George Mason University  
School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs  
PUBP 502.001  
**Governance and Policy Processes**  
Tues 4:30 pm – 7:10 pm 01/20-05/13 ARLFH TBA  
Syllabus – DRAFT  

Teacher: Robert L. Deitz, rdeitz@gmu.edu (phone: (703) 993-3480).  
I am in my office (Rm 674) most week days and do not at all mind drop ins. To schedule an appointment, please phone or email.

**Purpose of Course**

Governance is a term that implicates the broad range of rules, regulations, relationships, institutions, and customs that come together to produce the systems within which all societies operate. The purpose of this course is to take a broad view of governance in a US and comparative context. Democratic, republican governance in the US is examined and compared with other modern democracies. Important changes in the execution of public policy will be analyzed, as increasing portions of public policy in democratic, market-based nations are carried out by private sector and non-profit organizations. The course will also consider the nature of bureaucracy, the ethical role of the public servant, and the place of the nation state in an increasingly interdependent world with a globalized economy.

**Objectives**

The goal of this course is to assist students in identifying and assessing identifying and assess the effect of a variety of governmental structures. Students will become familiar with contemporary issues of governance; understand the varieties and implications of inter-sector cooperation; be aware of the changing dynamics of national and sub-national governance; be conversant with international dimensions of governance; and be sensitive to the ethical issues that arise in policy contexts.

**Required texts:**


**Required readings:**
On the Web:


*The Federalist Papers* (accessed at http://www2.hn.psu.edu/faculty/jmanis/poldocs/fed-papers.pdf)

Cases and the U.S. Constitution:

U.S. Constitution, Article III: Google U.S. Constitution


In addition, a number of articles and other law cases will be assigned.

**Class format**

The course will be conducted as a seminar rather than in a lecture format. Thus each week’s assignment must be read before. Active participation in class discussions is mandatory. Professionals in public policy must be able to speak effectively in small groups and to make presentations of their work. The only way to learn these skills is to practice, so students are expected to contribute to discussions. Each week students will present orally a public policy problem and discuss the arguments for and against ways to resolve the problem. There will be mid-term and final exams. In addition, a policy paper is required. It is expected that students will keep up with policy developments in matters relating to this course by reading a good daily newspaper. Inevitably matters of current interest will be discussed in class.

**Classroom courtesy**
Civility and respect toward all members of the class are expected. I encourage disagreements; we should thrive on them. Policy disputes are useful and illuminating. But in all cases mutual respect is the rule.

Paper

Each student will be required to write a policy memorandum of his/her own choosing. It need not be US-focused. The paper must demonstrate good writing (and editing) skills. Length: 8-10 pages. We will discuss the specifics in class, but please begin thinking about the memo. I will expect an outline in week three. The memorandum will be due in week eleven. In addition, each student will write a brief essay on current readings.

Course evaluation

Midterm exam: 20%
Policy memorandum: 30%
Class participation: 10%
Final exam: 40%

For purposes of this course, the grades of A or A- are reserved for sustained excellence and outstanding performance in all aspects of the course. The grades of B and B+ are used to denote mastery of the material and very good performance on all aspects of the course. The grade of B- denotes marginal quality work that is not quite up to graduate level standards. The grade of C denotes work that may be adequate for undergraduate performance, but is not acceptable at the graduate level. The grade of F denotes the failure to perform adequately on course assignments.

Schedule

Week one: Introduction: what this course is about, and how it will work. Epistemological problems: how do you know what you think you know? Values of the American democratic system: what democratic principles inform our governance? Assignments: Book VII from Plato’s Republic (The Allegory of the Cave) (read up to and including the discussion of geometry, a little more than half way through the dialog); Hobbes, Leviathan (Chs. 17, 18, 21, 26); Locke, The Second Treatise of Government (Chs. XIV, XV, XVII).


Week four: Markets and government: Assignment: Sclar, op. cit., chs. 5-7.
Week five: The European Union: Guest lecture. Assignment: TBD.


Week seven: Mid-term exam.


Week ten: Presidentialism, parlimentarianism, and representation. If a country is democratic, does it matter what sort of democratic system it has? What are the relative advantages and disadvantages? Assignment: The Democracy Sourcebook, Chs. 5, 6.


Week thirteen: The World Trade Organization and International Cooperation: guest lecture by Professor Stuart Malawer (SPGIA). Assignment: TBA.

Week fourteen: Defining democracy: democracy, culture, and society. Assignment: The Democracy Sourcebook, op. cit., Ch. 1 (Rousseau, Shumpeter, Diamond), Ch. 2 (Lipset, Huber, Huntington), Ch. 3 (Federalist No. 10, Hartz, Lijphart), Ch. 4 (Dworkin, Shapiro).

Final exam.

Disability

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodation, please
see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.