

Introduction to Public Policy Analysis
Political Science 2106-001
Summer 2020 B Term

Instructor:

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Office Hours: By Appointment via Zoom

Course Objective:

This course provides an overview of the field of public policy and introduces students to the interactive relationship that exists between politics and the policymaking process. We begin by exploring the definition of public policy and then turn to an important and recurring theme: how the structure of government affects the formation and implementation of public policy. In the first thematic unit of the course, we study how institutions such as federalism, Congress, the presidency, and elections impact the American policymaking process. Along the way, we encounter case studies (from welfare, healthcare reform, school desegregation, and marijuana legalization) that help to demonstrate theoretical principles.

In the second part of the course, we examine the process of making policy and also uncover how policy is evaluated. Students explore how problems are identified, how policy goals are set, how policies are implemented, and how policies are evaluated in terms of whether they met intended goals. A long running example from the Patriot Act is used to illustrate how the processes of making and evaluating policy work in practice.

Finally, in the third part of the course, we explore how policy “correction” and policy change occur? How can policies be modified to increase the likelihood that they meet intended goals? And what room is there for policy change when a policy is no longer supported by the public?

Evaluation:

Your grade is made up of 4 components: 2 multiple choice exams; 1 team project presentation, in which you and a team of randomly selected peers use the theory of incentives to develop a strategy for how the University should handle COVID-19 in

the fall; and participation (more about this soon). The breakdown of each of these components (along with their respective dates) is shown below.

- Unit 1 Exam (25% of grade): 7/22
- Unit 2 Exam (25% of grade): 8/7
- Team Project Presentation (30% of grade): 8/4 – 8/5
- Participation (20% of grade): ongoing

As far as participation is concerned, you will be required to send me discussion questions (no more than 2-3 sentences) by email about a class lecture topic. The discussion questions are meant to enrich our sessions, as we will have conversations about themes that are covered in multiple discussion questions. Discussion question due-dates (based on the starting letter of your last name) are below. I do not grade the actual content of the discussion question, just whether you submit a question. The discussion question method gets around the problem of low-bandwidth connectivity that has prevented some students from being able to consistently access Zoom.

Additionally, I will record audio sessions of our Zoom meetings and post these on the course Canvas site.

Reading List (in Sequential Order):

I encourage you to purchase *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making (Third Edition)*, but newer will suffice) by Deborah Stone. This book is foundational in the field of public policy, and you may revisit it if you choose to continue in this field. I have arranged for a copy of this book to be sold at the CU Bookstore. All other readings are available on the course website on Canvas.

Stone, Deborah. 2011. *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making. Third Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science* 162 (3859): 1243-1248.

Madison, James. 1787. *Federalist 10*: "The Same Subject Continued: The Union as a Faction against Domestic Faction and Insurrection," *New York Daily Advertiser*, November 22, 1787.

Hamilton, Alexander, and James Madison. 1788. *Federalist 51*: "The Structure of the Government Must Furnish the Proper Checks and Balances between the Different Departments," *New York Packet*, February 8, 1788.

Tiebout, Charles. 1956. "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures," *Journal of Political Economy* 64 (5): 416-424.

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Burns, Sarah. 2012. "Was There 'A Race to the Bottom' After Welfare Reform?" *University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research Discussion Paper Series, DP2012-04.*

Cameron, Charles. 2009. "The Presidential Veto." In *The Oxford Handbook of the American Presidency*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Cannan, John. 2013. "A Legislative History of the Affordable Care Act: How Legislative Procedure Shapes Legislative History," *Law Library Journal* 105:2 (2013-7).

Mace, George. 1972. "The Antidemocratic Character of Judicial Review," *California Law Review* 1140.

Landsberg, Brian. 2014. "Enforcing Desegregation: A Case Study of Federal District Court Power and Social Change in Macon County Alabama," *Law and Society Review* 48 (4): 867-891.

Wilson, James Q. 1975. "The Rise of the Bureaucratic State," *The Public Interest* 41: 77-103.

Wallach, Philip. 2014. "Washington's Marijuana Legalization Grows Knowledge, Not Just Pot: A Report on the State's Strategy to Assess Reform," *Brookings Governance Studies Paper Series.*

Lindblom, Charles E. 1959. "The Science of 'Muddling' Through," *Public Administration Review* 19 (2): 79-88.

