Political Science 4171/5171
Law, Policy, Society
Fall 2020

Online
Thursdays, 4:15 - 7:00

Instructor Information

Morgan L.W. Hazelton, J.D., Ph.D.

Email: morgan.hazelton@slu.edu

Given the current circumstances, the best way to reach me is by email. I endeavor to be very attentive to emails and generally will respond within 8 hours during on weekdays (during waking hours) and within 24 hours on weekends.

Office: McGannon 153
Office Phone: (314) 977-5169

Regular Office Hours (Zoom): Mondays, 11:00-12:00 & Thursdays, 2:00 to 3:00.

I am happy to schedule a meeting, in addition to my regular office hours. Please contact me via email to set up a meeting. All meetings will be virtual (Zoom or another platform if needed).

Course Description

Catalog Description

Law, Policy, Society examines the complexities and concerns in social science and legal understandings of the relationship between law and society. We will focus on law and legal processes and the relationship between law/courts and society.
Additional Description

When, how, and why do judges make policy? To what extent do different groups affect change through the courts? Does public opinion influence judges? How do legislation and other policy influence who sues and wins? To what extent does the legal system enforce or disrupt inequalities in society? In this course, we will consider these questions and more as part of our inquiry into the relationships among law, policy, and society. While some other courses explore the development of the law and the choices judges make, this course specifically is focused on how courts interact with society at large. This course meets the Social Science core curriculum requirement for the College of Arts & Sciences.

Learning Outcomes & Course Objectives

Undergraduate

This course is designed to help students broaden their knowledge, skills, and values so that they will be able to:

Learning Outcomes

• use conceptual tools and methodologies to analyze and understand their social world in the context of law and policy.

• think and write critically about human behavior and community in the context of the interactions among law, policy, and society.

• understand various methodological approaches used by social scientists to study law, policy, and society.

• act in their world more effectively and become forces for positive change.

• understand human diversity and its impact on law, policy, and society.

Course Objectives

• describe the relationships among law, policy, and society.

• critique and assess scholarly theories and evidence.

• discuss and defend ideas orally.

• engage in meaningful and productive dialogue with others.
Graduate

This course is designed to help students broaden their knowledge, skills, and values so that they will be able to:

Learning Outcomes

- evaluate, critique, and synthesize competing theoretical explanations in law, policy, and society.
- construct and present arguments and evidence clearly in written work.
- produce original research that investigates legal and policy processes pertaining to the United States in a methodologically-sound and persuasive manner and contribute to ongoing scholarly debates.
- analyze the values that inform the connections among law, policy, and society.

Course Objectives

- describe the relationships among law, policy, and society.
- critique and assess scholarly theories and evidence.
- discuss and defend ideas orally.
- engage in meaningful and productive dialogue with others.
- present the results of their research.
- produce a comprehensive review of the scholarly literature
- construct and present arguments and evidence clearly in essay exam answers and original research

Requirements and Evaluation

Class Participation & Attendance

Absences

Class participation is an essential part of this class, and, thus, your attendance is very important. If you must miss class for a legitimate reason, such as illness, family emergency, or University-sponsored activity, you should contact me via email as soon as possible (which means at least one hour before the missed class whenever possible). Given the current circumstances, I will be inclined to grant requests for excuses. The most important factor
is communicating to me your need for an excuse. If you have more than one unexcused absences, your class participation grade, which is **worth 10% of your final grade**, will be lowered by 5% for each additional day. For example, if you have three total unexcused absences, your class participation grade will be no more than 0% (of the total 10%) and your overall grade in the class can be no more than 90%.

Additionally, students will be assigned days where they will lead discussion regarding the materials and concepts. These students will be provided with the discussion points from the other students to assist them in guiding our analysis of the readings. On-call days will collectively be **worth 10% of your final grade**.

