

## Public Policy

EVSS/PUBA: 602

FALL 2015

MAYBANK HALL 111

5:00–7:45PM T

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**Instructor:** Dr. Matthew Nowlin

**Office:** 114 Wentworth, #102

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1–3pm and by appointment

**Contact:** Please allow 24 hours for a response

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See the **course website** for updates

## Course Description

**EVSS:** This course seeks to develop a firm understanding of the public policy-making process in the United States. Students study policy making through various perspectives on implementation. The roles of major institutions including the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, the bureaucracy and interest groups in this process are addressed. Includes various perspectives and interpretations of policymaking, including incrementalism, rationalism, pluralism and elitism. Selected areas of public policy, including transportation, poverty, energy and the environment are used to illustrate both the process and the different perspectives.

**PUBA:** This course examines the activities of individuals, groups, and institutions that define or ignore public problems, participate or fail to participate in political struggles over these problems and confront or avoid opportunities to develop and implement solutions. The implications of these complexities for public employees and public management are emphasized.

## Learning Outcomes

The Masters of Public Administration accrediting body, the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Administration, and Affairs (NASPAA) requires that we assess our students' mastery of the following required competencies:

- Lead and manage in public governance
- Participate in and contribute to the public policy process
- Analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions
- Articulate and apply a public service perspective
- Communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry

Each of these competencies will be addressed throughout this course, however the most emphasis will be placed on developing students abilities to a) participate in and contribute to the public policy process, and to b) analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions.

In addition, this course has several specific learning objectives.

- Gain an introductory understanding of the academic field of public policy
- Gain a general understanding of the major policy process theories
- Develop a detailed understanding of one substantive area of public policy
- Gain a practical understanding of how the theories of the policy process can help understand and explain a substantive policy area
- Develop oral, written, and group communication skills

These objectives will be achieved through critically reading the course readings; by actively participating in and leading in-class discussions; and by completing a research design applying one of the major frameworks to a particular substantive policy area.

## Required Texts:

The following texts are required and additional readings will be provided on OAKS.

Birkland, Thomas A. 2011. *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making*. M.E. Sharpe. 3rd Edition

Paul Sabatier and Christopher Weible (eds). 2014. *Theories of the Policy Process*. 3rd Edition. Westview Press.

Bertelli, Anthony Micheal. 2012. *The Political Economy of Public Sector Governance*. Cambridge.

## Additional Readings

For most weeks, readings will be categorized as core readings, discussion readings, and suggested readings.

- **Core Readings (Required):** The core readings detail theoretical concepts and will be covered by lecture.
- **Discussion Readings (Required):** The discussion readings are largely applications of theoretical concepts. They will be covered through class discussion, lead by assigned discussion leaders.
- **Suggested Readings (Not Required):** Suggested readings are additional readings that could help clarify some concepts. They are also useful places to start for the research design.

The reading assignments and links to the readings on are the [schedule](#) portion of the [course website](#)

## Course Requirements and Grading:

Performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of 10 discussion papers, being a discussion leader, a research design, a book review, and class participation. Points will be distributed as follows:

Assignment	Points
10 Discussion Papers	20 points each (200 points) (22%)
Discussion Leader	100 points (11%)
Research Design Proposal	50 points (6%)
Research Design	250 points (28%)
Book Review	200 points (22%)
Attendance/Participation	100 points (11%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>900 points (100%)</b>

*There are 900 possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of 900*

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 to 100%
B+	87 to 89%
B	80 to 86%
C+	77 to 79%
C	70 to 76%
F	69% and below

### Attendance and Participation

Attendance is expected and mandatory for this course. Attendance will be taken by the participation statements you turn in at the end of each class, so even if you did not participate in class, fill out the survey in OAKS or put your name on a piece of paper and give it to me at the end of class. You are allowed to miss one class without penalty. The penalties for missing 2 or more classes are as follows (in addition to the loss of participation points):

Absences | Penalty — | — 1 | None 2 | 20 points 3 | 30 points (50 points total) 4 | 40 points (90 points total) 5 | 50 points (140 points total)

Students are expected to participate in the course by asking questions, providing thoughtful comments, and through making contributions to the discussion portion of class. **Class discussion should be better than it would have been had you not attended.** Note that the professor has final say over what does or does not count as adequate participation.

## **Students with Disabilities:**

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before any accommodation is needed.