Raab, Christopher. 2006. "Fighting Terrorism in an Electronic Age: Does the Patriot Act Unduly Compromise Our Civil Liberties?" *Duke Law and Technology Review* 2.

Schedule:

Date	In-Class	Assignment (read by the next class date)
UNIT 1: HOW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AFFECTS PUBLIC POLICY		
7/7	Course Introduction Review Syllabus	1. Read "The Tragedy of the Commons" by Hardin.
7/8	What is "Public" Policy	1. Read Stone (<i>Policy Paradox</i>) Chapter 1. 2. Read <i>Federalist 10</i> and <i>Federalist 51</i> . Questions due for names A-H for 7/9 class by 11:59pm
7/9	Federalism	1. Read "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures" by Tiebout.

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		Questions due for names K-O for 7/10 by 11:59pm
7/10	Federalism Case Study (<i>Race to the Bottom</i>)	1. Read "Was There 'A Race to the Bottom' after Welfare Reform?" by Burns. Questions due for names P-Z for 7/13 by 11:59pm
7/13	Congress	1. Read "Can Congress Legislate for the Future?" by Binder. Questions due for names A-H for 7/14 by 11:59pm
7/14	Congress and the President (Part 1)	1. Read "The Presidential Veto" by Cameron. Questions due for names K-O for 7/16 by 11:59pm
7/15	Group Assignment Discussion	<i>Use time to set up projects with your group members.</i>
7/16	Congress and the President Case Study (<i>Obamacare</i>)	1. Read "A Legislative History of the Affordable Care Act" by Cannan. Questions due for names P-Z for 7/17 by 11:59pm
7/17	The Courts and Courts Case Study (<i>Desegregation in Alabama</i>).	1. Read "The Antidemocratic Character of Judicial Review" by Mace. 2. Read "Enforcing Desegregation" by Landsberg. Questions due for names A-H for 7/20 by 11:59pm
7/20	The Bureaucracy and Bureaucracy Case Study (<i>Marijuana Legalization in Washington</i>).	1. Read "Rise of the Bureaucratic State" by Wilson. 2. Read "Washington's Marijuana Legalization Grows Knowledge, Not Just Pot" by Wallach. Questions due for names K-O for 7/23 by 11:59pm
7/21	Exam Review	<i>None.</i>
7/22	Exam 1	<i>None.</i>
UNIT 2: MAKING AND ASSESSING POLICY		
7/23	The Process of Policy Analysis	1. Read "The Science of Muddling Through" by Lindblom. Questions due for names P-Z for 7/24 by 11:59pm
7/24	Problem Identification	1. Read Chapter 2 of Stone (<i>Policy Paradox</i>). Questions due for names A-H for 7/27 by 11:59pm

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7/27	Policy Goals: <i>Equity and Efficiency</i>	1. Read Chapters 3 and 4 of Stone (<i>Policy Paradox</i>). Questions due for names K-O for 7/28 by 11:59pm
7/28	Policy Goals: <i>Efficiency and Welfare</i>	1. Read Chapters 5 and 6 of Stone (<i>Policy Paradox</i>). Questions due for names P-Z for 7/29 by 11:59pm
7/29	Policy Goals: <i>Security and Liberty</i>	1. Read "Fighting Terrorism in an Electronic Age" by Raab. Questions due for names A-H for 7/30 by 11:59pm
UNIT 3: POLICY "CORRECTION" AND CHANGE		
7/30	Making Policies Work: <i>Incentives and Rules</i>	1. Read Chapters 12 and 13 of Stone (<i>Policy Paradox</i>). Questions due for names K-O for 7/31 by 11:59pm
7/31	Making Policies Work: <i>Persuasion and Rights</i>	1. Read Chapters 14 and 15 of Stone (<i>Policy Paradox</i>). Questions due for names P-Z for 8/3 by 11:59pm
8/3	Making Policies Work: <i>Powers</i>	1. Read Chapter 16 of Stone (<i>Policy Paradox</i>).
8/4	Group Presentations	<i>None.</i>
8/5	Group Presentations	<i>None.</i>
8/6	Exam Review	<i>None.</i>
8/7	Exam 2	<i>None.</i>