

**Government and Politics 388L**  
**Maryland Politics, Policy and Leadership**

**Fall 2015**

Tues. & Thurs. 11:00am-12:15pm  
Tydings Hall, Room 1102

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<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Dr. Stella Rouse	Tydings 1145	<a href="mailto:srouse@umd.edu">srouse@umd.edu</a>	301-405-4194
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:00-11:00am (and by appointment)		

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***Course Purpose and Description:***

The purpose of this course is to examine how Maryland government and politics operates through a theoretical and practical perspective. To this end, the course, will combine lectures, speakers and hands-on (experiential) learning. Throughout the course, we will examine Maryland's political history, political patterns, its political future, as well as the state's relationship with local governments and the federal government. In addition, we will explore important public policy issues in the state (in particular, the issue of homelessness), and the methods by which to approach and evaluate these issues

**Student learning objectives**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Have a working knowledge of Maryland politics
- Describe different approaches to the study of public policy
- Apply public policy theories and approaches to issues facing Maryland
- Utilize information from political practitioners to understand how different areas of government work (or don't work)
- Evaluate public policy problems and propose potential solutions
- Leverage knowledge, information and political connections in order to consider opportunities in government/public sector

***Course Requirements:***

**1. Books:**

**Willis, John T. and Herbert C. Smith. 2012. Maryland Politics and Government (Longleaf, University of Nebraska, ISBN# 9780803237902)**

**\*Book is available as a downloadable e-book through UMD library using your username and password**

**Bardach, Eugene. 2012. A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving, Fourth Edition (CQ Pres, ISBN#9781608718429)**

**Stone, Deborah. 1997. Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision-Making (Norton Press, ISBN#9780393968576)**

**2. Course Reserves: Articles/Book Chapters**

Provided through CANVAS

- 3. News about the state of Maryland:** You are also expected to read a state newspaper (e.g. the Washington Post Maryland section or the Baltimore Sun) on a regular basis. In addition, you may also follow @MDPolitics and/or @WashPostMD on twitter for up to date information about what is going on in Maryland.

### ***Grading Procedures:***

Grades for the course will be determined by a student's performance in the following areas:

Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Research Project/Report	25%
Project Presentation	15%
Class Participation	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

- Exams: Two exams (multiple choice, short answer and/or essay format) comprise 50% of your final grade. The final exam is cumulative.
- Research Project/Report: A large component of the course involves a hands-on, experiential project that proposes potential solutions and recommendations to address the homelessness problem in Howard County, Maryland. More details about this project are presented below.
- Project Presentation: Each student will present results and recommendations of their research project at the end of the semester. The quality of presentation should be similar to something that would be delivered to a non-profit and/or governmental agency. Presentation grade will be based on depth of information, quality of presentation, clarity, and time management. Further details about the parameters of the presentation will be given later in the semester.
- Class Participation: Class participation is measured by attendance, evidence of class preparation (i.e. reading the assigned material in advance of class), and consistent and significant involvement in class activities and discussions.

**Note that regular attendance at lectures is a necessity in order to be successful in this course. Lectures and information provided by guest speakers will often not overlap directly with the readings and many key concepts and will be discussed in lectures.**

All readings, lectures, class presentations, class discussions and information provided by guest speakers are fair game on the exams

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

<b>A+</b>	<b>100 to 97</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>96 to 93</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>92 to 90</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>89 to 88</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>87 to 85</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>84 to 80</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>79 to 77</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>76 to 74</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>73 to 70</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>69 to 67</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>66 to 64</b>
<b>D-</b>	<b>63 to 60</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>59 or below</b>

***\*I will round to the first decimal with .5 being the cutoff to round up. Please do not email me requesting that I make an exception to this rule.***

**\*Information about Research Project:**

**Assessing Homelessness in Howard County: Best Practices for Reduction and Prevention**

Students in this course will undertake a research project during the semester that involves researching the problem of homelessness in Howard County, Maryland. Based on information obtained during the research effort, students will offer recommendations and potential solutions to county executives and non-profit agencies as “best practices” for 1) prevention of future homelessness and 2) the reduction of the existing homeless population. Students will produce a report based primarily on the assessment of existing efforts in comparable and/or adjacent locales as identified by Howard County. This report will include factors such as outreach efforts, coordinated assessment efforts, diversion, and tools to end and prevent homelessness recidivism. More details about the project and the report will be given during the semester.

