

**POSC-250-2: US Policy and Community**

MTTHF

Meeting Room: GOL 301

Professor James Buthman  
Office: Golisano 311

Office Hours: MTTHF 12-1  
or by appointment

**Catalog Description:** This course explores the policy process in relation to federal institutions and individuals who work within these institutions. Students will examine the policymaking institutions and structures which guide the United States in areas such as health and environmental federal public policy. The course will seek to help explain the intricacy of policymaking and examine the role federal institutions play in framing dialogue within the policy process. One goal is to gain an understanding of how policies affect the culture surrounding health and the environment.

**Course Purpose:** This course examines how public policies affect communities at various levels. Additionally, the course will help students see how they, as individuals, connect to various communities and how to help to shape these communities through an understanding of and appreciation for, public policies.

**Flightpath**

The Hartwick Flightpath is a student-centered program that is flexible and adaptable to support your pathway to graduation and to prepare you for what lies ahead. By the time you graduate from Hartwick, you will have a suite of skills and experiences that tie together the breadth of your Hartwick education and highlights your accomplishments. This course supports the development of student educational outcomes in the following way(s):

- This FLP 103 course helps fulfill Flightpath General Education Outcome #1: “Communicate competently using oral and written skills.”
- This FLP 103 course helps fulfill Flightpath General Education Outcome #4: “Engage in constructive dialogue among diverse perspectives, demonstrating political and cultural fluency”.

**Learning Outcomes:** This course introduces students from all disciplines to the origins, structures, and influences affecting U.S. government and politics to provide a foundation for engaged and meaningful citizenship. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and consider:

- Promote community, wellbeing, and inclusion (IO 6)- increase connection to other students and to faculty and staff
- Enable skill building: travel skills, independence skills, course-specific skills.
- Encourage students ability to take on future challenges (travel abroad through J-Terms, Emerson/Duffy, internships, research)
- Promote active reflection about own goals, community, interdependence/connection to others

**College COVID-19 Policy and Instructional Modality**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, circumstances may necessitate adjustments to instruction, such as shifts in mode of instruction (to remote or hybrid), classroom capacity limits, or indoor mask requirements. Updates will be provided on the College website

(<https://www.hartwick.edu/about-us/covid-19-updates/>). Instructors will communicate with students about

any specific adjustments that are being made to their courses, such as modality of instruction, expectations for participation, and any changes to assigned work; students should check their Hartwick email accounts frequently for information from their instructors.

**Academic Honesty:** Ethics and integrity are essential to the practice of higher education. While most political initiatives in U.S. history have been carried out ethically in the name of public welfare, there have also been glaring examples in which some communities (racial and ethnic minorities, women, the disabled) have been abused by public health researchers, or where research data has been compromised by careless methods. Within this context, it is vital that students of public health demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior by abiding by the College's policy on Academic Honesty. You are responsible for reading it and knowing it – it is available here: <http://www2.hartwick.edu/honestypolicy>.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is necessary for a successful semester in this course. Attendance will be monitored and noted with the college in compliance with federal regulations. Your attendance and participation are components of your course participation grade and will be considered accordingly. Please let me know through e-mail or leave a message on my office phone, in advance, when you will not make it to class. It is your responsibility to learn the material and to get notes from a class colleague. Due to the realities of the world with Covid, we will handle situations accordingly and your work will be done online through D2L.

### **Technology:**

I prefer you do not use technology in class. I understand there may be exceptions so please talk to me about using your computer. Our world is saturated with technology and I think it is important to spend a small amount of time each week pondering ideas without being plugged in. Additionally, I think note-taking will always be an important and vital skill and I encourage you to take notes in class by hand.

### **Grading Criteria (Assessment): I suggest you keep copies of all your work through the end of the semester**

Engagement = 60%

Reflections (4) = 10% each, total of 40%

Grades represent the instructor's final estimate of the student's performance in a course. Hartwick College defines grades as follows: (see: <http://www.hartwick.edu/academics/registrar/2014-15-college-catalog/educational-policies-and-procedures#grades>.)

- **A:** indicates original or independent thinking, a command of the interrelationships within the subject, the ability to apply the principles learned, a mastery of the subject matter and clarity of expression.
- **B:** indicates a mastery of the subject matter, an understanding of the fundamentals and their interrelationships, the ability to apply that knowledge and to express it clearly.
- **C:** indicates an acceptable knowledge of the course content, an understanding of the fundamental principles and a reasonable ability to apply them.
- **D:** indicates minimal knowledge and understanding of the course content, with a limited ability to apply the principles learned.
- **F:** indicates that the work was not satisfactorily completed.

**Academic Adjustments and/or Modifications:** Hartwick College is committed to upholding and maintaining all aspects of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If a student with a disability wishes to request academic adjustments,

they should contact Lara Sanford, Director of AccessAbility Services, at [sanfordl@hartwick.edu](mailto:sanfordl@hartwick.edu) , or [AccessAbilityServices@hartwick.edu](mailto:AccessAbilityServices@hartwick.edu). AccessAbility Services is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Yager Library in the Center for Student Success. Any information regarding a student's disability will remain confidential. Requests for academic adjustments should be made as early as possible.

### **Semester Outline: Timeline for Readings, Assignments, Tests etc.**

We will do our best to keep the following schedule throughout the semester. However, I do reserve the right to make changes if necessary and I will notify you in class of changes that are made. It is your responsibility to keep up with the developments within the class regarding any changes we do make.

#### **Module1: Introductions and Exploration**

Introductions & What is Policy? Building a syllabus  
Building Community  
Building Community  
500 words Reflection 1

#### **Module 2: Creating Community through Policy**

Developing intellectual connections  
Possible Trip to Washington DC (TBD)  
500 word reflection due by 12 pm

#### **Module 3: Institutions, Diversity, Connections - - Washington DC**

Possible Trip to Washington DC continued (TBD)  
DC dialogue  
500 word reflection due by 12 pm

#### **Module 4: Public Policy: Tying Goals Together**

Collections of ideas  
Developing Policy  
Community Building  
Moving Forward  
500 word reflection due

#### **FERPA Policy**

<http://www.hartwick.edu/academics/student-services/office-of-the-registrar/academic-policies-procedures/ferpa/>

#### **Title IX**

Hartwick College is committed to equal opportunity and providing a safe community free from all forms of sexual misconduct including sexual/gender-based harassment, discrimination, dating or domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and sexual assault. If you wish to make an official report to the College or have questions about the College's policy and procedures regarding sexual misconduct, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, Michael Arno, at [arnom@hartwick.edu](mailto:arnom@hartwick.edu) or (607)

431-4293. Online reporting and policy information is available at <https://www.hartwick.edu/about-us/employment/human-resources/title-ix/>.

If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact one of the following resources: Perrella Wellness Center, Health - (607) 431-4120, or Counseling – (607) 431-4120; or Opportunities for Otsego’s Violence Intervention Program – (607) 432-4855.

All other employees, including faculty, are responsible employees at Hartwick College and are required to report any incident of sexual misconduct that is personally reported to them to the Title IX Coordinator so that support and resources can be provided for all parties.