

PLS 202—Final Exam (Fall 2000, M. Dluhy)

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Instructions: Part I and Part II are each worth 50% of the exam so spend equal time on each. Write your name above on the appropriate line and also write your name on the essay part of the exam. Use your own paper for the essay.

I. Make sure you cite sources and references where appropriate and use statistics when they are available from the lectures and book. Answer both questions below.

A. During the semester, we have used three major decision making models to describe how public policy gets made and implemented. Compare and contrast these models and illustrate policy and issue areas which fit each model. Which model does the best job of explaining public policy and why?

B. Evaluate the Bush and Gore major proposals to fix Social Security and then indicate which suggestions you prefer yourself and why? You do not have to agree with Bush or Gore if you have other suggestions.

II. The following are a combination of true/false and multiple choice questions. Circle only one answer for each question. Answer right on the exam.

1. Negative Externalities or Spill-Overs are the only justification and acceptable reason for government intervention in the economy. True False

2. A Free Rider in economic terms is:
 - a. A person who benefits from a policy but does not have to pay for its development or implementation.
 - b. A free rider is a very irrational person.
 - c. Free Riders always support stringent standards for regulation of the environment.
 - d. Free Riders strongly believe in collective rationality.

3. Merit Goods are present when “The Tragedy of the Commons” is violated.
 True False

4. Which of the following best illustrates a public good?
 - a. Justice as administered by the Courts
 - b. Solid waste collection and disposal
 - c. Street maintenance and repair
 - d. Issuing building permits

5. Entitlement Programs make up the largest proportion of the federal government’s budget. True False

6. Government intervenes in the economy when there is a market failure. Which of the following is considered a market failure?
 - a. Information is not comprehensive and readily available to the consumer .
 - b. The rate of return on profit falls below the annual growth rate of the economy.
 - c. There is a positive externality present.
 - d. The government refuses to redistribute benefits to the poor.

7. The Social Security program, the way people pay into the Trust Fund and how they draw out of the Fund, is one of the best examples of a Re-Distributive Policy/Program. True False

8. Who would be the best example of a “Policy Wonk”?
- George Bush, Governor of Texas.
 - Katie Kurak, The Today Show Host, NBC
 - Alvin and Heidi Toffler, Authors of Creating A New Civilization
 - Jessie Ventura, Governor of Minnesota
9. Health Care Policy since WWII can be best explained by using a rational deliberative decision making model for explaining policy development and implementation. True False
10. Which of the following ***do not*** make heavy use of monetary policy when debating the future of the U.S. economy?
- George Bush
 - Alan Greenspan
 - Ralph Nader
 - Milton Friedman
11. The New Urbanism emphasizes the development of architecturally pleasing homes and apartments in residential communities where the homes are situated on large lots (at least one half acre) and where residents would be only 15-20 minutes driving time away from most amenities. True False
12. The recent trip of President Clinton to Viet Nam to heal old wounds and promote international trade with the Vietnamese is an example of:
- A window of opportunity
 - A market failure
 - Fiscal policy
 - A Spill-over
13. Iron Triangles are important because they help to explain why public policy in the U.S. is so incremental and why policy changes largely come from the bargaining between elites and not as a result of public opinion or dramatic events. True False
14. A Libertarian believes that:
- Government should intervene in the economy to correct externalities.
 - Government should interfere with personal rights when the interests of the state are more important.
 - Government should always respond to the will of the majority.
 - Government should protect individual liberties, both property and personal.

15. Public Choice Theory, among other things, argues that personal mobility in American society is much less important than the development of a uniform set of Public Goods distributed across communities. True False

16. Public Interest Groups in Washington, D.C. represent:

- a. Aged and poor constituents.
- b. Liberal and Radical constituencies.
- c. Government interests and concerns at the state and local level.
- d. Populist causes.

17. Medicaid symbolically represents deserving constituents who are in need of health services while Medicare represents un-deserving constituents who need to pay their own way for health services. True False

18. Health Care Rationing includes:

- a. Suicide assistance.
- b. Only giving expensive health care to senior citizens since they deserve it the most.
- c. Deciding who can benefit the most from expensive health care procedures and who is less likely to benefit and therefore denied care.
- d. Taking into consideration the ability to pay part of the cost of expensive health care, thus those people who can make a big co-payment get the care.

19. Protectionist communities almost always oppose non-residential land uses. True False

20. Educational Vouchers:

- a. Are almost always designed for children coming from upper class families.
- b. Have failed wherever they have been used.
- c. Have not been popular when put to a public referendum, they usually fail.
- d. Were strongly supported by Gore and Nader in the last election.

21. Charter Schools have been highly successful wherever they have been used, especially in helping middle class children access the best schools in the metropolitan area. True False

22. Attempts at admitting minorities to public universities based on their class ranking in high schools has demonstrated that:

- a. Quotas work.
- b. There are alternatives to preferential treatment to diversify student bodies.
- c. Affirmative action is dead.
- d. Minority students still fail at higher rates in universities, ie, they do not graduate.

23. Recidivism can not be predicted and former repeaters can not be singled out for intensive rehabilitation and focus. True False

24. Community policing means that:

- a. Police officers must live in the neighborhood they work in.
- b. Police officers only leave their beat when there is an emergency in another high crime area.
- c. Police officers are forced to take on roles and functions well beyond traditional crime fighting.
- d. Is extremely unpopular with rank and file citizens but popular with police officers.

25. Proposition 209 which passed in 1996 in California:

- a. Made affirmative action programs in higher education unconstitutional in California.
- b. Limited the number of immigrants that could attend California Universities.
- c. Prevented property taxes from rising faster than inflation.
- d. Reinforced Berkely's policy to use quotas for all major minority groups in their admission policies.

26. "Baby Boomers" born in the 1960s of hippie parents are now getting elected to public office in great numbers all around the country. Their activism is changing American politics. True False

27. The fastest growing age group over the past two decades has been:

- a. 50-60 years old.
- b. 60-65 years old.
- c. 85 and over.
- d. 65-75.

28. COLAs (cost of living increases) for Social Security were advocated by Bush but opposed by Gore. True False

29. Programs for the poor are poor programs and programs that are universal and available to everyone are usually good programs (i.e., well run and managed). True False

30. What is the third wave of civilization according to the Toefflers?

- a. The mass production of goods and the development of large manufacturing facilities where strength is power.
- b. Brain power, the information age where activities are decentralized and globalized.
- c. Space exploration.
- d. Underwater sea exploration.

31. Public welfare is now temporary assistance, indigents no longer have a right to financial assistance with no time limits. True False

32. Open and closed entitlements at the federal level have:

- a. Been drastically cut in the last decade.
- b. Continued to grow incrementally.
- c. Become less important to Presidential candidates in the last three Presidential elections.
- d. Remained unpopular with voters.

33. Welfare clients looking for work are usually placed in the first job they can handle, the caseworkers rarely help them to plan or develop a career. True False

34. Intervention in conflicts around the world is most frequently based on what value rationale:

- a. The Country is a friend of the U.S.
- b. Economic interests of the U.S. will be hurt.
- c. Humanitarian issues have been raised.
- d. The Country has not made a commitment to Democratic processes.

35. Reviewing the popular vote in the most recent Presidential election, it is clear that Gore drew a disproportionate amount of his support from people living in the major Megalopolises of the Country while Bush support came largely from the small towns, rural areas, and other low population and density communities. True False

