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PSC 200S.01: Issues and Policy Making

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

PSc 200 American Government:
Issues and Policy Making
Spring 1995

M. Laslovich
Office: LA 350
Hrs: MW 1-2:00,
TTh 9-9:30 and 2-3:00,
and by app't (5202)

Course Description

An introduction to the theory and practice of the American national public policy-making process. Selected current issues will be incorporated into class lectures to enhance the understanding of U.S. government and politics.

Texts

Students are required to read the following texts which are available at the University Bookstore:

Kingdon, John W. Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies.
New York: Harper Collins, 1984, and

Lindblom, Charles E. and Edward J. Woodhouse. The Policy-Making Process. 3rd edition. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1993.

Course Requirements - Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Exam 1 (Feb. 9) Topics I-II	30%
Exam 2 (March 28) Topics III-VI	35%
Final Exam (Wed., May 10, 8-10:00) Topics VII-VIII	35%

Drop/Add and Grading Change Deadlines

February 2 - Last day to add courses.
February 16 - Last day to drop courses or change grading option.

Makeup Exam Policy

Students excused from a scheduled exam may write a makeup exam. In fairness to all students, exam absences must be approved by the instructor.

The Classroom Learning Environment (authored by Dr. Ronald Perrin, Professor of Political Theory)

Wherever the learning process takes place (for example, in the library or the seclusion of one's study) it does so best when there are a minimum of distractions. This requirement poses special challenges for the learning that takes place in the lecture hall or the classroom, where the possibility of distractions is the greatest.

In order to establish and maintain a supportive learning environment for my students I will not tolerate the few individuals who might be prone to a) come to class late or leave early, b) carry on private conversations during class, or c) use the lecture hall/classroom as an opportunity to read material, such as the Kaimin, that is not relevant to the subject matter under consideration.

The Classroom Learning Environment (continued)

The only exception to these conditions concern students whose work schedules or unanticipated appointments require them to arrive for class late or leave early. In these instances I would appreciate knowing of the circumstance before it occurs and, in all such instances, request that students do so as unobtrusively as possible. Thank you.

Lecture Topics and Readings

- I Introduction: Policy Formation
Kingdon, chapter 1.
- II Government Participants - "Insiders" and "Outsiders"
Kingdon, chapters 2 and 3.
- III Processes of Governing
Kingdon, chapter 4.
- IV The "Problem Stream" - Agenda Setting
Kingdon, chapter 5.
- V The "Policy Stream" - Generation of Policy Proposals
Kingdon, chapter 6.
- VI The "Political Stream"
Kingdon, chapter 7.
- VII Convergence of Streams
Kingdon, chapter 8.
- VIII Critique of the Policy Making Process
Kingdon, chapter 9.
Lindblom and Woodhouse.

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