Discussion is an essential part of the learning process during which we deepen our understanding of the material, draw conceptual connections, and apply theoretical and legal frameworks to new scenarios. You are expected to be prepared to discuss the assigned materials every class. Students will be graded on their participation based on well reasoned answers, taking part in conversations, thoughtfulness in comments, and active listening. Disagreement and debate is a part of healthy intellectual discourse, and is strongly encouraged. Students must, however, remain civil with and respectful to all members of the class at all times.

**Distance Education Etiquette**

Your actions in distance education contexts are just as important as in on-ground, face-to-face educational contexts - and sometimes require additional attention and commitment, as some distance education technologies might be less familiar to us. Accordingly, all students are expected to follow the guidelines below:

**Synchronous Video Contexts (Zoom, etc.)**

- Mute your microphone when you are not speaking. Remember to “un-mute” yourself just prior to speaking. Identify yourself when you begin speaking.

- Expect a few seconds of delay in getting a response from the instructor or another class member to a question; wait before repeating your question or assuming it was not heard.

- If possible, position your camera such that your video feed does not capture too much of your surroundings or other activity/sound from your home/location. Be conscious of posters, art, or other surroundings that others might find offensive or inappropriate for an educational context.

- Use the “Raise Hand” and “Chat” (or similar) features of your video-conferencing tool. This limits verbal interruptions and the confusion generated when multiple people try to speak at once.

- Just as in an on-ground, face-to-face class, limit side conversations, multi-tasking (on your computer or otherwise), and use of your cellphone.
• Temporarily turn off your video feed and mute your microphone when engaged in any non-class conversation or activity.

• Respect and be attentive to the diversity of your classmates and instructor. Before communicating, consider your message in the context of the class’ diversity in race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, gender, sexual orientation, age, social class, marital status, geography, etc. Consider the diversity you can see or know - as well as that you cannot.

• Remember that video-based class sessions (including chat transcripts) may be recorded and retrieved for later viewing.

Non-Video & Asynchronous Contexts (Blackboard, Canvas, Online Chats, Discussion Boards, etc.)

• When using the “Chat” or “Discussion Board” (or similar) features of your course management system, remember that your course-related communications to the instructor or other students should be considered “professional” (they are not like texts to your friends). Remember that course context and all related written work - including chat and discussion board transcripts - can be recorded and retrieved.

• Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm; without the context of facial expressions or other body language, your tone or intent could be missed or misunderstood by others.

• Respect and be attentive to the diversity of your classmates and instructor. Before communicating, consider your message in the context of the class’ diversity in race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, gender, sexual orientation, age, social class, marital status, geography, etc. Consider the diversity you can see or know - as well as that you cannot.

• Respect others’ time and life circumstances, which often don’t allow for an immediate response to a question or comment.

Assignments

All assignment should be typeset in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. They are due via Blackboard.

Students will be penalized 10% per day on late assignments. For an example, an assignment that would normally receive a 91% would be recorded as 71% if the student turned it in two days late. Late penalties are capped at 50% if the late assignment is turned in before the last day of class. The one exception to these rules is the peer review assignment. Students will not be able to participate in peer review if they turn in their rough drafts late due to the nature of the assignment (see below).
Students will be graded on the assignments in keeping with expectations for student work at the level at which the student registered for the course (undergraduate or graduate).

Discussion Points

In order to focus your reading of the material and enhance classroom discussion, for each class you will produce 6-8 discussion points. These discussion points are due 24 hours before class (Wednesday at 4:15) and should be submitted via Blackboard. These items should include questions, comments, and challenges regarding the readings that you believe would be beneficial to discuss as a class. They can take the form of comments on other students’ discussion points to the extent that they add to the conversation. Please identify the reading to which each item pertains. On-call students should review these discussion points.

Paper

There is one major research assignment for this class which will culminate in a final paper. For undergraduate students, this final paper will be a research design (i.e. a plan for how you could carry out original empirical research in the future). For graduate students, the final paper will be a piece of completed original empirical research. This project will be worth 35% of your overall grade. This is not a book review or a summary of a specific research area. This is not something you will throw together at the last second. Your project should explore a topic in regarding law, policy, and society that interests you. The specific topic of the paper will be of your choosing with my approval.

