

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
**Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis**  
**ELPA 870: Politics of Education**  
**Rm. 1161 Educational Sciences Building**  
**May 29-30, June 5-6, June 12-13, Fridays 4-9 p.m., Saturdays 8-3:30**

***Instructor:***

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***Office Hours:***

By appointment

***Course Description:***

ELPA 870 is a graduate level course in the politics of education. The course emphasizes educational politics and policymaking in the U.S. at the federal, state, and local levels. The purpose of the course is to provide students with the ability to critically analyze and manage the political context of educational leadership by building an understanding of the politics of education. The course includes an emphasis on K-12 and post-secondary governance structures, stakeholders, policymaking, and agenda setting, and the connections between federal, state, and local policy decisions and their impact on student learning.

The knowledge base will include:

- The process of educational policymaking;
- The role of federal and state governance structures in shaping educational policies and educational outcomes;
- The ways that political systems and processes impact educational institutions and educational leadership.

***Course Requirements and Grading Policies:***

The requirements for this course include:

- (1) Attendance. Students are required to attend all three weekend sessions to receive credit for the course.
- (2) Participation in Class Discussions (10%)
- (3) Class Discussion Leader – sign up to lead discussion on a reading (15%)
- (4) Paragraph Description of an Education-Related Association or Interest Group – Presented in Class Saturday, June 6 (15%)
- (5) State Policy Analysis Brief – due Wednesday, June 10 (25%)
- (6) Short Take-Home Final Exam – due Wednesday, June 17 (35%)

### ***Challenged Students:***

I wish to fully include persons with disabilities in this course. Please let me know if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to fully participate. I will try to maintain the confidentiality of the information you share with me.

### **Required Readings:**

Kingdon, J.W. (2005). *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* (3rd Edition). Longman.

Glass, Gene. (2008). *Fertilizers, Pills, and Magnetic Strips: The Fate of Public Education in America*. Information Age Publishing.

Remaining readings are available on the Learn@UW site for the course.

### **Optional Text:**

If you would like additional foundational reading in the politics of K-12 education in the United States, see Wirt, F.M. & Kirst, M.W. (2005). *The Political Dynamics of American Education (Third Edition)*. McCutchan Publishing Corporation.

### **Class Sessions**

#### **May 29: *Politics as an Expression of Values***

Stout, Tallerico & Scribner. (1995). Values: The “What?” of the Politics of Education. In Scribner & Layton, (Eds.), *The Study of Educational Politics*.

#### **May 30: *Federal Education Policy***

Gladieux, L.E., King, J.E., & Corrigan, M.E. (2005). The Federal Government and Higher Education. Chapter 6 in P.G. Altbach, R.O. Berdahl, & P.J. Gumport (Eds.), *American Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

DeBray-Pelot, Elizabeth & McGuinn, Patrick. (2009). The New Politics of Education: Analyzing the Federal Education Policy Landscape in the Post-NCLB Era. *Education Policy*, 23(1), pp. 15-42.

President Barack Obama’s Education Speech, March 10, 2009.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2009/03/10/obamas-remarks-on-education-2/>

Stampen, J.O. & Zulick, B.J. (2009). *The 2008 Amendments to the Federal Higher Education Act: Are We on the Right Track?* WISCAPE Policy Brief, March 10, 2009. Retrieved from

<http://www.wiscapewisc.edu/publications/attachments/wb007.pdf>.

**June 5: State Education Policy**

Usdan, Michael. (2002). The New State Politics of Education. *State Education Standard*, 3(2), pp. 14-18.

McGuinness, A.C. Jr. (2005). The States and Higher Education. Chapter 7 in Altbach, Berdahl, & Gumport (Eds.), *American Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Tandberg, D.A. (2008). The Politics of State Higher Education Funding. *Higher Education in Review*, Volume 5.

**June 6: Influences and Influentials**

Kingdon, J.W. (2005). *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* (3rd Edition).

Swanson, Christopher B. and Barlage, Janelle. (December 18, 2006). *Influence: A Study of the Factors Shaping Educational Policy*. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center. Obtained January 6, 2007 from the World Wide Web, [http://www.edweek.org/media/influence\\_study.pdf](http://www.edweek.org/media/influence_study.pdf)

Shakespeare, Christine. (2008). Uncovering Information's Role in the State Higher Education Policy-Making Process. *Educational Policy*, 22, pp. 875-899.

**June 12: The Future of Public Education in America**

Glass, Gene. (2008). *Fertilizers, Pills, and Magnetic Strips: The Fate of Public Education in America*. Information Age Publishing.

**June 13: Politics as Empowerment and Community Engagement**

Pfeffer, Jeffrey. (2004). *Managing with Power*. Harvard University Press. Selected excerpts.

Matthews, David. (2006). *Reclaiming Public Education by Reclaiming our Democracy*. Kettering Foundation Press.

Witte, John. (2001). Wisconsin Ideas: The Continuing Role of the University in the State and Beyond. *LaFollette Policy Report*. Fall/Winter, 2001-02, pp. 4-8, 21-22. Madison, WI: LaFollette School of Public Affairs.

Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land Grant Universities. (1999). [Returning to our Roots: The Engaged Institution](http://www.nasulgc.org/publications/Kellogg/Kellogg1999_Engage.pdf). Accessed from: [http://www.nasulgc.org/publications/Kellogg/Kellogg1999\\_Engage.pdf](http://www.nasulgc.org/publications/Kellogg/Kellogg1999_Engage.pdf)

Barker, D.W.M. & Brown, D.W. (2009). *A Different Kind of Politics: Readings on the Role of Higher Education in Democracy*. Kettering Foundation.

Revised March 29, 2009