## **Cheating or Plagiarism:**

A grade of zero will be given to anyone cheating on any exam, homework assignment or committing plagiarism in a paper. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own ideas, the words, writings, music, graphs/charts, etc that were created by another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. It does not matter from where the material is borrowed—a book, article, material off the web, another student's paper—all constitute plagiarism unless the source of the work is fully identified and credited. Plagiarism is cheating and a violation of academic and personal integrity and will not be tolerated. It carries extremely serious consequences. To avoid plagiarism it is necessary when using a phrase, a distinctive idea, concept or sentence from another source to reference that source in your text, a footnote, or end-note. Please contact me if you need assistance in citing a source.

## **Religious Holiday Policy:**

It is the policy of the College to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please see me immediately if you will need to miss class any time during this semester.

# Course Schedule and Readings Fall 2015

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** All changes will be announced in class.

## **READINGS SHOULD BE READ IN THE ORDER LISTED**

For most weeks, readings will be categorized as core readings, discussion readings, and suggested readings. *For the journal articles click on the link to be taken to the website for the article. Note that to be able to download the article from the link you need to be connected to the internet on campus or, if off campus, you need to search for the journal article at the [library website](#).* Additional readings will also be available on OAKS.

- **Core Readings (Required):** The core readings detail theoretical concepts and will be covered by lecture.
- **Discussion Readings (Required):** The discussion readings are largely applications of theoretical concepts. They will be covered through class discussion, lead by assigned discussion leaders.
- **Suggested Readings (Not Required):** Suggested readings are additional readings that could help clarify some concepts. They are also useful places to start for the research design.

I will also provide links to Professor Paul Cairney's series of essays on [key policy theories and concepts in 1000 words](#). These are **STRONGLY** recommended.

## **Books**

**Birkland:** Birkland, Thomas A. 2011. *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making*. M.E. Sharpe. 3rd Edition

**SW:** Sabatier, Paul and Christopher Weible (eds). 2014. *Theories of the Policy Process*. Westview Press. 3rd Edition.

**Bertelli:** Bertelli, Anthony Micheal. 2012. *The Political Economy of Public Sector Governance*. Cambridge.

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## **August 25th: Introduction and Course Overview**

- *Suggested Readings:*
    - [Defining policy shows how messed up it seems](#)
    - Birkland Chap 1
    - SW Chap 1
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## September 1st: Policy Process Theory

- *Core Readings:*
  - Thomas Dye: *Models of Politics* on OAKS
  - *Carefully skim*
    - \* Birkland Chap 2
    - \* Birkland Chap 7
    - \* Birkland Chap 10
  - Paul Cairney: *Rationality and Incrementalism* on OAKS
- *Discussion Readings:*
  - deLeon, Peter. 1999. *The Stages Approach to the Policy Process: What Has It Done? Where Is It Going?* In *Theories of the Policy Process*, edited by Paul Sabatier, 19–32. Boulder, CO: Westview on OAKS
  - Sabatier, Paul A. 2007. *The Need for Better Theories*. In *Theories of the Policy Process*, 2nd ed., 3–17. Boulder, CO: Westview Press on OAKS

### ***Discussion Paper Due***

- *Suggested Readings:*
    - The Policy Cycle and its Stages
    - Bounded Rationality and Incrementalism
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## September 8th: Institutions and Institutional Rational Choice

- *Core Readings:*
  - Birkland Chap 3
  - Birkland Chap 4
  - Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark S. Bonchek. 1997. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton and Company. pgs. 299–311; 345–379 on OAKS

### ***Discussion Paper Due***

- *Suggested Readings:*
    - Institutions and New Institutionalism
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## September 15th: Institutional Analysis and Development Framework

- *Core Readings:*
  - SW: Chap 8 by Ostrom et al
- *Discussion Readings:*
  - Imperial, Mark T., and Tracy Yandle. 2005. [Taking Institutions Seriously: Using the IAD Framework to Analyze Fisheries Policy](#). *Society and Natural Resources* 18 (6): 493–509.
  - Schlager, Edella, and Tanya Heikkila. 2011. [Left High and Dry? Climate Change, Common-Pool Resource Theory, and the Adaptability of Western Water Compacts](#). *Public Administration Review* 71 (3): 461–70.
  - Weible, Christopher M., and David P. Carter. 2015. [The Composition of Policy Change: Comparing Colorado’s 1977 and 2006 Smoking Bans](#). *Policy Sciences* 48(2): 207–31.

