PUBP 800-001
Culture and Public Policy

This course provides a comparative overview of cultural and political factors relative to both differences and similarities in political institutions and policy environments around the world. A central feature of the course is consideration of the crucial role of the political cultural environment for understanding policy decisions and related structures in the contemporary global system. Moreover, special attention is given the ideological, institutional, and cultural structures on which political, social, and economic relations are dependent. Relevant issues are examined across a wide range of countries and regions to provide a foundation for developing a concrete understanding of the cultural dimensions and context of the policy process and of political institutions in general.

Requirements
Students are expected to complete all readings in a timely manner and to come to class prepared to discuss them in depth and to participate in related activities. In addition to the class discussions and general participation (15%), each student is required to make one presentation (25%) on a selected topic and to prepare a brief analytical essay (25%). Students also must complete an in-depth research paper (35%).

Required Books

Recommended Books
*Schar School Policy on Plagiarism*

The professional scholarship and intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus, any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the Schar School of Policy and Government. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. It is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The Schar School faculty takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g., F-1, J-1, or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the Schar School policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The Schar School policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or as a substitute for it. [http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html]

**Disabled Student Accommodation**

If you are a student with a disability for which you need academic accommodation, please inform the professor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be recognized and arranged through the DRC.