WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Public Policy and Social Issues

COURSE NUMBER: POL 326

I. RATIONALE:
This course studies how American societal problems become public policy issues; how those issues become part of the public agenda; and how public problems reshape or reorganize governmental institutions, structures, programs, and budgets. It includes both the process and the principles—public and private.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

GOAL A: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which public policy is developed and analyzed.

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

A-1 Identify the models used for policy analysis including process model, institutional model, rational model and elite model
A-2 Identify the six steps in the process model from problem identification through policy evaluation

GOAL B: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role of both public institutions and private interest groups in our society

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

B-1 Describe the importance of the following in setting the public agenda at the federal, state and local level:

• Executive branch
IDEA Objectives: E=2
I= 3, 8, 11

- Legislative branch
- Judicial branch
- governmental administrative agencies/bureaucracies
- media
- interest groups

GOAL C: The student will demonstrate an understanding of how the individual in our society can articulate an interest through an interest aggregation group.

C-1. Define the concept and give examples of an interest group
C-2. Describe the variety of ways in which interest groups influence public policy

GOAL D: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the factors affecting policy formulation.

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

D-1 Discuss the impact of lobbying, political action committees and grassroots mobilization efforts
D-2 Describe the lawmaking process

GOAL E: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the factors affecting policy implementation

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

E-1 Discuss the role of governmental administrative agencies/bureaucracies in policy implementation and regulation
E-2 Discuss the budgetary and appropriations processes

GOAL F: The student will demonstrate an understanding of how public policies are promulgated and evaluated in the U.S

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

F-1 Discuss assessment methods used to report the impact of public policy
F-2 Explain the role of the Office of Management and Budget and the General Accounting Office in evaluating federal programs
GOAL G: The student will demonstrate an understanding of American Federalism

Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

   G-1 Discuss the role of the federal, state and local governments in creating public policy in the following areas:
     - healthcare
     - economic policy
     - criminal justice
     - education
     - tax policy
     - energy and environmental policy

GOAL H: The student will use appropriate written and oral communication skills

Learning Objectives: The student will:

   H-1 Communicate information orally in a logical and grammatically correct manner
   H-2 Present written information using standard APA style
   H-3 Write clearly, concisely, and appropriately using correct English grammar, punctuation, usage, mechanics sentence structure, and vocabulary