### *Discussion Paper Due* *Discussion Leaders*

- *Suggested Readings:*
    - [Rational Choice and the IAD](#)
    - McGinnis, Michael D. 2011. [An Introduction to IAD and the Language of the Ostrom Workshop: A Simple Guide to a Complex Framework](#). *Policy Studies Journal* 39 (1): 169–83.
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## September 22nd: Agenda Setting and Multiple Streams

- *Core Readings:*
  - Birkland Chap 6
  - SW Chap 2 by Zahariadis
- *Discussion Readings:*
  - Pralle, Sarah B. 2009. [Agenda-Setting and Climate Change](#). *Environmental Politics* 18 (5): 781–99.
  - Boscarino, Jessica E. 2009. [Surfing for Problems: Advocacy Group Strategy in U.S. Forestry Policy](#). *Policy Studies Journal* 37 (3): 415–34.
  - Liu, Xinsheng, Eric Lindquist, Arnold Vedlitz, and Kenneth Vincent. 2010. [Understanding Local Policymaking: Policy Elites’ Perceptions of Local Agenda Setting and Alternative Policy Selection](#). *Policy Studies Journal* 38(1): 69–91.

### *Discussion Paper Due* *Discussion Leaders*

- *Suggested Readings:*

- Multiple Streams Analysis
  - Cohen, Michael D., James G. March, and Johan P. Olsen. 1972. *A Garbage Can Model of Organizational Choice*. *Administrative Science Quarterly* 17 (1): 1–25.
  - Jones, Michael D., Holly L. Peterson, Jonathan J. Pierce, Nicole Herweg, Amiel Bernal, Holly Lamberta Raney, and Nikolaos Zahariadis. 2015. *A River Runs Through It: A Multiple Streams Meta-Review*. *Policy Studies Journal* Forthcoming.
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## September 29th: Advocacy Coalition Framework

- *Core Readings:*
  - Birkland Chap 5
  - SW Chap 6 by Jenkins-Smith et al
- *Discussion Readings:*
  - Nicholson-Crotty, Sean. 2005. *Bureaucratic Competition in the Policy Process*. *Policy Studies Journal* 33 (3): 341–61.
  - Weible, Christopher M. 2007. *An Advocacy Coalition Framework Approach to Stakeholder Analysis: Understanding the Political Context of California Marine Protected Area Policy*. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 17 (1): 95–117.
  - Montpetit, ric. 2011. *Scientific Credibility, Disagreement, and Error Costs in 17 Biotechnology Policy Subsystems*. *Policy Studies Journal* 39(3): 513–33.

### *Discussion Paper Due* *Discussion Leaders*

- *Suggested Readings:*
    - Networks, sub-government and communities
    - The Advocacy Coalition Framework
    - Weible, Christopher M., Paul A. Sabatier, and Kelly McQueen. 2009. *Themes and Variations: Taking Stock of the Advocacy Coalition Framework*. *Policy Studies Journal* 37 (1): 121–140.
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## October 6th: Punctuated Equilibrium

- *Core Readings:*
  - SW: Chap 3 by Baumgartner et al
- *Discussion Readings:*
  - Baumgartner, Frank R., and Bryan D. Jones. 1991. *Agenda Dynamics and Policy Subsystems*. *The Journal of Politics* 53 (4): 1044–1074.



- Worsham, Jeffrey. 2006. **Up in Smoke: Mapping Subsystem Dynamics in Tobacco Policy.** *Policy Studies Journal* 34 (3): 437–52.
- Robinson, Scott E., Carla M. Flink, and Chad M. King. 2014. **Organizational History and Budgetary Punctuation.** *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 24 (2): 459–71.

***Discussion Paper Due***  
***Discussion Leaders***

- *Suggested Readings:*
  - **Punctuated Equilibrium Theory**
  - Workman, Samuel, Bryan D. Jones, and Ashley E. Jochim. 2009. **Information Processing and Policy Dynamics.** *Policy Studies Journal* 37 (1): 75–92.

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**October 13th: Narrative Policy Framework**

- *Core Readings:*
  - SW: Chap 7 by McBeth et al
- *Discussion Readings:*
  - Shanahan, Elizabeth A., Michael D. Jones, and Mark K. McBeth. 2011. **Policy Narratives and Policy Processes.** *Policy Studies Journal* 39 (3): 535–561.
  - McBeth, Mark K., Elizabeth A. Shanahan, Molly C. Arrandale Anderson, and Barbara Rose. 2012. **Policy Story or Gory Story? Narrative Policy Framework Analysis of Buffalo Field Campaign’s YouTube Videos.** *Policy and Internet* 4 (3-4): 159–183.
  - Jones, Michael D. 2014. **Cultural Characters and Climate Change: How Heroes Shape Our Perception of Climate Science.** *Social Science Quarterly* 95 (1): 1–39.