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**Course Expectations:** In line with an upper level, seminar course, students will be assigned a fair amount of reading and will be expected to come to class prepared for a stimulating discussion on the weekly topics. Irregular attendance and non-completion of the reading assignments will be reflected in the student’s overall class performance. Further, students are expected to exhibit the ability to be analytical, to grasp concepts and theories, and to convey an understanding of the material both during class discussions and through written and oral assignments.

Students are also expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to learning. Our classroom will be a place where people can feel comfortable expressing diverse opinions without fear of ridicule or intimidation. It is expected that students will remain respectful of others, regardless of whether or not they share similar opinions and beliefs. Texting or talking on cell phones, having independent conversations during lecture/class discussions, and repeatedly coming to class tardy or leaving early. Repeatedly using web-enabled devices to do things that are not class related (check Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.). If you prefer to do these things rather than pay attention or participate in class activities, it is preferable that you not come to class.

**Attendance and Make-ups:** Please read the University’s policy on attendance here-

<http://www.umd.edu/catalog/index.cfm/show/content.section/c/27/ss/1584/s/1540>

I will only consider exam make-ups under specific and compelling documented emergencies (serious illness, accident, family crises, etc.) or university-authorized absences. Students who will be **absent due to religious holidays must notify the instructor, in writing, prior to the end of the second week of the semester.** Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance. Make-up exams may differ in format from the regular exam.

**Academic Integrity:** The work done in this course is expected to be solely the effort of each individual student. Cheating and plagiarism (representing the words or ideas of others as one’s own or copying the work of another without giving proper credit) will not be tolerated. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the course (regardless of prior class achievement) and will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you are unsure about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the Student Honor Council’s “Code of Academic Integrity,” available at: <http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/AICodeAndCaseProcess.aspx>

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2015 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than September 15, 2015. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who fail to provide me with the necessary documentation after September 15, 2015. I will not allow make-ups to DSS students if the information is provided after exams are taken.

**CANVAS (ELMS):** Important communication regarding the class is conducted via Canvas. This includes posting of syllabus, announcements, and grades. Students are required to be proficient users of Canvas and to ensure that their emails are registered with Canvas and that they are receiving Canvas communication for this course. **Lack of communication through Canvas is not an excuse for not being aware of important class information or changes to the syllabus that result in late/missed assignments.**

**Course Evaluations:** I welcome your feedback about this course. Your participation in the campus-wide, online evaluation at the end of the semester is particularly important. **CourseEvalUM** will open for Fall 2015 courses on Tuesday, November 30, 2015. Students may go directly to the website ([www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu)) to submit their evaluations.

**Important Information about Course Syllabus and Class Schedule:** The syllabus is designed as a tentative calendar for how the class will be structured. It is not meant as a strict schedule. It is very likely that throughout the semester the class schedule will be revised at the discretion of the instructor. We may spend more/less time on a particular topic. It is your responsibility to attend class and to be informed of any revisions to the syllabus.

