MPPA 5309 U.S. Science and Technology Policy
Spring 2017

Dr. Jon R. Taylor
Meeting Time: Online
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Office Hours: MW: 7:00am – 8:00am; 9:00am – 5:00pm; TTH: 7:00am – 8:00am and 11:00am – 3:00pm; F: 7:00am – 8:00am; 9:00am – 12:00pm

Required Text:

All course materials, including required readings and assignments, will be posted on the class Blackboard site. Articles and multimedia will be posted under the Course Library tab, which contains folders for every week.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce the important concepts of federalism and intergovernmental relations with a particular emphasis on how those concepts affect public policy and public administration. The course will cover the political, legal, and intellectual contexts of federalism. We will seek to understand the importance of federalism by examining its constitutional foundations and evolution through time. Various theories of federalism will be used to explore the role of the national, state, and local governments. Attention will be paid to how the interaction of governments in our federal system influences policy decisions and the ability of government to meet the demands and needs of citizens.

Student Learning Objectives:

Course content and requirements are designed to develop students’ knowledge and skill in:

- Understanding and being able to precisely use key terms and concepts found in modern interdisciplinary analyses of science and technology policy issues.
- Developing and testing theories and models.
- Framing and developing good researchable questions.
- Designing effective approaches to address research questions.
- Recognizing and understanding ethical and political issues that arise in conducting and reporting research.
- Reporting on one’s own research and on studies conducted by others in a clear manner.
Exams and Grading:

There will be an analytical essay and a policy memorandum for the class. The following is the grading breakdown for the course:

- **Analytical essay:** 30%
- **Online participation:** 40%
- **Policy memorandum:** 30%

Students are expected to prepare thoroughly for each class session, to submit written materials on time, and to participate actively and constructively in class. Attendance is critical. All written work is expected to be of high quality. That is, it should be logically organized, complete, and lead the reader to a conclusion. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, proper referencing, and organization will be graded as well as content and presentation. All quotations and significant paraphrases should be properly cited.

Discussion Board/Class Participation:

This is not a “correspondence course” in which a student may work at his/her own pace. The course format is asynchronous instruction: meaning that there are no dedicated in-class meetings or any required live video chat interactions. It is your responsibility to complete the readings and post comments during the week for which they are assigned. Completion of the required readings and posting of comments are essential for satisfactory performance in the class. Students are responsible for knowing the due dates of assignments and keeping up with the course as the semester progresses.

To fully participate in the course, students will be expected to have a UST e-mail account and access to the Internet. If you do not have an active UST e-mail account please login to UST’s Celt Login Authentication System in order to sign up. Additional readings on the weekly topics are encouraged. If you see an article that is pertinent to the class, please send them to me so that I may post it and share it with the class.

Analytical Essay:

An analytical essay is required. The completed essay is due on **May 3, 2017**. All work submitted must be typewritten and double spaced, using a 12 point font, with 1 inch margins on all four sides and properly footnoted. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade.

The grading of the essay will be based on:

- Your ability to provide an analytical viewpoint on the topic to back up your opinions provided with research materials.
- Clarity and organization of the essay.
- Appropriate citations and reference throughout the essay (footnotes, bibliography, etc.).
• Correct grammar, spelling and form.
• Unexcused late essays will be reduced by one-half a grade per day.
• The analytical essay should be between 15 – 20 pages in length.

Policy Memorandum:

A policy briefing memo is a concise, clear statement in memo-format that distills essential information for a policy maker/elected official. The goal of a policy brief is to highlight the most important information necessary for a busy policy maker to make a decision. Memos should all focus on a single problem or issue that you care deeply about.

Your policy briefing memo should include the following items:

• Summarize the policy problem and the pending policy decision
• Critically evaluate the political and policy context
• You may distill the principal arguments, or talking points, supporting different positions or policy options.
• You should provide a clear recommendation.

The memo will be due on May 3, 2017. Try to keep it to 3 – 4 pages in length, typewritten and single-spaced, using a 12 point font, with 1 inch margins on all four sides.

Class Rules:

• Online participation is required and worth 40% of your overall grade
• Reading course assignments is expected
• Showing respect to other students and the professor is expected
• Make up work will be limited to special circumstances (and with prior notification only)
• Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will result in a failing grade.

Academic Integrity:

"It would have been better if he had never been born"– Mark 14:21.

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper attribution) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to university policy and reported to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee.

As stated in the Academic Misconduct Code for the University of St. Thomas, academic misconduct includes: (a) cheating (using an authorized 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; (b) assisting others in any such act; or (c) attempting to engage in such acts.

Plagiarism is using the work or another person and claiming it as your own. The most common types of plagiarism include:

- Using a paper or portion of a paper prepared by someone else;
- Quoting someone else's language or words without proper quotation or citation; and
- Paraphrasing someone else's ideas, framework, or insights without giving credit to the original author in a citation.

Academic misconduct in any form is unacceptable and suspected violations will be pursued aggressively.

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you have any condition, such as a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined in this syllabus, please notify me and the Office for Counseling and Testing Services in the first week of the course so that we may make appropriate arrangements. All information and documentation of disability is confidential. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request.

**Schedule of Events (Subject to Change):**

- Introduction; What is science policy?
- U.S. science policy: Who’s who and what’s what
- Social, political and economic structure of science
- Science and foreign policy
- Science in economic development
- National innovation systems

  **Spring Break March 13th – 17th**

- Regulations and science
- Big science
- Health, biomedical research, and biotechnology policy
- Science, technology and the military
- Science and democracy – public participation in science policy

  **Holy Week Break April 13th – 14th**

- Environment and climate science policy
- Emerging technology policies: Synthetic biology, Nanotechnology
- Information and communications technology policy

  **Research paper due May 15th**
  **Analytical Essay due May 15th**