***Discussion Paper Due***  
***Discussion Leaders***

- *Suggested Readings:*
  - **Critical Policy Studies and the Narrative Policy Framework**
  - Jones, Michael D., and Mark K. McBeth. 2010. **A Narrative Policy Framework: Clear Enough to Be Wrong?** *Policy Studies Journal* 38 (2): 329–353.

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**October 20th: FALL BREAK No class**

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## October 27th: Policy Diffusion

- *Core Readings:*
  - SW: Chap 9, by Berry and Berry
- *Discussion Readings:*
  - Matisoff, Daniel C. 2008. **The Adoption of State Climate Change Policies and Renewable Portfolio Standards: Regional Diffusion or Internal Determinants?** *Review of Policy Research* 25 (6): 527–546.
  - Nicholson-Crotty, Sean. 2009. **The Politics of Diffusion: Public Policy in the American States.** *The Journal of Politics* 71 (01): 192–205.
  - Boushey, Graeme. 2012. **Punctuated Equilibrium Theory and the Diffusion of Innovations.** *Policy Studies Journal* 40 (1): 127–146.

### *Discussion Paper Due* *Discussion Leaders*

- *Suggested Readings:*
    - **Policy Transfer and Learning**
    - Shipan, Charles R., and Craig Volden. 2012. **Policy Diffusion: Seven Lessons for Scholars and Practitioners.** *Public Administration Review* 72 (6): 788–796.
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## November 3rd: Policy Design and Social Construction

- *Core Readings:*
  - Birkland: Chap 8
  - SW: Chap 4 by Schneider et al
- *Discussion Readings:*
  - Nicholson-Crotty, Jill, and Sean Nicholson-Crotty. 2004. **Social Construction and Policy Implementation: Inmate Health as a Public Health Issue.** *Social Science Quarterly* 85(2): 240–256.
  - Schneider, Anne. 2006. **Patterns of Change in the Use of Imprisonment in the American States: An Integration of Path Dependence, Punctuated Equilibrium and Policy Design Approaches.** *Political Research Quarterly* 59(3): 457-470
  - Reich, Gary, and Jay Barth. 2010. **Educating Citizens or Defying Federal Authority? A Comparative Study of In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students.** *Policy Studies Journal* 38(3): 419–445.

### *Discussion Paper Due* *Discussion Leaders*

- *Suggested Readings:*

- Power and Ideas
  - Pierce, Jonathan J., Saba Siddiki, Michael D. Jones, Kristin Schumacher, Andrew Pat-  
tison, and Holly Peterson. 2014. Social Construction and Policy Design: A Review of  
Past Applications. *Policy Studies Journal* 42(1): 1–29.
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## November 10th: Policy Analysis and Evaluation

- Core Readings:
  - Smith and Larimer: Chap 5 on OAKS
  - Smith and Larimer: Chap 6 on OAKS
- Discussion Readings:
  - Carlson, Deven, Robert Haveman, Thomas Kaplan, and Barbara Wolfe.
- 2011. The Benefits and Costs of the Section 8 Housing Subsidy Program: A Framework and  
Estimates of First-Year Effects. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 30(2):  
233–255.
- Courtemanche, Charles J., and Daniela Zapata. 2013. Does Universal Coverage Improve  
Health? The Massachusetts Experience. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*
- Shulock, Nancy. 1999. The Paradox of Policy Analysis: If It Is Not Used, Why Do We  
Produce So Much of It? *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 18(2): 226–244.

### Discussion Paper Due

#### Discussion Leaders

- Suggested Readings:
  - ‘Evidence Based Policymaking’
  - Success and Failure (Evaluation)
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## November 17th: Policy Implementation and Governance I

- Core Readings:
  - Birkland: Chap 9
  - Bertelli: Chaps 1 and 2

### Book Review part 1 due

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## November 24th: Policy Implementation and Governance II

- *Core Readings:*
  - Bertelli: Chaps 3–6

**Book Review part 2 due**

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## Thanksgiving Break: Nov 25th–29th

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## December 1st: Conclusion

- *Core Readings:*
    - SW: Chap 11
    - Weible, Christopher M., Tanya Heikkila, Peter deLeon, and Paul A. Sabatier. 2012. *Understanding and Influencing the Policy Process*. *Policy Sciences* 45(1): 1–21.
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