

Government and Politics 388L
Maryland Politics, Policy and Leadership

Spring 2017

Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 – 10:45 am

Tydings Hall, Room 1132

Instructor	Office	email	Phone
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:45-11:45am (and by appointment)			

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 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 (W.W. Norton & Company, ISBN 0-393-96857-X) Available through CANVAS

Fisher, Roger and Ury, William. Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In. 1983. (Penguin Books, ISBN 0-14-00.6534.2)

2. On-line readings found at the Maryland General Assembly website as indicated in this syllabus

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. Additionally, the Maryland Reporter and Center Maryland are also good sources of news about the state of Maryland and should be viewed regularly.

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%
Total	100%

- 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 a policy issue in the State of 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 nonprofit, governmental agency and/or a legislative committee. 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:

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

****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

Students in this course will undertake a research project during the semester that involves researching an issue or problem of their choosing that may be before the Maryland General Assembly during its 2017 session. Based on information obtained during the research effort, students will offer recommendations and potential solutions to various stakeholders with regard not only to “best practices” but also considering workable “solutions.” Students will produce a report based primarily on an assessment of the issue or problem, existing efforts in comparable and/or adjacent locales (e.g., other states), and at least two options to address the issue or problem. More details about the project and the report will be given during the semester.

A good source to assist in selecting an issue for the research project is *Issue Papers 2017 Legislative Session*, written and published by the Department of Legislative Services. It can be found at: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2017rs-Issue-Papers.pdf>

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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. **Recording of class lectures or discussions is not permitted.** (Unless needed as an accommodation.)

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 February 9, 2017. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who fail to provide me with the necessary documentation after February 9, 2017. 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 be open for Spring 2017 courses at some point. Students may go directly to the website (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:

Th – 1/26 – Course Overview and general discussion of Maryland General Assembly calendar and resources

Week 2: Maryland Identity and Political History

Tu – 1/31 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 1)***

Th – 2/2 - ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 2)***

The Colony of Maryland: A Brief History

<http://www.celebrateboston.com/history/maryland.htm>

Suggested: <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/chron/html/chron.html>

Week 3: Maryland Contemporary Political Patterns

Tu – 2/7 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 3)***

International Immigration to Maryland: Demographic Profile of the state's Immigrant Community. Executive Summary and pp 1-18.

<http://dls.state.md.us/data/tabs/wha/2016-international-immigration-to-maryland.pdf>

Th – 2/9 – ***Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 7)***

Week 4: Maryland Taxation and Spending

Tu – 2/14 – **Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 10)**

Th – 2/16 – **Policy Paradox (Introduction and Chapter 1)**

Maryland Legislator's Handbook, Volume 1, Chapter 4, pp 75-81 at

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2014-legislativehandbookseries-vol-1.pdf>

Project Topics due today. A brief summary, no more than 1 page, single spaced, of your selected issue.

Week 5: The Maryland General Assembly

Tu – 2/21 – **Maryland Legislator's Handbook, Volume 1, Chapters 1 and 2**

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2014-legislativehandbookseries-vol-1.pdf>

Th – 2/23 – Redistricting in Maryland

Week 6: State and Local Relationships

Tu – 2/28 – **Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 13)**

Maryland Legislator's Handbook, Volume VI, Chapter 3

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2014-legislativehandbookseries-vol-6.pdf>

Th – 3/2 - **Maryland Legislator's Handbook, Volume VI, Chapters 4 and 5**

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2014-legislativehandbookseries-vol-6.pdf>

Guest Speaker (on local-state relationships regarding policy formulation, etc) - invited

Week 7: State Federal Relationship

Tu – 3/7 – **Maryland Politics and Government (Chapter 12)**

Guest Speaker (on fed-state relationships regarding policy formulation, etc.) Nishida

Th – 3/9 – **Mid-term Exam**

Week 8: The Policy Process

Tu – 3/14 – **Policy Paradox (Chapters 2 and 3)**

Guest Speaker? (Lobbyist?)

Th- 3/16 - **Policy Paradox (Chapters 4 and 5)**

Week 9: The Policy Process: The Eightfold Path

Tu -- 3/28 – **A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis – Part 1 (pp 1-47)**

Th – 3/30 – **A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis – Part 1 (pp 47-78)**

Week 10: Assembling Evidence and Best Practices

Tu – 4/4 – **A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis – Part 2 – Assembling Evidence
The Policy Paradox (Chapter 7 – Numbers)**

Th – 4/6 – **A Practical Guide to Policy Analysis – Part 3 – Smart Best Practices
The Policy Paradox (Chapter 8 – Causes)**

Week 11: Negotiating – How things get done

Tu – 4/11 **Research Day** (Passover)

Th – 4/13 **Getting to Yes (Introduction and Chapter 1)**

Week 12: Negotiating - More how things get done

Tu - 4/18 – **Getting to Yes (Chapters 2 and 3)**

Negotiation Exercise – The orange

Th - 4/20 - **Getting to Yes (Chapter 4 through 5)**

Week 13: Negotiating - Still more how things get done

Tu – 4/25 – **Getting to Yes (Chapters 6, 7, and 8)**

Th – 4/27 – **Research Day**

Week 14: Presentations

Tu – 5/2 – **Presentations**

Th – 5/5 - **Presentations**

Week 15: Presentations and Wrap-up

Tu- 5/9 - **Presentations**

Th – 5/11- Final Exam Review

Final Exam, (Need date and time)