Public Policy
EVSS/PUBA 602
Fall 2018

Maybank Hall 206
5:30pm - 8:15pm M

Professor: Dr. Matthew Nowlin

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm and by appointment

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.

Class sessions will be *lecture* and *discussion* based. Being able to adequately participate requires you to come to class prepared by having done the assigned readings prior to class. In addition, you should be prepared to participate in class by asking questions and making informed comments that add to the class discussion.

All phones, tablets, and laptops must only be used for class purposes. *Notes should be taken by hand, with pen and paper.* You learn better that way.

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

- Gain an understanding of how to conduct policy analysis and evaluation

- Develop oral, written, and group communication skills

These objectives will be achieved through critically reading the course readings; by writing several short paper; by actively participating in class discussions; and by completing a policy memo about a particular substantive policy area or issue.

Required Texts

The following texts are **required**. Additional readings will be listed on the schedule below and available on OAKS.

- Birkland, Thomas A. 2016. *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making.* Routledge. 4th Edition.

- Weible, Christopher and Paul Sabatier (eds). 2018. *Theories of the Policy Process.* Westview Press. 4th Edition.

    - *Available on course reserve in the library*

- Bardach, Eugene and Eric M. Patashnik. 2016. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving.* SAGE Press. 5th Edition.

Course Requirements and Grading

Performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of 5 issues papers, 5 discussion papers, an agency paper, a presentation, a policy memo, and class participation. *Instructions for each assignment will be placed on OAKS.* Due dates are in the schedule below. Points will be distributed as follows:

Assignment	Possible Points
Issue Papers (5 at 25 points each)	125 points total
Discussion Papers (5 at 25 points each)	125 points total
Agency Paper	25 points
Presentation	75 points
Policy Memo	200 points
Attendance and Participation	50 points
Total	600 points

There are 600 possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of 600: A = 90 to 100%; B+ = 87 to 89%; B = 80 to 86%; C+ = 77 to 79%; C = 70 to 76%; F = 69% and below

Assignments

- *Issue papers*: You will be required to pick a public policy issue of interest to you and write a series of 5 short, 3 to 4 page, papers about different aspects of the issue. Specific instructions for each issue paper are posted on OAKS.

- *Discussion papers*: You will be required to do 5 short, 3 to 4 page, discussion papers about each of the policy process theories. These papers will be short literature reviews based on the assigned readings and one journal article that you find. Specific instructions for the discussion papers are posted on OAKS.

- *Agency paper*: You will be required to write a short, 3 to 4 page, agency paper that discusses a government (federal, state, or local) or non-profit agency involved in implementing some policy or policies related to your issue. Specific instructions for the agency paper are posted on OAKS.

- *Presentation*: You will be required to do a short, 5 minutes maximum, presentation on the policy issue you have been researching all semester. The presentations will be during class time on Dec 3rd and during the final exam time on Dec 10th. You will be randomly assigned a night to present.

- *Policy Memo*: You will be required to use your five issues papers as the basis for a policy memo. Specific instructions for the policy memo are posted on OAKS. **Due December 7th by 11:59pm EST**

Most assignments will be graded on a pass/fail basis. It you followed the instructions and demonstrate that you have engaged with the material, you should receive all or most of the available points. **All papers are due at class time (5:30pm EST) on the due date. All assignments must be turned in through the dropbox on OAKS. I will not accepted hard copies or emails**.

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is expected and mandatory for this course. Attendance will be taken at each session. You are allowed to miss one class without penalty. You will lose 20 points for each absence after the first.

Students are expected to participate in the course by asking questions, providing thoughtful comments, and through making contributions to the group 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.

Course Schedule

Subject To Change. All changes will be announced in class.

All readings listed below are required. Apart from the books, additional readings will also be made available on OAKS. Readings can be found under Content -> Readings.

Books

Birkland: Birkland, Thomas A. 2016. *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making.* Routledge. 4th Edition

WS: Weible, Christopher and Paul Sabatier (eds). 2018. *Theories of the Policy Process.* Westview Press. 4th Edition.

BP: Bardach, Eugene and Eric M. Patashnik. 2016. *A Pratctical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving.* SAGE Press. 5th Edition.

Blog Posts

I also provide several links to Paul **Cairney**'s excellent series of blog posts of key policy theories and concepts in 1000 words. The blog posts are required reading and should be mentioned in your discussion papers. Professor Cairney also provides podcasts on many of his blog posts, however those are not required, but certainly recommended.

Part I: Foundations

Aug 27: Introduction and Course Overview

- **Cairney**: What is Policy?
- **Cairney**: 12 Things to Know about Studying Public Policy

Sept 3:   The Policymaking Process

- *Readings*:

    - **Birkland**, Chap 1, *Introducing the Policy Process*
    - **Birkland**, Chap 2, *Elements of the Policy Making System* (pgs. 27-30)
    - **Birkland**, Chap 7, *Policies and Policy Types*
    - **Cairney**: The Policy Cycle and its Stages
    - Dye, Thomas R. 2013. *Models of Politics: Some Help in Thinking About Public Policy*

Sept 10:   Institutions

- *Readings*:

    - **Birkland** Chap 3, *The Historical and Structural Contexts of Public Policy Making.* (skim and read as needed)
    - **Birkland** Chap 4, *Official Actors and Their Roles in Public Policy*
    - **Cairney**: Institutions and New Institutionalism

- **Issue Paper 1 due**

Sept 17:   Actors and Subsystems

- *Readings*:

    - **Birkland** Chap 5, *Unofficial Actors and Their Roles in Public Policy*
    - **Cairney**: Networks, Sub-government, and Communities
    - McCool, Daniel. 1998. "The Subsystem Family of Concepts: A Critique and a Proposal." *Political Research Quarterly* 51(2): 551–70.

