

Politics and Public Policy
Fall 2004

The George Washington University, Department of Political Science

Political Science 229.11

Thursday, 6:10pm-8:00pm, Monroe 204

Instructor:	Eric Lawrence
Office:	Old Main 414D
Office Hours:	Mondays 1-3, or by appointment
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Course web site:	On Blackboard

Course Description: This course examines the relationship between politics and public policy in the United States political system. The course is organized into four primary sections. First, we will study several issues that must be confronted when analyzing public policy—what theoretical perspectives are appropriate for the subject matter, how to bring order to the disparate political outcomes we call “public policies”, and how decisions are made by actors in the policy process. Second, we will examine the politics of key U.S. political institutions that structure and limit policy debates. Third, we study the relationship between the public and public policy, with both broad publics (public opinion) and narrow publics (interest groups). Fourth, we conclude with an examination of several key aspects of the policy process, agenda setting, implementation, and diffusion.

Required Texts (available in GW Bookstore):

McCool, Daniel, ed. 1995. *Public Policy Theories, Models, and Concepts*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. [Hereafter “McCool”]

Kingdon, John. 1995. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy*. New York, NY: HarperCollins. [Hereafter “Kingdon”]

All other required readings will be available through Blackboard.

Requirements: Each student is expected to read the required reading, attend class, and constructively participate in seminar discussion. This is not a lecture class, so the success of the seminar depends critically on the engaged participation of the class members. Each student will (co)lead discussion twice during the semester. The schedule of seminar leadership will be determined in the first class meeting. For the weeks that you are leading discussion, you need to (1) send a set of three or more thought provoking questions to all of the seminar members via blackboard, by midnight on the Wednesday before the seminar meets and (2) send me a succinct, two page critical essay assessing the week’s required readings. Each student will also write an integrative essay, due December 2nd, that will survey the literature on a topic of your choosing and argue on behalf of research that would advance our understanding of the topic. Doctoral students may write a research paper (also due December 2nd) in lieu of the integrative essay. All students must submit a one-page paper proposal to me by November 4th. The proposals will not be graded, but they will allow me to provide guidance on the paper prior to your writing it. Finally, we will have an in-class final exam on a date to be announced.

Grades: I will base your course grade on the following:

Class Participation/discussion leadership	20%
Short papers (2)	10% each
Integrative Essay/Research Paper	30%
Final exam	30%

Course Calendar:

September 9th: Overview of the Course and the Subdiscipline

Required:

McCool, pp. 1-27.

Sabatier, Paul. 1991. "Political Science and Public Policy." *PS* 29: 144-147.

Sabatier, Paul. 1991. "Toward Better Theories of the Policy Process." *PS* 29: 147-156.

Stroup, Brian. 2001. "Policy Members Vote for the Most Important Works in Public Policy." *Policy Currents* 11 (2): 14-15.

Ripley, Randall. 1985. "Stages of the Policy Process." [In McCool, pp. 157-162]

Supplementary:

Nelson, Barbara. 1996. "Public Policy and Administration: An Overview." In *A New Handbook of Political Science* ed. Robert E. Goodin and Hans-Dieter Klingeman. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

September 16th: Organizing Theories in Public Policy

Required:

McCool, pp. 105-111, 162-173.

Easton, David. 1965. "The Political System Under Stress." [In McCool, pp. 111-125.]

Moe, Terry. 1984. "The New Economics of Organization." *American Journal of Political Science*, 28:739-777

Sabatier, Paul. 1988. "An Advocacy Coalition Framework of Policy Change and the Role of Policy Oriented Learning Therein." *Policy Sciences* 21: 129-168. [In McCool, pp. 339-379]

Ostrom, Elinor. 1998. "A Behavioral Approach to the Rational Choice Theory of Collective Action." *American Political Science Review* 92: 1-22.

John, Peter. 2003. "Is There a Life After Policy Streams, Advocacy Coalitions, and Punctuations: Using Evolutionary Theory to Explain Policy Change?" *Policy Studies Journal* 31: 481-498.

