

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS 2160: EXPLORING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**FALL 2015 SYLLABUS**  
**1 CREDIT HOUR**

**Instructor and Course Information:**

**Instructors:**

Mr. Chris Adams  
Assistant Director Student Services  
John Glenn School of Public Affairs  
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**Office Hours:** By appointment; please call 614-292-8696

**Class number:** 5492

**Location:** 040, Page Hall

**Class meetings:** Mondays, 4:10pm-5:05pm

**Course Overview:**

Public Affairs 2160 provides an overview of public affairs as a discipline, and exposes students in the John Glenn Civic Leadership Community to different career opportunities in relevant fields. Course topics will include but not be limited to public policy, civic engagement, and leadership. The class will also serve to introduce student to the “behind the scenes activities” that influence public affairs and is not covered in textbooks. The course draws upon the experiences of faculty and practicing professionals, providing perspectives about public affairs in both traditional and nontraditional career paths. In addition to in-class meetings, other activities associated with the John Glenn Civic Leadership Community will be incorporated into the class curriculum.

All course material can be found online through the course website, [www.carmen.osu.edu](http://www.carmen.osu.edu).

**Course Objectives:**

Upon the completion of this course students should:

- Have a greater connection to the Learning Community and Glenn College
- Be able to craft a working definition of public policy
- Gain a greater appreciation for social justice, social change, ethics, and values in the public sector
- Be comfortable having in-depth discussions about relevant public policy topics

**The John Glenn College of Public Affairs**

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs is an academic unit at The Ohio State University that offers coursework at the undergraduate, Master’s and doctoral levels in Public Affairs, the interconnection between policy making and the management of the organizations and networks of organizations that tackle public problems. At the undergraduate level, the College offers courses for a bachelor’s degree in Public Affairs, along with courses that count toward Ohio State’s Leadership Studies and Nonprofit Management, and Public Policy minors.

## Required Texts and Availability

Students will **NOT** be required to purchase textbooks, as only portions of the texts will be used in class. All readings will be available on the course Carmen site. Other readings may be posted to the Carmen site as necessary. Readings will be drawn from the following texts:

Michael E. Kraft and Scott R. Furlong. 2012. *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press. (ISBN-10: 1452202745 | ISBN-13: 978-1452202747)

Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein. 2012. *It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided with the New Politics of Extremism*. New York: Basic Books. ISBN 13: 978-0-465-07473

Susan R. Komives, Wendy Wagner, and Associates. 2009. *Leadership for a Better World: Understanding the Social Change Model of Leadership Development*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. ISBN: 978-0-470-44949-3.

B. Guy Peters. 2010. *American Public Policy: Promise and Performance*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1-60426-459-3.

As much the content of this course will be informed by the pressing policy matters of the day, it is imperative that students maintain a keen awareness of current events. Students are encouraged to follow one or more news sources on a regular basis. Examples include *The New York Times*; *The Economist*; *The Columbus Dispatch*; CNN.com; Politico; NPR, etc.

### Web Resources

[www.glenn.osu.edu](http://www.glenn.osu.edu) : John Glenn College of Public Affairs

[www.carmen.osu.edu](http://www.carmen.osu.edu) : Carmen

### Academic Honesty Policy

As members of a University community, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty in all course work. Penalties for plagiarism, cheating, or other acts of academic dishonesty may include receiving a failing grade, dismissal from the University, or revocation of degree. More information can be found in *The Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct*.

### ADA Statement

Students who have documented any learning disabilities with the Office of Disability Services are encouraged to meet with the course instructors to discuss arrangements for any approved accommodations. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 292-3307 if you have any questions. Students requiring modified versions of written materials (large print, Braille, tape, etc.), class modifications (e.g. American Sign Language), or an alternate format for submission of written materials, please privately

contact one of the instructors. Every effort will be made to work with you to accommodate your specific learning needs.

## Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the **Office of Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS)** by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614-292- 5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 4th Floor of the PAES Building. 24 hour emergency help is also available through the National 24/7 Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

## Assignments

Public Affairs 2160 is graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory(S/U). In order to earn a satisfactory grade, you must earn **a minimum of 80 out of a possible 100 points**. You are expected to hand in all assignments on time.

