

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - FORT SMITH**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**  
**POLS 3113 Public Policy**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

The study of the evolution of policy-making in the U.S., theories of policy-making, the policy process, and substantive policy issues.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the evolution of policy-making in America.
2. Apply theories of policymaking.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of how the policy process works in America.
4. Discuss common policy issues.

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

**Analytical Skills:**

**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will analyze complex ideas by the study of the theory of policy-making.

**Communication Skills (written and oral):**

Students will develop enhanced communication skills through essays, quizzes, and other assignments.

**Global and Cultural Perspectives:**

Students will develop broader perspectives by studying important global policy issues.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. The historical and structural context of policy-making
- B. The actors in the policy-making process
- C. Agenda setting
- D. Policy evaluation
- E. Understanding statistics
- F. Policies like Social Security, energy, and the environment
- G. The role and future of the federal budget