FCS 3600
Community and Consumer Policy: ONLINE EDITION
Spring 2015
Instructor: Beth Hunsaker Garn, M.S.
Office hours: Phone or Online, by appointment
Email: through Canvas or elizabeth.hunsaker@fcs.uta h.edu

**Course Webpage**
The class webpage can be found on Canvas. Login https://learn-uu.uen.org/ or by linking through http://www.utah.edu. If you need help with Canvas, please call the Help Desk at (801)585-5959 or send an email to support@uonline.utah.edu.

**Course Description:** Consumer and community policies are the choices a society makes about the material conditions of everyday life – where people live, how they move from place to place, the kinds of stores in which they shop, and how they pay for goods and services. These choices are typically delegated to government authorities – whether in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch – and are the outcome of a complex policy process that involves issue emergence, interest group struggle, policy implementation, and policy evaluation. Using a variety of social science perspectives, this course will analyze consumer and community policy issues involving auto safety, transportation options, retailing, credit, and housing.

The course’s objectives are to provide students with (1) an understanding of the history and current status of key issues in consumer and community policy; (2) mastery of concepts from political science, sociology, economics, and law as they are used in the analysis of consumer and community policy; and (3) appreciation for the ways in which individuals, interest groups, and communities organize to pursue their visions of a better society. The course’s underlying assumption is that these issues are raised and resolved by people just like you.

**Course Objectives:**
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Understand basic the basic public policy process.
2. Apply the concepts from the course to enhance understanding of political process.
3. Compare and contrast differing public policy perspectives.
4. Use critical thinking skills to analyze data and present it in a written format.

**Evaluation Methods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start up assignments</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (5 @ 10% each)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading Scale
The following grading scale is used for the course, for exams, quizzes, assignments, and your overall grade, expressed as percentages. Cut-offs exist, and I do not round up. If you receive an 86.99, you will receive a B. Do not contact me and ask me to bump up your grade; it is unethical to change standards midstride.

> 93.00 = A   80.00 - 82.99 = B-   67.00 - 69.99 = D+
90.00 - 92.99 = A-   77.00 - 79.99 = C+   63.00 - 66.99 = D
87.00 - 89.99 = B+   73.00 - 76.99 = C   60.00 - 62.99 = D-
83.00 - 86.99 = B   70.00 - 72.99 = C-   < 59.99 = E

Text
There is no required text for this course. All of the readings you need are available online. The readings are relied upon heavily for background information, discussion topics and tests.

Start up assignments
You must complete a multiple choice test on what is expected of you for this course based on the syllabus and Canvas knowledge. You must also submit an intro assignment through the assignment tool. You must also post a message on the class discussion board. This must all take place during the first week of classes. This is to ensure you can complete all of the necessary tasks to complete this course. You make take the test as many times as you would like to receive full credit.

Exams
Exams are comprised of multiple choice questions. They will consist of material from lectures, whole class discussions, and required readings. They will cover a specific unit and will not be comprehensive. You must take the test in the allotted time given. Once you have started the test, you cannot stop or pause it. You will have one attempt at each test. Exams will be open for 72 hours in which you must complete it. Exams will be open on 12:01 a.m. on the first day and close on at 11:59 p.m. on the second day (except for the final.) You will have 30 minutes to answer 20 questions, except for the final. Because the final will be longer and comprehensive you will have more time. Please see the calendar for the dates on the exams. I will offer an optional final to replace a missed test or low test score. The final will be comprehensive. Tests will be open note/book.

Research Paper
Research papers can be completed on a variety of topics as they relate to this class. It must be 4-7 pages in length. You may turn it in any time before the due date. Please see Canvas for further instruction. Late papers will not be accepted. Papers must be turned in through the assignment tool on Canvas, email submissions will not be accepted.

Online Participation
You will have discussions each unit and each student must contribute to receive credit. Please use this opportunity to get to know classmates, they can be a great source of help in this class. Students must post at least twice during the open Learning module period to receive credit for that unit’s discussion. Please note the dates of when the module is open.

Research Project
This is a hands on research opportunity and very different from a research paper. You will have the choice of a few different research possibilities that you must chose from. You will complete the ‘offline’ activity and then write a short 1-2 paper on it, answering specific questions. These opportunities will be centered around the Salt Lake Valley, those of you who are outside of the area must come up with a suitable alternative on your own and get permission from me. You may turn it in any time before the due date. Late
papers will not be accepted. Papers must be turned in through the assignment tool on WebCT, email submissions will not be accepted. Please see Canvas for further instruction.