Supplementary:

March, James, and Johan Olsen. 1984. "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life," *American Political Science Review* 78: 734-749

Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. *Governing the Commons*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

September 23rd: Policy Typologies

Discussion leaders: Butcher, Austin, Dalton, Sachariah

Required:

McCool, pp. 174-177, 244-250

Lowi, Theodore J. 1964. "American Business, Public Policy, Case-Studies, and Political Theory," *World Politics* 16: 677-715. [In McCool, pp. 177-181]

- Lowi, Theodore J. 1972. "Four Systems of Policy, Politics, and Choice." *Public Administration Review*. 33: 298-310. [In McCool, pp. 181-201]
- Wilson, James Q. 1989. *Bureaucracy*, chapter 5. New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Heckathorn, Douglas D. and Steven M. Maser. 1990. "The Contractual Architecture of Public Policy: A Critical Reconstruction of Lowi's Typology." *Journal of Politics* 52: 1101-1123.
- Schneider, Anne and Helen Ingram. 1993. "Social Construction of Target Populations: Implications for Politics and Policy," *American Political Science Review* 87: 334-347.

Supplementary:

- Greenberg, George, et al. 1977. "Developing Public Policy Theory: Perspectives from Empirical Research," *American Political Science Review* 71: 1532-1543. [In McCool, pp. 201-220]
- Gormley, William. 1986. "Regulatory Issue Networks in a Federal System." *Polity* 18: 595-620.

September 30th: **Decision Making in Public Policy**

Discussion leaders: Trent, Hubbard, Dalton, Heberlein

Required:

- Lindblom, Charles. 1957. "The Science of Muddling Through." *Public Administration Review*, Volume 19 (2): 79-88. [In McCool, pp. 142-157]
- Cohen, Michael D., James G. March, and Johan P. Olsen. 1972. "A Garbage Can Model of Organizational Choice." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 17:1-25.
- Simon, Herbert. 1985. "Human Nature in Politics: The Dialogue of Psychology with Political Science," *American Political Science Review* 79: 293-304.
- Green, Donald, and Ian Shapiro. 1993. *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, chapter 2.
- Bendor, Jonathan. 2003. "Herbert Simon, Political Scientist." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 6: 433-471.

Supplementary:

- Jones, Bryan. 1999. "Bounded Rationality," *Annual Review Of Political Science* 2: 297-321.
- Bendor, Jonathan, Terry Moe, and Ken Shotts. 2001. "Recycling the Garbage Can: An Assessment of the Research Program," *American Political Science Review* 169-190.
- Olsen, Johan. 2001. "Garbage Cans, New Institutionalism, and the Study of Politics," *American Political Science Review* 191-198.

October 7th: **Congress and the Courts**

Discussion leaders: Melton, Pope, Dovey, Coventry, Hoffman

Required:

Congress:

Kingdon, chapter 2.

Mayhew, David. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 13-20, 36-73.

Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan University Press, chapters 2 & 3.

Courts:

Melnick, Shep. 1993. *Between the Lines: Interpreting Welfare Rights*. Washington D.C. Chapters 1, 5, 11.

Frymer, Paul. 2003. "Acting When Elected Officials Won't: Federal Courts and Civil Rights Enforcement in U.S. Labor Unions, 1935-1985," *American Political Science Review* 97: 483-499.

Supplementary:

Rosenberg, Gerald. 1991. *The Hollow Hope*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Arnold, Douglas. 1991. *The Logic of Congressional Action*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Lee, Frances E. and Bruce I. Oppenheimer. 1999. *Sizing Up the Senate: The Unequal Consequences of Equal Representation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

October 14th : **The Presidency**

Discussion leaders: Austin, Monosky, Baxter, Gordon

Required:

Neustadt, Richard. 1990. *Presidential Power*. New York: Free Press, chapters 2-3.

Whitford, Andrew and Jeff Yates. 2003. "Policy Signals and Executive Governance," *Journal of Politics* 65: 995-1012.

Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2001. "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals," *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 313-329.

Moe, Terry, and William Howell. 1999. "The Presidential Power of Unilateral Action," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 15: 132-179.

Lewis, David. 2004. "The Adverse Consequences of the Politics of Agency Design for Presidential Management in the United States: The Relative Durability of Insulated Agencies," *British Journal of Political Science* 34: 377-404.

Supplementary:

Burke, Jonathan P. 1992. *The Institutional Presidency*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press.

Cameron, Charles. 2000. *Veto Bargaining*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Bond, Jon, and Richard Fleischer. 1990. *The President in the Legislative Arena*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

October 21st: **The Bureaucracy**

Discussion leaders: Dovey, Scott, de Paz-Castro, Pope, Baxter

Required:

Wilson, James Q. 1989. *Bureaucracy*. New York, NY: Basic Books, chapters 1,2,9.

Moe, Terry. 1990. "Political Institutions: The Neglected Side of the Story," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 6: 213-253.

McCubbins, Mat, Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast. 1987. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 3: 243-277.

Carpenter, Dan. 2002. *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, introduction, chs. 1, 8.

Wood, B. Dan and John Bohte. 2004. "Political Transaction Costs and the Politics of Administrative Design," *Journal of Politics* 66: 176-202.

Supplementary:

- Skowronek, Stephen. 1982. *Building a New American State*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Aberbach, Joel, and Bert Rockman. *In The Web of Politics*. Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

October 28th: **Separation of Powers**

Discussion leaders: Hassan, Butcher, Corlies, Gordon, Melton

Required:

- Mayhew, David. 1991. *Divided We Govern*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, chapters 1, 3, 4.
- Binder, Sarah. 1999. "Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-1996," *American Political Science Review* 93: 519-33.
- Whittington, Keith and Dan Carpenter. 2003. "Executive Power in American Institutional Development," *Perspectives on Politics* 1: 495-513.
- Gilman, Howard. 2002. "How Political Parties Can Use the Courts to Advance Their Agendas: Federal Courts in the United States, 1875-1891," *American Political Science Review* 96: 511-524.

Supplementary:

- Brady, David, and Craig Volden. 1998. *Revolving Gridlock*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

November 4th: **Interest Groups, Policy Subsystems, and Social Movements**

Discussion leaders: Nagarajan, Coventry, de Paz-Castro, Hoffman, Parker

Required:

- Kingdon, chapter 3.
- McCool, pp. 251-255, 380-389
- Truman, David. "Interest Groups and the Nature of the State." [In McCool, pp. 32-40]
- Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, chapters 1 & 6.
- Heclo, Hugh. 1978. "Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment." [In McCool, pp. 262-287]
- Theda Skocpol et al. 1993. "Women's Associations and the Enactment of Mothers' Pensions in the U.S.," *American Political Science Review* 87: 686-700

Supplementary:

- Freeman, J. Leiper. "The Subsystem in Perspective." [In McCool, pp. 256-261]
- Hansen, John Mark. 1991. *Gaining Access: Congress and the Farm Lobby, 1919-1981*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Gray, Virginia and David Lowery. 1996. *The Population Ecology of Interest Representation: Lobbying Communities in the American States*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Berry, Jeff. 2000. *The New Liberalism: The Rising Power of Interest Groups*. Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

November 11th: **Public Opinion and Policy Feedback**

Discussion leaders: Hawkes, Corlies, Geyer, McKinnon

Required:

- Hansen, John Mark. 1998. "Individuals, Institutions, and Public Preferences over Public Finance," *American Political Science Review* 92: 513-31.
- Smith, Mark A. 1999. "Public Opinion, Elections, and Representation within a Market Economy: Does the Structural Power of Business Undermine Popular Sovereignty?" *American Journal of Political Science*, 43: 842-863.
- Mettler, Suzanne. 2002. "Bringing the State Back In to Civic Engagement: Policy Feedback Effects of the G.I. Bill for World War II Veterans," *American Political Science Review* 96:351-365
- Carpenter, Dan. 2002. "Groups, the Media, Agency Waiting Costs, and FDA Drug Approval," *American Journal of Political Science*, 46: 490-505.
- Mettler, Suzanne and Joe Soss. 2004. "The Consequences of Public Policy for Democratic Citizenship: Bridging Policy Studies and Mass Politics," *Perspectives on Politics* 2: 55-73.
- Wlezian, Chris. 2004. "Patterns of Representation: Dynamics of Preferences and Policy," *Journal of Politics* 66: 1-24.

