

GOV 623: Public Policy Initiatives

Fall 2006

Public Syllabus

On Site

PROFESSOR

Beverly M. Hedberg, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Robertson Hall 318G

(757) 226-4641

Email: bevehed@regent.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This course covers basic aspects of various timely policy initiatives. As two classes will be devoted to each topic, the first session involves the professor making connections with biblical principles relevant to the topic. The second session includes 5-minute oral reports presented (NOT READ) by class members on the topic under study. Emphasis upon equipping you to discern truth is the faculty's vision for all you do at the Robertson School of Government. Whether your interests lie in public policy, public administration, political management, international relations or homeland security -- the content of this course stands applicable.

CONNECTION TO PROGRAM OF STUDY

The degree programs in the Robertson School of Government work to foster Biblical morality in public and private contexts. They serve to strengthen communication and critical thinking skills. This course develops these particular dynamics from a foundational perspective of the particular policy initiatives.

COURSE GOALS

- To lay a foundation for understanding Biblical principles the under gird various public policy initiatives.
- To examine possible positions on given public policy initiatives.
- To analyze particular aspects of such policies.
- To equip Christian leaders to move morally in policy arenas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, learners will be equipped to:

- Present a Biblically-based understanding of several policy initiatives.
- Articulate an informed dialogue related to such initiatives.
- Function effectively in the various diverse policy processes.

TEXTS

The Holy Bible

Class handouts when and if deemed appropriate.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

1. Class participation (50%)
2. Policy Reports and Responses (50%)

METHODS OF ASSESSING

1. Class participation (50% of course grade)

The intent of the participation assessment is to challenge learners by providing a context for the assessment of their comprehension of the biblical principles that under gird particular public policy initiatives.

Punctual attendance at ALL class sessions as well as active participation in ALL class discussions is expected from each student. Students are assessed on the basis of the quality, quantity and timing of their comments.

Assessment of class participation also includes the following criteria:

- Logic and clarity of participation based upon an understanding of biblical principles
- Interaction with others in on-site contexts
- Ability to communicate pro-actively in an open arena

2. Policy Reports and Responses (50% of course grade)

Policy reports are to be presented (NOT read) in a professional manner. Business attire by **all** students is expected for each “presentation” class. Presenting students will be assessed on content as well as on their public speaking demeanor.

Responding students will be assessed on analytical skills and on their public speaking demeanor. Student comments and critiques (given graciously and tactfully) are part of this assessment of responders. “Presentations” will not be rescheduled and an assessment of “0” will be posted for individuals unprepared to present.

GRADING SCALE:

A+	4.00	Superior	100
A	4.00		94-99.9
A-	3.67		90-93.9
B+	3.33	Good	87-89.9
B	3.00		83-86.9
B-	2.67		80-82.9
C+	2.33	Satisfactory	77-79.9
C	2.00		74-76.9
C-	1.67		71-73.9
D+	1.33	Poor	68-70.9
D	1.00		65-67.9
D-	0.67		63-64.9
F	0.00	Failing	61-62.9
W		Withdrew	
P		Pass/Fail Courses Only	