

POLITICAL SCIENCE 306—Comparative Public Policy

Dr. Gobeyn (Bradley Hall 226/677-2497)

This course provides an in depth introduction to the political science subfield of comparative public policy. During the course of the semester we will be examining in a comparative context the public policies and policymaking systems and strategies of the governments of Britain, France, Germany Sweden, the Netherlands, Japan, and the United States. While considerable time will be devoted to identifying and explaining policy differences in the areas of micro- and macro-economic management, we will also address, in as much detail as time allows, policies, and policymaking practices in such sectors as education, social welfare, housing, health care, and the environment.

STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION

Though this course is largely lecture-oriented in format, it is hoped that substantial classroom discussion will be generated on a consistent basis. Hence, it is important that you read all of the assigned materials and come to class prepared to offer periodic “words of wisdom” to your fellow classmates and to your instructor.

There will be TWO in-class essay-based exams during the semester, each is worth 35% of your final grade. An additional 30% of your grade will be determined by the score you receive on a 7-8 page evaluative essay, which will be based in part on the Shipler book.. Class attendance and participation might be considered in the case of borderline grades.

BOOKS

Shipler, *The Working Poor*

COURSE SEQUENCE

Week 1(1/22)

-course introduction

Week 2 (1/27-1/29)

-theories of comparative public policy

-case studies

Weeks 3, 4, 5, 6 (2/3-2/5) (2/10-2/12) (2/17-2/19) (2/24-2/26)

-government and the economy

-macroeconomic management

-microeconomic management

Week 7 (3/3-3/5)

-government-business relations

MID-TERM EXAM Thursday March 5

Weeks 8, 9 (3/10-3/12) (3/24-3/26)

-Occupational Transformations in the U.S.

Readings: Shipler (entire book)

***evaluative essay assigned 3/24 (no class 3/26)

Week 10 (3/31-4/2)

-welfare policies

-taxation and redistribution

Week 11 (4/7-4/9)

-housing policy

Week 12 (4/14-4/16)

-education policy

-health care policy

Week 13 (4/21-4/23)

-health care policy (cont.)

-environmental policy

Week 14 (4/28-4/30)

-immigration policy

Week 15 (5/5)

Exam review

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 12, 2:30-4:00