To help you produce the highest quality work, various assignments pertaining to the project will be due throughout the semester, including the research question and annotated bibliography, literature review, research design, rough draft, presentation, and final draft.

Research Question and Bibliography: You will prepare a single, well crafted research question, and an annotated bibliography with articles or books that you will use in your research. You will meet with me to discuss your research topic during the week of August 24th.

Undergraduate students should include a minimum of 10 sources over at least 5 pages (single spaced).

Graduate students should include a minimum of 15 sources over at least 7 pages (single spaced).

Due Sept. 17th – 5% of your final grade.

Literature Review: A 5 page (double spaced) review of previous scholarly work in your research area. The literature review should not be a sequential discussion of each source that reads like an annotated bibliography. Rather, it should be an integrated piece of writing that shows how the various sources come together to provide explanations for your phenomenon of interest, along with evidence for, critiques of, and challenges to the theories. You will need to produce the review of the relevant literature in a relatively short amount of space.
Thus, it is essential that you synthesis the sources to provide a sophisticated and succinct discussion of the relevant works and concepts.

**Due Oct. 1st – 5% of your final grade.**

Research Design: A 5-7 page (double spaced) plan for your analysis that begins with an outline of your theory, hypotheses, and methods for testing your hypotheses. Be sure to discuss the type of data you will need to conduct your analyses.

For undergraduate students, discuss how you would obtain your data if you were going to carry out the research design. This will include plans of how you would collect data yourself if there are no existing sources for the data. Include citations and web addresses for any existing data sources that you plan to use.

For graduate students, discuss how you will obtain your data. This will include plans of how you will collect data yourself if there are no existing sources for the data. Include citations and web addresses for any existing data sources that you plan to use.

**Due Oct. 15th – 5% of your final grade.**

Rough Draft: You will turn in a rough draft of your paper for peer review. Each draft will be reviewed by me and another student in the course at the same level as you (undergraduate or graduate) whenever possible. I will assign the peer reviewers. If you do not turn in a rough draft on time, it may affect other students as you will be reviewing another student’s work and vice versa. Thus, students turning in late papers may not be able to participate in the peer review process and, if so, will forfeit the points for reviewing another student’s paper (5%).

**Due Nov. 5th.**

Final Draft:

For undergraduate students: a complete and polished research design that includes an introduction, literature review, theory section, data and methods plan, and a conclusion.

For graduate students: a complete and polished research paper that includes an introduction, literature review, theory section, data and methods section, analysis and results, and a conclusion.

**Due Nov. 19th – 20% of your final grade.**

**Peer Review**

You will receive a classmate’s rough draft to review on Nov. 5th. You will review the paper and provide a 2-6 page (double spaced) report with feedback for the author. The purpose of this feedback is to help the author improve his or her paper. It is important that you give well-thought out criticisms and suggestions. While these comments should include an assessment of the strengths of the paper, feedback is only helpful if it also includes criticisms of and
challenges to the project. Additionally, whenever possible, you should provide suggestions on how to address deficiencies in the paper.

Nov. 12th – 5% of your final grade.

Presentation

A 7 minute presentation providing an introduction and highlights of your project with visual aids followed by a question and answer period.

Nov. 19th – 5% of your final grade.

Examination

The final exam in this class will be a comprehensive exam style question that will ask the student to bring materials read in this course together to provide a cogent response to an important question regarding Law, Policy, and Society. In answering the questions, students will need to integrate the relevant materials in providing a response that demonstrates knowledge of the readings and understanding of the concepts from the course. Answers that cover only a few readings or are only a few pages long are very unlikely to provide a comprehensive response and receive a high grade. I will provide examples of comprehensive exam style questions and tips for answering such questions in class on Oct. 8th. Additionally, examples from various institutions are available online.

Dec. 1st – 25% of your final grade.

Course Evaluations

Students are required to fill out a course evaluation at the end of the course.

