PAD 617
Public Administration and the Political Process
Spring 2007

T 6:00-9:50 PM
UR 243

Assistant Professor Jessica Sowa
Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs
Cleveland State University
UR 321
Phone: (216) 875-9972
E-mail: jsowa@urban.csuohio.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00pm, Wednesday 2:00-4:00pm
and by appointment

Seminar Description

This course is designed to examine the role of public administration within the larger political process and political system. In this course, we will examine public administration and the political process through multiple lenses:

1. We will examine how policy is made in the United States and the role that public administrators play in formulating and implementing policy.
2. We will examine how decisions are made surrounding policy goals and policy implementation, focusing in particular on the role of public administrators in this decision-making.
3. We will explore how public administrators, as part of the administrative state, operate in relation to the other three branches of government at the federal level in the United States, focusing on how public administrators interact with political actors. In addition, we will explore how these political actors seek to control or harness the power of the administrative state to further policy goals.

The course will seek to develop the following understanding amongst the students:

- Understand how complicated policy making is in practice
- Understand why decision-making in government is often incremental
- Understand the power that public administrators hold in the political process, in terms of influencing policy through the legislative process and directly making policy through the rule-making process
• Understand the particular power of public administrators on the front lines of government service and how they make policy through the use of discretion
• Understand that policy-making is just the first step; implementation of that policy can mean success or failure.

Required Texts and Materials

For this course, we will be utilizing the following texts:


In addition, there will be required readings on Electronic Reserve in the Library.

Course Requirements

Students in this class will need to fulfill the following requirements:

1) Complete all the reading assignments. Come to class prepared with questions to ask of the instructor and fellow students from the reading assignments. Class sessions will not summarize the readings but rather will provide the larger context for the materials and encourage application.

2) Participate in class discussion, including case analysis and debate. This class will be operated as a seminar, so you must be prepared for each class. Participation will be graded on the quality of your contributions, not the quantity. Careful listening can also be a very important contribution. If you have trouble participating in class, please see me so that we can arrange ways for you to contribute to discussions.

3) Complete the following written assignments on time. Late work will be penalized five points per 24 hour period or fraction thereof.

• Article Presentation: On the second class, pairs of students will be assigned an article from the designated articles on the syllabus to present. The students should work together to present the article to the class, highlighting the research questions addressed in the article and the major findings. The students should also explore how the article connects to the class material for that period and consider
what lessons can be drawn from the article for public administrators. The presentation should be between 10 to 15 minutes and must include a one-page handout to be distributed to the class. An example of a handout will be distributed to the class.

• Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be a take-home exam, consisting of essay questions. More information will be provided during the semester.

• Book Review: Each student in the class must complete a three-page (single-spaced) review of the O’Leary text. This review will be due in class Week 12. More information on this review will be provided the first day of class.

• Policy Research Project: Each student in the class will complete a research project on a policy problem. Students will be required to submit a one-page proposal detailing the policy problem they plan to investigate early in the semester. A detailed description of the project requirements will be given to students the first day of class. The final project will be a 17-20 page paper, with a presentation of the report to the class. This research project will explore the following topics:
  o Problem Definition and Policy Design: How has the understanding of this policy problem developed over time? What (or who) has shaped the problem definition? What is the target population(s) of this policy and how does that impact the design of the policy?
  o Decision-Making: Explore the history of the policy problem; specifically, focus on how a policy addressing the problem made the policy agenda and how the policy was created.
  o Implementation: What implementation tools are used to address this policy problem? What are some of the possible challenges associated with these tools for addressing the problem?
  o Current State of Affairs: Address where the policy problem is today.

Grading Distribution and Criteria of Evaluation

A student’s grade will be determined according to his/her participation in class discussion (including case analysis and simulations) and performance on the mid-term exam, article presentation, book review, and policy project. The following weights will be used to determine final grades for the course:

Course Assignments:
  • Article Presentation: 10%
  • Midterm: 25%
  • Book Review: 15%
  • Policy Project: 35%
  • Participation: 15%
Participation will be assessed according to:
• Thorough preparation of case materials;
• Thoughtfulness of class contribution;
• Engagement with class simulation and case analysis.

The Article Presentation will be assessed according to:
• Clarity with which the students present the article;
• Quality of the handout;
• Engagement with class when presenting the subject material.

The Book Review will be assessed according to the following criteria:
• Thoroughness of the analysis of the book;
• Connection of the book to the larger themes highlighted in the course;
• Connection of the book to practice;
• Graduate-level writing style and mechanics (free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors, consistent citation method, etc.).

