

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 fullerton.edu/senate/documents/policy/SyllabiPolicy.pdf 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.