

# POSC 315: Introduction to Public Policy

California State University, Fullerton  
Department of Political Science

CalStateFullerton.

**Instructor:** Dr. David P. Adams

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**Office Hours:** MW 2–4 PM or by appointment

**Term:** Fall 2025

**Class Times:** Monday/Wednesday 5:30–6:45 PM

**Location:** Zoom (link provided via Canvas)

## Course Description

This course introduces the policy process, including agenda-setting, formulation, implementation, and evaluation. We examine the actors, institutions, and ideas that shape public policy at all levels of government.

## Course Objectives

- Analyze the stages of the policy process
- Understand the roles of institutions and stakeholders
- Evaluate competing policy frameworks
- Communicate policy analysis clearly and concisely

## Required Texts

- Birkland, Thomas A. (2019). *\*An Introduction to the Policy Process\**, 5th ed. Routledge.
- Supplementary readings available on Canvas

## Assessment

Assignment	Description	Weight
Weekly Quizzes	Based on readings	20%
Policy Brief	5-page memo with citations	30%
Midterm Exam	Take-home essay	20%
Final Project	Group presentation	30%

## Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	93–100%
A–	90–92%
B+	87–89%
B	83–86%
B–	80–82%
C+	77–79%
C	73–76%
C–	70–72%
D+	67–69%
D	63–66%
D–	60–62%
F	59% and below

## Accessibility Statement

CSUF is committed to providing equal access. If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the Disability Support Services office and notify me as early as possible.

## Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected. Plagiarism or cheating will result in disciplinary action. Familiarize yourself with CSUF's policy on academic dishonesty.

## University Policies

Please refer to the university's syllabus policies website at <https://fdc.fullerton.edu/teaching/student-info-syllabi.html> for important campus-wide policies on academic integrity, disability accommodations, emergency procedures, and student conduct.

These policies are in effect for all courses at CSU Fullerton.

## Tentative Schedule

- **Week 1:** What is Public Policy?
- **Week 2:** Theories of the Policy Process
- **Week 3:** Institutions and Governance
- **Week 4:** Policy Design and Tools
- ...
- **Finals Week:** Group Project Presentations

## Support Services

Free resources are available to help you succeed:

- Writing Center
- Academic Advising
- Counseling and Psychological Services

*Last updated: June 5, 2025. This syllabus may be adapted as needed to support student learning and institutional requirements.*