Grading

Your grade for this course will consist of the following components and relative weights:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On-call Days</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written</td>
<td>Discussion Points</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Question/Annotated Bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literature Review</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research Design</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Grades will be assigned by the following scale:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Percent of Pts</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 93</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 83</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>≥ 80</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>≥ 77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 73</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 70</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>≥ 60</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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The above scale represents the highest requirements for a particular letter grade. That is, I may, at my discretion, alter the grading scale to require fewer percentage points to obtain a particular letter grade. If you are taking the course on a pass/fail basis, please see me to discuss the requirements for a passing grade. Students auditing the course are expected to attend class and participate in our discussions. I will only agree to requests for extensions after extensive consultation with a student and only in the most exceptional of circumstances.

**Important Matters**

**Mandatory Statement on Face Masks**

The University’s [Interim Policy on Face Masks](#) governs all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors in all University-owned, leased, or operated facilities. All persons physically present in any such University facility associated with this course shall comply fully with this policy at all times. Masks must be worn before entry to all such University facilities (as well as...
outdoors on all University property when six feet of distance is unpredictable or cannot be maintained). 

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services or Human Resources to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University’s ADA Policy. Inquires or concerns may also be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. Notification to instructors of SLU-approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

As the instructor of this course, I shall comply fully with SLU’s policy and all related ADA regulations.

Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to wear masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks at any time during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.

**Note: Accordingly, no consumption of any food will be allowed in class.**

Students who do not comply with a request by a SLU instructor to wear a mask in accordance with the University’s Interim Policy on Face Masks may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to the Student Handbook. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:

- dismissal from the course(s)
- removal from campus housing (if applicable)
- dismissal from the University

To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with faculty or staff request to wear a mask in accordance with University policy.

Students are strongly encouraged to identify to their instructor any student or instructor not in compliance. Non-compliance may be anonymously reported via the SLU Integrity Hotline at 1-877-525-5669 (or confidentially via the Integrity Hotline’s website at [http://www.lighthouse-services.com/slu](http://www.lighthouse-services.com/slu)).

**Academic Integrity and Honesty**

*Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors.* The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.” Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal
and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost’s Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

Title IX

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, that faculty member must notify SLU’s Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience. This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (DuBourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU’s Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at http://www.lighthouse-services.com/slu. To view SLU’s policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: https://www.slu.edu/about/safety/sexual-assault-resources/index.php and https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU’s Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information at the following web address: https://www.slu.edu/about/safety/sexual-assault-resources/index.php. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.

Student Success Center

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support
student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center assists students with academic-related services and is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331). Students can visit [https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/](https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/) to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

**Disability Services Academic Accommodations**

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at Disability.services@slu.edu or 314.977.3484 to schedule an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student’s eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor’s course roster.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact to Disability Services.

**University Writing Services**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit [https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/](https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/) or call the Student Success Center at 314-977-3484.

**Basic Needs Security**

Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office (deanofstudents@slu.edu or 314-977-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.
Course Schedule

What follows is a *tentative* outline of the topics to covered and when we will cover them. I may modify this schedule as necessary based on the dynamics of this particular class. If the schedule is modified, I will provide you with appropriate notice.
Aug. 20  **Introduction**

Syllabus & Handouts

Sign-up for Topic Meetings

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**The Connections Between Society and Policy**

Aug. 27  **Interests & Interest Groups**


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Sept. 3  **Policy Impact**


The Connections Between Law and Policy

Sept. 10  Judicial Decisionmaking


Sept. 17  Judicial Decisionmaking


Sept. 24  Judicial Decisionmaking


Oct. 1  **Policy and Outcomes**


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Oct. 8  **Policy and Outcomes**


Comprehensive Exam Examples

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Oct. 15  **Research Check-In**

Discuss Paper Projects

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**The Connections Between Law and Society**

Oct. 22  **Interest Groups and the Courts**


Oct. 29 Public Opinion and the Courts


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Nov. 5 Judicial Selection and the Courts


Nov. 12  **Legitimacy and Support**


Nov. 19  **Presentations**

Research Presentations

Dec. 1  **Finals**

Final Exam, 4:00 - 5:50