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Public Policy 201 (Sec. 12): Politics & the Policy Process

Mondays, 3:30-6:00, MPA 305
Fall 2005, George Washington University

Required Books

Anderson, James. 2005. *Public Policymaking* New York: Houghton-Mifflin.
Kingdon, John. 2002. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* New York: Longman.

Exams

The course features two take-home exams. The first will be distributed in class on October 17 and due in class October 24. The second will be distributed in class on December 7 and will be due by noon on December 19. Do not email me exams.

Papers

The paper assignment this semester will be a case study applying some particular theoretical approach, or set of approaches, to a specific policy issue. We will discuss the papers in detail early in the semester. A brief summary of your topic (~ 1 page) is due in class on October 17. Topics must be approved by me beforehand. Be prepared to briefly discuss your topic in class on October 24. The paper is due in class on December 7. Do not email me papers.

Grading

Your course grade will be based on the paper, two exams, and participation as follows:

First Exam: 30%
Second Exam: 30%
Paper: 30%
Participation: 10%.

Academic Integrity

All examinations, papers, and other graded work products and assignments are to be completed in conformance with the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity.

Course Schedule

You should be prepared to discuss each reading at each class. Excepting the two texts, all readings are available on Blackboard or on J-STOR (which can be accessed through ALADIN).

September 12

COURSE INTRODUCTION

September 19

STAGES OF THE POLICY PROCESS

- Anderson, chs. 1-7

ARENAS OF POWER

- Theodore Lowi. 1972. "Four Systems of Policy, Politics, and Choice." *Public Administration Review* 32: 298-310. (J-STOR)

September 26

MULTIPLE STREAMS

- Kingdon, all

October 3

BIG N COMPARATIVE STUDIES

- Sharkansky, Ira. 1967. "Government Expenditures and Public Services in the American States." *American Political Science Review* 61: 1066-1077. (J-STOR)
- Erikson, Robert, Gerald Wright, and John McIver. 1989. "Political Parties, Public Opinion, and State Policy in the United States." *American Political Science Review* 83: 729-750. (J-STOR)

INCREMENTALISM

- Lindblom, Charles. 1979. "Still Muddling, Not Yet Through" *Public Administration Review* 39: 517-526. (J-STOR)
- Berry, William. 1990. "The Confusing Case of Budgetary Incrementalism: Too Many Meanings for a Single Concept." *Journal of Politics* 52: 167-196. (J-STOR)

October 10

PUNCTUATED EQUILIBRIUM

- Bryan Jones and Frank Baumgartner. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chs. 1-4. (Blackboard)
- Bryan Jones and Frank Baumgartner. 2005. "A Model of Choice for Public Policy." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 15: 1-27. (Blackboard)

October 17

CONSTRUCTIVISM

- Schneider, Anne and Helen Ingram. 1993. "Social Construction of Target Populations: Implications for Politics and Policy." *American Political Science Review* 87: 334-347. (J-STOR)

ADVOCACY COALITION FRAMEWORK

- Sabatier, Paul. 1988. "An Advocacy Coalition Framework of Policy Change and the Role of Policy-Oriented Learning Therein," *Policy Sciences* 21:129-168. (Blackboard)

TOOLS OF GOVERNMENT

- Salamon, Lester. 2002. "The New Governance and the Tools of Public Action." in Lester Salamon, ed. *The Tools of Government* Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Blackboard)

Exams distributed at the end of class. Paper summaries due in class.

October 24

Exams due in class. Discussion of exam and term papers.

October 31

INNOVATION AND DIFFUSION

- Berry, Frances Stokes and William Berry. 1990. "State Lottery Adoptions as Policy Innovations: An Event History Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 84: 395-415. (J-STOR)
- Walker, Jack. 1969. "The Diffusion of Innovations Among the American States," *American Political Science Review* 63: 880-899. (J-STOR)
- Skocpol, Theda, Marjorie Abend-Wein, Christopher Howard, and Susan Goodrich Lehmann. 1993. "Women's Associations and the Enactment of Mothers' Pensions in the United States." *American Political Science Review* 87: 686-701. (J-STOR)

COMPETITION IN A FEDERAL SYSTEM

- Lowry, William. 1992. *The Dimensions of Federalism* Durham: Duke University Press, ch. 1. (Blackboard)
- Volden, Craig. 2002. "The Politics of Competitive Federalism: A Race to the Bottom in Welfare Benefits?" *American Journal of Political Science* 46: 352-363. (J-STOR)

November 7

CONGRESS

- Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, chs. 1-3. (Blackboard)
- Young, Garry and Valerie Heitshusen. 2003. "Party and the Dynamics of Congressional Committee Composition in the US House, 1947-1996." *British Journal of Political Science* 33: 659-679. (Blackboard)
- Lee, Frances. 2003. "Geographic Politics in the U.S. House of Representatives: Coalition Building and Distribution of Benefits," *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 714-728. (Blackboard)
- Lee, Frances and Bruce Oppenheimer. 1999. *Sizing Up the Senate* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chs. 6-7. (Blackboard)
- Ferejohn, John. 1983. "Congress and Redistribution" in Allen Schick, ed. *Making Economic Policy in Congress* Washington: American Enterprise Institute. (Blackboard)

November 14

PRESIDENCY

- Kernell, Samuel. 1993. *Going Public* Washington: CQ Press, chs. 1, 2. (Blackboard)
- Young, Garry and William Perkins. Forthcoming 2005. "Presidential Rhetoric, the Public Agenda, and the End of Presidential Television's 'Golden Age,'" *Journal of Politics*. (Blackboard)
- Skowronek, Stephen. 1993. *The Politics Presidents Make* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, chs. 1-3. (Blackboard)
- Moe. 1985. "The Politicized Presidency." in Chubb and Peterson, *The New Direction in American Politics*. (Blackboard)

November 21

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Wood, B. Dan and Richard Waterman. 1994. *Bureaucratic Dynamics* Boulder: Westview, chs. 1-2 (Blackboard)
- Meier, Kenneth. 1997. "Bureaucracy and Democracy: The Case for More Bureaucracy and Less Democracy." *Public Administration Review* 57: 193-199. (J-STOR)
- Keith Whittington and Daniel Carpenter. 2003. "Executive Power in American Institutional Development." *Perspectives on Politics* 1: 495-513. (Blackboard)
- Keiser, Lael, Vicky M. Wilkins, Kenneth Meier, and Catherine Holland. 2002. "Lipstick and Logarithms: Gender, Institutional Context, and Representative Bureaucracy." *American Political Science Review* 96: 553-564. (Blackboard)
- Moe, Terry. 2005. "Power and Political Institutions," *Perspectives on Politics* 3: 215-233. (Blackboard)

November 28

MACRO-POLITICS AND POLICY CHANGE

- Sarah Binder. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock." *American Political Science Review* 93: 519-533. (J-STOR)
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chs. 1-3. (Blackboard)
- Mayhew, David. 1991 *Divided We Govern* New Haven: Yale University Press, chs. 1, 3-4 (Blackboard)

December 7

JUDICIARY

- Rosenberg, Gerald. 1991. *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?* Chicago: University of Chicago, pp. 9-71, 173-201. (Blackboard)
- Canon, Bradley and Charles Johnson. 2002. "Judicial Policies: Implementation and Impact." In Walter Murphy, C. Herman Pritchett, and Lee Epstein, eds., 5th Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill. (Blackboard)
- Segal, Jeffrey. 1997. "Separation-of-Powers Games in the Positive Theory of Congress and Courts." *American Political Science Review* 91: 28-44. (J-STOR)

Paper due in class.

Exam distributed in class, due by noon December 19.