



# COMMUNICATING PUBLIC POLICY

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P r o f e s s o r R o h i n i S . S i n g h

T h e C o l l e g e O f W o o s t e r



## Intro

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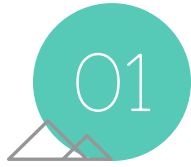
Welcome to Communicating Public Policy. In this course, we will craft and critique public policy messages to make a difference in our local community. Together, we will examine

- *public policy rhetoric*: the language and symbols that frame public needs and orient communities' responses to those needs.

This year, our policy theme is homelessness in the City of Wooster.

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# Resources



All readings, assignment instructions, grades, course policies, announcements, and places to turn in assignments are here.



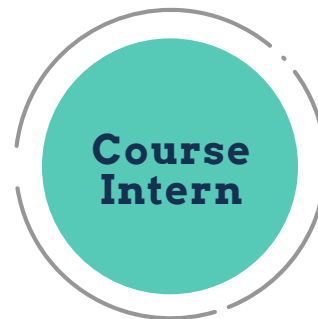
We meet on Microsoft Teams for lessons and office hours appointments.



I send urgent/important messages through email. Check at least once a day



I'm here to help. Sign up for office hours using the link on Moodle or email questions to [rsingh@wooster.edu](mailto:rsingh@wooster.edu).



Camille Carr  
([ccarr22@wooster.edu](mailto:ccarr22@wooster.edu))

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## Assignments

10%

### Wooster's Downtown Curfew: Background & Open Letter

Write a brief history of the City of Wooster's recent policy responses to homelessness and a letter to the *Daily Record* responding to Wooster's 2020 curfew on the public square.

*Due: Sep 1*

40%

### Community Project

Work in groups to create advocacy material on homelessness for local community partner.

*Due: Sep 29 (1st cut - 25%);*

*Nov 3 (revision 10% + report 5%)*

40%

### Final Project: Policy Rhetoric analysis

Pick a piece of policy rhetoric to analyze.

*Due: Nov 17-23 (Presentations 5% & Feedback 10%);*

*Finals Week (Analysis 25%)*

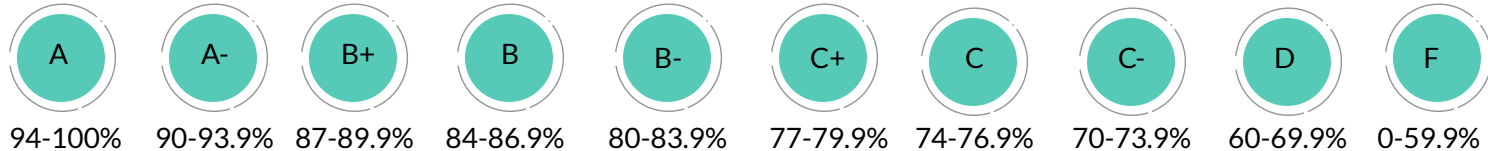
10%

### Reading Tasks

Complete specific tasks to demonstrate your engagement with a reading. [Graded 0, 1, 2]

*Due: Throughout semester*

# Grading Scale





# Units

Wks  
1-2

Policy  
Controversy  
in Wooster

Background  
& Open  
Letter  
Due

Wks  
3-6

Crafting  
Community  
Messages

Wks  
7-11

Analyzing  
Policy  
Rhetoric

Policy Narratives  
Stereotypes  
Goals & God-Terms  
Issue Frames  
Policy images

Community  
Project due  
(1st cut)

Wks  
12-15

Final Project

Individual Consultations  
Presentations

Community  
Project  
Revision  
due

Policy  
Rhetoric  
analysis  
due

See Moodle for full  
schedule of readings



# Course Policies

## **Communicate with me regularly**

Never go radio silent. If you are struggling with attending class, completing work, or dealing with personal issues that affect your ability to participate, speak with me.

**I am happy to be flexible but can only help if I know what is going on. If you do not wish to share personal details with me, contact your class dean.**

## **Attendance and Deadlines**

I do not assign points for attending class or participating in discussion. I also do not deduct points for absences.

I do deduct points for late work - 5% per day late beginning at the end of the class period on the assignment's due date.

## **Technology**

Please blur your background or use a virtual background when we meet on Teams for class lessons and one-on-one appointments.

You do not need to turn on your video in these meetings if you do not wish.



# Course Policies (Yes! More please! We love policies in this class)

## Learning Center

The Learning Center coordinates accommodations for students with diagnosed disabilities. At the beginning of the semester, students should contact the Learning Center to make arrangements for securing appropriate accommodations. Although the Learning Center will notify professors of students with documented disabilities and the approved accommodations, students are encouraged to speak with professors during the first week of each semester. If a student does not request accommodations or does not provide documentation to the Learning Center, faculty are under no obligation to provide accommodations.

## Academic Honesty

You know the drill - don't present the words and ideas of others as your own, don't alter data or citations to fit something that is not there, don't misrepresent the ideas of others.

When in doubt, CITE or ask me.

Please see the Scot's Key for details.

## Health

Wear a mask at all times when physically in class and in our building.

Food and drink are not allowed in class (you may sip water through a straw)

If you are feeling ill in any way or have come into contact with some who has tested positive for Covid-19, please do not come to in-person class.