PDD/UST 616/716 (Spring 2010- UR 27)
SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is structured as a seminar to identify, discuss, and analyze the processes and systems through which public policy is developed, executed, and assessed. It provides an awareness of how policy systems and processes function (in theory and in practice) as well as how they affect policy outcomes. Conversely, the consequences of policy outcomes on policy making systems and processes are considered.

The conceptual and empirical literature assigned for reading, reflection and critique is largely urban in focus. Inherent in the consideration of urban public policy is an emphasis upon the intergovernmental nature of policy formulation and administration. The scope of issues within the public domain is expansive and the interaction of the federal, state, and local governments has grown in response to this trend. The evolution and transition of interaction across governmental levels are underlying themes.

All actors in the public policy sphere operate under various constraints and are subject to certain influences. Topical substantive policies are included in the course material to explore the limitations, opportunities, and influences attendant to decision-making in different public policy arenas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To compare major conceptual models and theories for the study of public policy and what each contributes to the knowledge of public policy development.
2. To present perspectives of how the political system and governmental structures/processes affect public policy development and outcomes.
3. To distinguish policy types and typologies and their implications.
4. To consider the consequences of how public policy is developed in the United States.
5. To promote awareness of opportunities to influence public policy decision making.
6. To enhance an understanding of what factors may affect future public policy development and outcomes.
COURSE MATERIALS

The following books have been ordered for class required readings:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to complete the following assignments:

1. Read the required readings on the syllabus and participate in class discussions.

2. Prepare four short urban policy review papers based on assigned readings (to be handed out in class) that discuss themes identified in the assigned readings throughout the course. The idea is not to just summarize the readings, but instead to apply what you learn from the policy reading to a critical review of the assigned urban policy readings. The paper should be 1-2 pages in length, double-spaced.

3. Complete a take-home midterm examination due on March 10 (week 7).

4. Complete a Policy Issue Development Paper (Due at end of semester)

Each student will complete a policy development paper that makes recommendations on an issue related to urban policy that incorporates concepts derived from the reading assignments (to date) and a theoretical approach to explain policy dimensions, such as focus, purpose, participants, level of development. The issue may be of the student’s choice and approved by the instructor in advance. Each student should submit a one-page proposal describing the issue on or before the date listed in the syllabus. The proposal should briefly identify the issue(s), identify the alternatives you intend to analyze, and list the criteria you will use to evaluate these alternatives.

You are expected to utilize library research, Internet-based searches, professional associations, and expert interviews as sources of information on your selected topic. Your paper should
conform to APA style guidelines for citations and bibliography. Your paper (10-12 pages) should be your own work and should follow academic standards for quoting and referencing the work of others. The paper is due during finals week of May 10th. Your issue paper should be written in a clear, concise, jargon-free and should be organized to include the following:

- State the issue in the form of a decision-forcing question.
- Briefly explain why and to whom the issue is important.
- Identify the alternative courses of action for resolving the issue.
- How the issue reached agenda status
- Major concerns related to the issue
- Supporters and opponents of the policy or issue
- Current status of the policy or issue
- State and define the criteria used to judge the relative merits of these alternatives.
- Explain why these are the appropriate criteria.
- Evaluate each alternative in terms of each criteria. It is important in this step to make your assumptions and logic explicit.
- Recommend a course of action based upon your evaluation.

5. Each of you will be part of a group of students responsible for providing a 10-15 presentation on a proposed alternative to a particular urban policy problem. The presentation should focus on the viability of the alternative based on major issues that we will discuss in class (economic, moral/ethical, political, and others). The group should also address the current state of the policy topic, evolution of the policy, agenda attainment, implementation challenges, political debate, and relevant research. Your presentation should be from the perspective of supporting the alternative (in other words, why this is a good option). The group will hand in a 3-5 page paper on the day of your presentation summarizing your presentation. Each group will also be responsible for critiquing and raising questions of another group’s presentation. The issues and their alternatives are provided at the end of the syllabus. The group must select from one of the topic areas.

6. Complete a Final Take Home Exam
**BASIS FOR GRADING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

Presentation (Composition, clarity, grammar, syntax, spelling)
Form (structure, arrangement, format, appearance)
Content (quality of research, quantity of research, depth and scope of analysis, coverage of topic, and incorporation of course concepts)
Timeliness (less one increment per day late)

**BASIS FOR GRADING PRESENTATIONS**

Content of presentation (scope, depth)
Creativity and enthusiasm
Means of presentation (audiovisual aids, audience engagement)

**GRADES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Policy Papers (4 each)</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Issue Paper</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Paper/Presentation</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take home final</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<td>Possible total</td>
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**GRADING SCALE** (Grades on late assignments are lowered one increment per day beyond the due date.)