The Mid-Term Exam will be assessed according to the following criteria:
• Accuracy and competency in applying course concepts, theories, and readings;
• Integration of the material;
• Completeness and thoroughness of your responses;
• Graduate-level writing style and mechanics (free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors, consistent citation method, etc.).

Policy Project will be assessed according to the following criteria:
• Presentation to the class about the project and the experience associated with researching and understanding the policy as it moves through the policy process.
• Mastery of the substantive policy area;
• Attention to the role of public administrators in the chosen policy area;
• Clear analysis of the challenges represented in bringing a policy to fruition, from problem definition to implementation, drawing on course materials;
• Graduate-level writing style and mechanics (free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors, consistent citation method, etc.).

Late assignments will be penalized five points per 24 hour period. Absences for class should be cleared with the professor. As this class meets once a week, you are allowed one absence, excused or unexcused. After that, points may be deducted from your final grade depending on the circumstances. If you are having problems in this class and/or in life, make sure to speak with me; I can only help you if I am aware of what is happening.

The grading scale used for the assignments (and the class) is the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>86-84</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>83-80</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>76-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73-70</td>
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## Schedule of Topics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part 1: Constructing Policy: What Role for Public Administrators?</strong></td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Problem Definition and Agenda Setting</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Agenda Setting</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
<td>Project Topic Due (1 Page Proposal)</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Decision-Making</td>
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<td><strong>Part 2: Harnessing the Power of the Bureaucracy in the Political Process: Who Has Control?</strong></td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Political Control over the Bureaucracy-Congress, the President and the Judiciary</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Political Control over the Bureaucracy-Congress, the President and the Judiciary</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>When Bureaucracy Makes the Rules: Administrative Rule-Making and Regulatory Policy</td>
<td>Midterm Due</td>
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<td><strong>Part 3: Implementing Public Policy</strong></td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Implementing Policy-What is Implementation?/ Models of Implementation</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Models of Implementation/Implementation Tools</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Implementation Tools</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable: What Happens when the Bureaucracy Disagrees with Policy?</td>
<td>Book Review Due</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Implementation and the Public-Public Participation</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>The Street-Level Bureaucrat: Representing Government and Policy to the People</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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**Week 1: Introduction**


**Week 2: Problem Definition and Agenda Setting**

*Problem Definition*


*CASE: Defining the Problem in AIDS Policy Making*


*Agenda Setting*

Kingdon, Chapters 4-6

**Week 3: Agenda Setting**

*Agenda Setting and Agenda Denial*

Kingdon, Chapter 7-8


*CASE: RU 486 in the United States: Trying to Make the Agenda*


**Week 4 and 5: Decision Making**
Allison and Zelikow, Chapters 1, 3, 5


CASE: Alabama’s Confederate Flag Controversy
The Marine Resources Division and the Shrimp-Baiting Controversy
Legislative Strategy: State Government Reorganization

Presentation Articles (By Selected Students) - NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS


Week 6 and 7: Political Control over the Bureaucracy: Congress, the President, and the Judiciary


CASE: Surviving at the EPA
The Committee Chair, the Assistant Secretary, and the Bureau Chief Fraud, Waste, and Abuse at HEW

Presentation Articles (By Selected Students)- NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS


Week 8: When the Bureaucracy Makes the Rules: Administrative Rule-Making and Regulatory Policy


Assignment: Find an administrative rule or a notice of proposed rulemaking from the Federal Register and bring to class for discussion http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html.

Presentation Articles (By Selected Students)- NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS
Week 9: Implementing Policy-What is Implementation?/ Models of Implementation

What is Implementation?


Models of Implementation


*Presentation Articles (By Selected Students)- NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS*


Week 10: Models of Implementation/Implementation Tools

Models of Implementation


CASE: Integrating Housing and Social Services: Local Initiative versus Federal Mandate (A, B, &C).

Implementation Tools


Week 11: Implementation Tools: Contracting, Replicating Model Programs, and Outcome Measurement


CASE: Government/Nonprofit Contracting Exercise

Presentation Articles (By Selected Students) - NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS


Week 12: Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable: What Happens with the Bureaucracy Disagrees with Policy?

O’Leary (Total)


Presentation Articles- NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS

Week 13: Implementation and Public Participation


Presentation Articles (By Selected Students)- NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS


Week 14: The Street-Level Bureaucrat: Representing Government and Policy to the People


Presentation Articles- NOT REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS


Week 15: Presentations