 3	Election Policy and Law	Readings to be assigned	
14	May 8 and 10	Supreme Court	Readings to be assigned	<b>May 8: Policy Paper No. 3 due</b>
15	May 15, May 17 (Reading Day)	Dec 5 & 7 In class Public Policy Presentations Due. Semester Review		<b>May 10 and 15: Group Public Policy Presentations</b>
	May 22	Final Exam in class		<b>Final Exam</b>