**Calendar of important dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Class begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12-Jan 16</td>
<td>Understanding online classes and the online community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Practice assignments due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Practice test due (can be completed prior to this date)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20- Feb 6</td>
<td>Intro Learning Module 1 : Intro to Consumer and Community Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 6-8</td>
<td>Exam 1 open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9-Feb 27</td>
<td>Learning Module 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27-Mar 1</td>
<td>Exam 2 open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2 –Mar 27</td>
<td>Learning Module 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 27-Mar 29</td>
<td>Exam 3 open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30</td>
<td>Research Paper Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30-Apr 17</td>
<td>Learning Module 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Research Project Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17-April 19</td>
<td>Exam 4 open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20-April 28</td>
<td>Learning Module 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27-28</td>
<td>Exam 5 open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30-May 6</td>
<td>Optional Final open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Students with Special Needs**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Technology**

As much as we have come to rely on technology it can let us down from time to time. However, technology given excuses will NOT be reason for a make up on a missed deadline. That means if your assignment is turned in late even if your computer crashed, you will receive a lowered score for it being late. Please take precautions, backing up your work, not waiting until the last minute etc. I WILL NOT MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. Please don’t even ask.

**Academic Honesty**

All honesty and plagiarism policies established by the University of Utah will be upheld in this class. Academic misconduct in any form in this class will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one’s work, inappropriately collaborating, and/or submitting the same work for more than one course without the permission of both instructors.

If you include information from outside the class or quotes in your written assignments, you must provide citations and a reference list. Avoid the urge to over-rely on quotes; a written assignment that is substantially made up of quoted material will not be considered to be your own work, even if you have used correct citations.
If it is discovered that you have engaged in academic misconduct of any type in this course, the Family & Consumer Studies departmental policy states that you will be given a failing grade in the course, and will be reported to the Dean and the VP for Academic Affairs, who will keep your name on record. Should you be reported more than once, you may face expulsion from the University.

This is a very serious issue and I will not tolerate it in my classroom. If you are aware of any misconduct, please inform me immediately.

For further information about the University of Utah’s policies regarding academic misconduct, please see the student handbook at [www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html](http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html).

**University Drop and Withdrawal Policies**
You may drop the course without penalty or permission until Jan 21. You may withdraw from the course without permission until March 6, but a “W” will be recorded on your academic record, and applicable tuition and fees will be assessed. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the Office of Admissions and Registrar at (801)581-5808.

Also, remember to pay your tuition by the deadline, or your classes will be deleted and they cannot be reinstated.

**Incompletes**
In order to qualify for an “Incomplete” in any University of Utah course, you must complete at least 80% of the course work and be in good standing (i.e., have earned at least a C on all completed work) and receive permission from the instructor (if you can justify to the instructor that you cannot finish the course because of circumstances beyond your control). The FCS departmental policy is that students who do not complete the work within 1 year after the granting of an ‘I’ will automatically receive a failing grade. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

**Instructor Responsibilities**
1. Be prepared for class.
2. Use a variety of teaching methods, including lecture, online discussion, video clips, etc. in an effort to create a stimulating learning environment and accommodate different learning styles.
3. Provide feedback on assignments in a timely manner.
4. Be available for individual consultation through email.
5. Reply to email within 48 hours (not including weekends or holidays).
6. Follow all University of Utah policies regarding incompletes and accommodations. No exceptions will be made to these policies.
7. Comply with the Final Exam schedule determined by the University. The Final Exam will be offered during the appointed time.
8. Treat students equitably and with respect. This includes enforcing responsible online behavior.

**Student Responsibilities**
You are expected to:
1. Spend 2-3 hours per credit hour in preparing for this class, including completing reading assignments & written assignments, and studying for the final exam. As this is a 3-credit course, you should plan on spending 6-9 hours per week in preparation.
2. Complete required reading assignments in a timely manner.
3. Complete class projects, tests and online discussions on time.
4. Treat one another, the instructor, the TAs, and campus staff with respect.
5. Seek help from the instructor and TAs (and other resources such as the Center for Disability Services or the Writing Center) whenever necessary, and before minor problems become major barriers to learning.

6. Refer to the syllabus and the class webpage for important information pertaining to the exam, written assignments, and class policies.

**Scheduling Accommodations**

Students should register for courses for which they have no scheduling conflicts. University policy allows you to make up assignments and exams if you are participating in officially sanctioned University activities, such as intercollegiate athletics. If you miss an exam or assignment deadline due to illness or a medical emergency, medical documentation (i.e., a doctor’s note) must be provided in order to make up missed work.

**Things to Note**

1. I do not offer extra credit. So, don’t ask. Extra credit assignments are unfair unless all students are permitted to do them, and then extra credit assignments simply become one more requirement for all students to complete.

2. Check your grade throughout the semester. I do make mistakes. It is your responsibility to track your grades and notify me if there is a mistake.

3. Please be considerate of others’ opinions and always be respectful. Often times it is difficult to ascertain tone on an online community, so please be mindful of this when reading and writing responses.

4. Please send all correspondence to me through the mail tool on Canvas. NEVER send me an assignment through email, it must be turned in through the assignment tool on Canvas.

5. Please have all assignments as word documents.