Item	Points	Due
Class Attendance	30 (2 points per week)	Each week
JGLC Event Attendance	50	See JGLC Schedule and point breakdown
Discussion Questions	5	Due to Carmen drop box at 11:59 pm the night before your assigned guest speaker
Final Paper	15 points	December 11 at 11:59 pm
Additional Policy Reports	Up to 10 extra credit points (5 points each)	By the last class meeting
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

## Brief Description of Assignments

### Class Attendance

Class attendance is required, and consists of the following expectations:

- Attendance at each class session for the entire class meeting period.
- Completion of reading assignments prior to the class for which they are assigned.
- Contribution to class discussions, including participation in class activities.
- Refraining from disruptive behavior, including but not limited to texting, tweeting, emailing, and visiting websites not related to the course content.

## Event Participation

The John Glenn Civic Leadership Community is based on the four pillars of Academics, Policy, Service and Community (Social). The CLC staff strives to provide co-curricular programming based on all four pillars, as we feel that such programming is essential part of a well-rounded college experience. We recognize that students may be particularly passionate about one or more pillars, and this course will allow you to choose a combination of activities that best fit with your individual interests. You will receive points for your participation in various Civic Leadership Community events throughout the semester. Different events will be worth a different number of points. Please see the JGCLC fall calendar for the list of programs and point values. In order to earn points, you must stay for the duration of each event. You must earn **50** event points in order to pass this class. In addition to class credit, students with the three highest point totals in fall semester will receive a discount on the spring trip to Washington, D.C.

## Discussion Questions/Guest Speakers

During the second half of the semester we will have a number of esteemed members of the Glenn College's board of advisors, as well as other policy practitioners, attend class to present on a variety of topics related to Public Affairs. These individuals have distinguished careers in public service and are eager to impart their knowledge to you. You will be expected to attend class for each presentation, listen intently, and participate in the discussion.

Each of you will be assigned a speaker, for which you will be required to come up with three (3) discussion questions. At least one question should relate to content of the presentation (you will be provided with handouts in advance). Other questions can focus on content or the speaker's professional background. Questions will be due to the Carmen drop box by **11:59 pm** the night before your assigned presentation. The course instructors will ask the best submitted questions to the speakers during their respective presentations.

## Final Paper (10 points)

This assignment involves an exploration of the manner in which public policy is formulated, implemented, or evaluated. In this 2 page paper, students will be asked to define their understanding of public affairs. In the first half of this paper, you should write about your understanding of public affairs, synthesizing what you have learned from class discussions and readings. In the second half of the paper, respond to these two questions:

- ❑ What have you learned about public affairs as a profession?
- ❑ How will content from this class assist you in future career options?

Your paper will be evaluated based on quality of content, depth of coverage, and writing mechanics. This paper is due on **December 11, 2015** to the Carmen drop box.

## Policy Reports (extra credit)

The course instructors and guest speakers will cover various policy topics throughout the duration of the class. You have the option of submitting up to two 500 word summaries of a policy topic/discussion for extra credit. In your analysis, you must outline the policy topic in question, respond to the class discussion, and propose a policy recommendation moving forward. You may also submit up to 10 points (5 points per report) of extra credit.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Guest Speaker
1	8/31/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> <li>Course overview</li> <li>Introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the news and be prepared for a current events discussion</li> </ul>
	9/7/2015	Labor Day—NO CLASS	
2	9/14/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Policy Overview</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Peters Chapter 01</i></li> <li><i>Kraft and Furlong Chapter 1</i></li> </ul>
3	9/21/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Politics vs. Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Mann and Ornstein, Introduction and Afterward</i></li> </ul>
4	9/28/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Komives and Wagner, Chapter 5</i></li> </ul>
5	10/5/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field Trip: To the Union...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will attend the Barbara Fergus Lecture featuring Carla Harris, <a href="http://olem.osu.edu/fergus-lecture/">http://olem.osu.edu/fergus-lecture/</a></li> </ul>
6	10/12/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership report</i></li> </ul>
7	10/19/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election: 2016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
8	10/26/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonprofit Organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Guest Speaker: Janet Jackson, CEO United Way of Central Ohio</i></li> </ul>
9	11/2/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law and Public Affairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Guest Speaker: Stan Chesley, Partner Waite, Schneider, Bayless &amp; Chesley</i></li> </ul>
10	11/9/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Guest Speaker: Jo Ann Davidson, former Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives</i></li> </ul>
11	11/16/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citizenship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Guest Speaker: Senator John Glenn</i></li> </ul>
12	11/23/2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Guest Speaker:</i></li> </ul>
13	11/30/2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Guest Speaker:</i></li> </ul>
14	12/7/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wrap-up and final thoughts</li> </ul>	