- **Issue Paper 2 due**

Part II: Theories of the Policy Process

Sept 24:   Agenda Setting and the Multiple Streams Approach

- *Readings*:

    - **Birkland** Chap 6, *Agenda Setting, Power, and Interest Groups*
    - **WS** Chap 1: Herweg, et al., *The Multiple Streams Framework*
    - **Cairney**: Multiple Streams Analysis
    - *Find a peer-reviewed journal article on agenda setting and/or the Mutliple Streams Approach*

- **Discussion Paper 1 due**

Oct 1: Punctuated Equilibrium

- *Readings*:

  - **WS** Chap 2: Baumgartner, Jones, and Mortensen, *Punctuated Equilibrium Theory: Explaining Stability and Change in Public Policymaking.*
  - **Cairney**: Punctuated Equilibrium Theory
  - Koski, Chris, and Samuel Workman. 2018. "Drawing Practical Lessons from Punctuated Equilibrium Theory" *Policy & Politics* 46(2): 293–308.
  - *Find a peer-reviewed journal article using punctuated equilibrium*

- **Discussion Paper 2 due**

Oct 8: Advocacy Coalition Framework

- *Readings*:

  - **WS** Chap 4: Jenkins-Smith, Nohrstedt, Weible, and Ingold, *The Advocacy Coalition Framework: An Overview of the Research Program*
  - **Cairney**: The Advocacy Coalition Framework
  - Weible, Christopher M, and Karin Ingold. 2018. "Why Advocacy Coalitions Matter and Practical Insights About Them." *Policy & Politics* 46(2): 325–43.
  - *Find a peer-reviewed journal article using the advocacy coalition framework*

- **Discussion Paper 3 due**

Oct 15: Narrative Policy Framework

- *Readings*:

  - **WS** Chap 5: Shanahan, Jones, McBeth, Radaelli, *The Narrative Policy Framework*
  - **Cairney**: Critical Policy Studies and the Narrative Policy Framework
  - Crow, Deserai, and Michael Jones. 2018. "Narratives as Tools for Influencing Policy Change." *Policy & Politics* 46(2): 217–34.
  - *Find a peer-reviewed journal article using the narrative policy framework*

- **Discussion Paper 4 due**

Oct 22:   The Institutional Analysis and Development Framework and Social-Ecological Systems

- *Readings*:

  - **WS** Chap 6: Schlager and Cox, *The IAD Framework and SES Framework: An Introduction and Assessment of the Ostrom Workshop Frameworks*
  - Anderies, John M., Macro A. Janssen, and Elinor Ostrom. 2004. "A Framework to Analyze the Robustness of Social-Ecological Systems from an Institutional Perspective." *Ecology and Society* 9(1): 18
  - Heikkila, Tanya, and Krister Andersson. 2018. "Policy Design and the Added-Value of the Institutional Analysis Development Framework." *Policy & Politics* 46(2): 309–24.
  - *Find a peer-reviewed journal article using the IAD OR the SES framework*

- **Discussion Paper 5 due**

Oct 29:   Applying the Policy Process Theories

- *Readings*:

  - Weible, Christopher M., Tanya Heikkila, Peter deLeon, and Paul A. Sabatier. 2012. "Understanding and Influencing the Policy Process." *Policy Sciences* 45(1): 1–21
  - Cairney, Paul, and Christopher M. Weible. 2017. "The New Policy Sciences: Combining the Cognitive Science of Choice, Multiple Theories of Context, and Basic and Applied Analysis." *Policy Sciences* 50(4): 619–27.

- **Issue Paper 3 due**

Nov 5:   FALL BREAK

Part III: Applied Policy Research

Nov 12:   Policy Design and Implementation

- *Readings*:

  - **Birkland** Chap 9: *Policy Design and Policy Tools*
  - **BP** Appendix B: Things Governments Do
  - **Cairney**: The Social Construction of Target Populations
  - Schneider, Ingram, and deLeon, *Democratic Policy Design: Social Construction of Target Populations*
  - **Birkland** Chap 10, *Policy Implementation, Failure, and Learning* (pgs. 331-342).

- **Agency Paper due**

Nov 19:   Policy Analysis and Evaluation

- *Readings*:

    - **Birkland** Chap 8: *Decision-Making and Policy Analysis*
    - Smith and Larimer. 2013. Chap 5, *What Should We Do? The Field of Policy Analysis*
    - Smith and Larimer. 2013. Chap 6, *What Have We Done? Impact Analysis and Program Evaluation*
    - **Cairney**: Success and Failure (Evaluation)

- **Issue Paper 4 due**

Nov 26:   Doing Policy Analysis

- *Readings*:

    - **BP**: Parts I-IV

- **Issue Paper 5 due**

Dec 3:   Presentations

Dec 10:   Presentations

Policy Memo Due December 7th by 11:59pm

Important Information

Center for Student Learning

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website or call (843) 953-5635.

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 ones 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.