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<thead>
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PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism will result in a failed grade on an assignment or for the course. The CSU Code of Student Conduct defines plagiarism as stealing and/or using the ideas or writings of another in a paper or report and claiming them as your own. This includes but is not limited to the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.

The CSU Writing Center website has helpful writing tips for graduate students including the topic of plagiarism: http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/writingcenter/writinghelpforGrads.html/

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216) 687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.

LAST DAY TO DROP LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

January 29, 2009 (at 8:00 pm) April 2, 2009 (at 8:00 p.m.)
COURSE CONTENT AND ASSIGNMENTS

Part I: The Study of Public Policy

Jan. 20 (1) Course Introduction
Context and Contemporary Issues in Urban Policy
Introduction to the study of urban public policy
What systems and what processes?

Jan. 27 (2) What is public policy and why study it?
Required reading
Kraft & Furlong Chapter 1 and Theodoulou & Cahn Chapters 1-5:

Feb. 3 (3) The urban environment and urban public policy
Required reading
Pelissero, Part I 1-5 –
Presentation on history of housing and community development policy in America
1st Urban Policy Paper Due: Five Downtown Strategies: Policy Discourse & Downtown Planning Since 1945

Feb. 10 (4) Making Public Policy
Required reading
Theodoulou & Cahn Chapters Part II 11-21
Kraft & Furlong Chapter #3

Feb. 17 (5) Government Institutions and Policy Capacity
Required reading
Kraft & Furlong Chapter 2, 4, 5 &13
Policy Paper Proposals Due

Feb. 24 (6) Policy Decision Making Institutions: Cities, Public Policy, the Federal Government and the Bureaucracy
Required reading
Pelissero, Part II Chapters 6-8 & Part III Chapters 9-13
Theodoulou & Cahn Chapters Part III 22-36
Kraft & Furlong Chapter #6
Mar. 3 (7) The Policy Game: Rules, Strategies, Culture, and Resources

**Required Readings**
Theodoulou & Cahn Part IV 37-46

**TAKE HOME MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS HANDED OUT**

Mar. 10 (8) No Class Instructor at the Urban Affairs Association Conference

**MIDTERM EXAMINATIONS DUE IN TO INSTRUCTOR**

*Use time for group meeting to discuss and review upcoming group presentations*

Mar. 17 (9) **SPRING BREAK WEEK**

**PART II Public Policy Theory, Frameworks and Issues in Public Policy**

Mar. 24 (10) Theory as the foundation of public policy

**Required reading**
Sabatier Part I & II

*3rd Urban Policy Paper Due: The Evolution of Federal Transit Policy*

Mar. 31 (11) Policy Networks and Subsystems

**Required reading**
Sabatier, Part III


**Required Readings**
Sabatier Part IV Chapter 8 and Part V Chapters 10-11

*4th Urban Policy Paper Due: World War I and the Birth of American Regionalism*


**Required readings**
Kraft & Furlong, Chapters 7, 8 & 9

*Group Presentations*


**Required Readings**
Kraft & Furlong, Chapters 11 & 12

*Group Presentations*
Apr. 28 (15)  The future of public policy development and class re-cap
  Group Presentations
  Policy Papers Due

May. 5 (16)  FINAL EXAMINATION OVERVIEW AND TAKE HOME EXAM ISSUED

May. 12 (17) Take home final exams due week of 10-12 (The sooner the better)
**Affordable Housing Policy** – What should we do about affordable housing in America?

Alternative #1 - Provide guaranteed affordable housing in every urban housing development using government funds

Alternative #2 - Let the market dictate when and where affordable housing will be built

**Regionalism and Metropolitan Governance Policy** – What should we do about fragmented governments across America’s metropolitan areas in a time of limited resources and the desire of citizens to not see tax increases?

Alternative #1 - Create a consolidated government and regional revenue sharing as a way to enhance and promote governmental efficiencies

Alternative #2 - Allow local democracy to dictate the direction of city and regional relationships

**Education Policy** – How do we improve our schools?

Alternative #1 – Implement national standards for student promotion and graduation

Alternative #2 – Redirect state spending for public schools to the poorest communities and schools

**Environmental Policy** – What direction now for the environment?

Alternative #1 – Government is too invasive; need to promote wise use of policies and trust the general public and private business to do the right thing

Alternative #2 - Need to change our philosophies and promote sustainable development/community type programs

**Economic Development Policy** – How do we improve the quality of jobs in the region and make the community more competitive?

Alternative #1 – Expand the use of tax incentives to attract private investment to create jobs

Alternative #2 – Implement a human capital development program to increase educational attainment and skill set needed to attract business and industry