Supplementary:

- Stimson, James. 2004. *Tides of Consent*. New York, NY, chapter 2.
- Wright, Gerald, Robert Erikson, and John McIver. 1993. *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and Policy in the American States*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

November 18th: **Agenda Setting and Problem Definition**

Discussion leaders: Scott, Parker, Hassan, Geyer, Nagarajan

Required:

- Kingdon, Chapters 4-8.
- Baumgartner, Frank, and Bryan Jones. 1991. "Agenda Dynamics and Policy Subsystems," *Journal of Politics* 53: 1044-1074.
- Reinerman, Craig. 1988. "The Social Construction of an Alcohol Problem: The Case of Mothers' against Drunk Driving in the 1980s," *Theory and Society* 17: 91-120.
- Sharp, Elaine B. 1994. "The Dynamics of Issue Expansion: Cases from Disability Rights and Fetal Research Controversy," *Journal of Politics* 56: 919-939

Supplementary:

- Baumgartner, Frank, and Bryan Jones. 1993. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Schattschneider, E.E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People*. New York: Holt, Rhinehart, and Winston.

December 2nd: **Implementation and Oversight**

Discussion leaders: Monosky, Heberlein, Hawkes

Required:

- Lipsky, Michael. 1980. *Street Level Bureaucracy*. New York: Russell Sage, chapters 1-6.
- Elmore, Richard. 1980. "Backward Mapping: Implementation Research and Policy Decisions," *Political Science Quarterly* 94: 601-616.
- Scholz, John T., Jim Twombly, and Barbara Headrick. 1991. "Street-Level Political Controls Over Federal Bureaucracy," *American Political Science Review*. 85: 829-850.
- Ferejohn, John, and Charles Shipan. 1990. "Congressional Influence over Bureaucracy," *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization* 6: 1-20.
- Huber, John, and Charles Shipan. 2000. "The Costs of Control: Legislators, Agencies, and Transaction Costs," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* XXV: 25-52.

Supplementary:

- Jeffrey Pressman and Aaron Wildavsky. 1973. *Implementation*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Hill, Michael, and Peter Hupe. 2002. *Implementation*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications.

December 9th: **Diffusion of Innovations**

[note that this date is tentative as of September 9, 2004]

Discussion leaders: Hubbard, McKinnon, Sachariah, Trent

Required:

- Walker, Jack. 1969. "The Diffusion of Innovations in the American States," *American Political Science Review* 63: 880-899
- Gray, Virginia. 1973. "Innovations in the States: A Diffusion Study," *American Political Science Review* 67: 1174-1185.
- Berry, Frances and William Berry. 1990. "State Lottery Adoptions as Policy Innovations: An Event History Analysis," *American Political Science Review* 84: 395-415.
- Grossback, Lawrence, Sean Nicholson-Crotty, and David Peterson, forthcoming. "Ideology and Learning in Policy Diffusion" *American Politics Review*.
- Volden, Craig. 2004. "States as Policy Laboratories: Experimenting with the Children's Health Program." Manuscript.

Supplementary:

- Polsby, Nelson. 1984. *The Politics of Innovation in American*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Boehmke, Fred, and Richard Witmer. 2004. "Disentangling Diffusion: The Effect of Social Learning and Economic Competition on State Policy Innovation and Expansion," *Political Research Quarterly* 57: 39-51.

Note: The schedule, policies, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.