

## POLI 211: Introduction to Public Policy Issue Papers

**Due:** VARIOUS

**Length:** AT LEAST FOUR BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE PAGES. DOUBLE-SPACED, TIMES NEW ROMAN 12PT OR SIMILAR FONT.

**Submit:** ASSIGNMENT FOLDER ON OAKS BY 2:00 PM ET ON DUE DATE

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### Paper Guidelines

Each issue paper will focus on a different aspect of the one problem or policy issue you choose. **I recommend, but won't require you to pick a national issue.** You should include at least four *academic* sources (not including course readings) for each paper. Appropriate sources include (for example, but not limited to), peer-reviewed journal articles, books, government reports, research institute ("think tank") reports, and mainstream newspaper articles.

I recommend making use of the [Comparative Agendas Project](#) website. Be sure and use the United States by going to "Select a Project" on the right-hand side of the screen and choose the United States.

### Issue Paper 1: Define the Problem

In issue paper 1, you should provide a brief overview of your policy issue to introduce the reader to the issue. It can include answers to such questions as, why is it an important issue? What makes it a societal problem? Why should policy makers be concerned about the issue? Define some of the key terms with regard to the issue. Make clear if you are examining an issue on the local, state, or federal level. **Due: Sept 15**

### Issue Paper 2: Institutions, Subsystems, and Agenda-Setting

In issue paper 2, describe the institutions involved in policymaking with regard to your policy problem. What congressional committees, executive branch agencies, and interest groups are involved in your issue? Finally, what are some ways for your issue to reach the policymaking agenda. **Due: Oct 6**

### Issue Paper 3: Current Policies

In issue paper 3, you should discuss what policy or policies are currently in place to address your issue. Is there legislation? Who implements it? Are there regulations? What are some of the current policy tools that are being used with regard to the issue? **Due: Nov 3**

### Issue Paper 4: Policy Alternatives

In issue paper 4, you should briefly describe three policy alternatives that could be implemented to address your policy issue. In your description, be sure and describe the pros and cons of each approach. Then, make a recommendation about which policy alternative a decision-maker should select and why. Finally, briefly describe how the policy will be implemented. **Due: Nov 22**