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### **Tentative Course Schedule and Important Dates:**

#### Week 1: Maryland Identity and Political History

T – 9/1 – Course Overview

Th – 9/3 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 1)***

#### Week 2: Maryland Identity and Political History (continued)

T – 9/8 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 2)***  
The Colony of Maryland: A Brief History  
<http://www.celebrateboston.com/history/maryland.htm>

Th – 9/10 – Potential Guest Speaker (TBD)

#### Week 3: Maryland Contemporary Political Patterns

M – 9/14 – Last Day to Drop Course without a “W” (withdrawal)

T – 9/15 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 3)***  
Marc V. Levine, “Standing Political Decisions and Critical Realignment: The Pattern of Maryland Politics 1872-1948.” (available on CANVAS)

Th – 9/17 – Potential Guest Speaker (TBD)

#### Week 4: Maryland Taxation and Spending

T – 9/22 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 10)***  
***The Policy Paradox (Introduction and Chapter 1)***

Th – 9/24 – Michael Mintrom, “Policy Entrepreneurs and the Diffusion of Innovation.” (available on CANVAS)

#### Week 5: Environmental Politics: The Chesapeake Bay/ State-Federal Relationship

T – 9/29 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 11)***  
When it Rains it Pours Tax Dollars in Maryland  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/travisbrown/2014/01/03/when-it-rains-it-pours-tax-dollars-in-maryland/>

Th – 10/1 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 12)***  
Schneider and Ingram “Behavioral Assumptions of Policy Tools.” (available on CANVAS)

Week 6: State-Federal Relationship (cont.)

T – 10/6 – Allen, Pettus, and Haider-Markel, “Making the National Local: Specifying the Conditions for National Government Influence on State Policymaking.” (**available on CANVAS**)  
Jack Walker. “The Diffusion of Innovations Among the American States.” (**available on CANVAS**)

Th – 10/8 – Potential Guest Speaker TBD

T – 10/13 – Catch up/Exam Review

Th – 10/15 – Midterm Exam

Week 7: Maryland: State and Local Relationship/Policy Project Information

T – 10/20 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 13)***

Shipman and Volden “Bottom-up Federalism: The Diffusion of Anti-smoking Policies from U.S. Cities to States” (**available on CANVAS**)

Th– 10/22 – Introduction to and Information on Policy Project- Assessing Homelessness in Howard County: Best Practices for Reduction and Prevention  
***The Policy Paradox (Chapter 2-Equity)***

Week 8: Policy Project (continued)/ The Policy Process: The Eightfold Path (Introduction)

T – 10/27 – Overview of Homelessness Problem in Howard County, MD (Guest Speaker from County)

Th –10/29 – ***A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis- Part 1 The Eightfold Path (pp. 1-47)***

Week 9: The Policy Process: Introduction (continued)

T – 11/3 – ***A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis- Part 1 The Eightfold Path (pp. 47-78)***

Th – 11/5 – ***The Policy Paradox (Chapter 3-Efficiency)***

Paul Sabatier “Toward Better Theories of the Policy Process.” (**available on CANVAS**)

Week 10: Assembling Policy Evidence/ Best Policy Practices

M – 11/9 – Last Day to Drop Course with a “W” (withdrawal)

T – 11/10 – ***A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis- Part 2 Assembling Evidence  
The Policy Paradox (Chapter 7- Numbers)***

Th – 11/12 – Potential Guest Speaker TBD

Week 11: Best Policy Practices (continued)/ Public Policy Examples

T – 11/17 – ***A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis- Part 3 “Smart Best Practices”  
The Policy Paradox (Chapter 8- Causes)***

Th – 11/19 – ***A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis- Appendix A and Appendix B  
The Policy Paradox (Chapter 9 – Interests)***

Week 12: Research Project Advancement

T – 11/24 – Research Day

Th – 11/26 –Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 13: Understanding Policy Institutions/ Policy Solutions/Presentations

T – 12/1 – *A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis- Appendix C and Appendix D*  
*The Policy Paradox (Chapter 10- Decisions)*

Th – 12/3 – *The Policy Paradox (Chapter 11- Inducements)*  
Presentations

Week 14: Wrap-up/ Presentations

T – 12/8– Presentations

Th – 12/10 – Presentations/ Final Exam Review

**\*Research Project and Report Due**

**Final Exam, Monday, December 14th (8:00am to 10:00am)**