

PUBLIC POLICY PROCESSES

Department of Government
University of Texas
Spring 2011

Government 384M

Batts 1.104

Tue 3:30-6:30

Office hours: T 1:30-3:30; W 2-3

Instructor: Bryan Jones
Office: Batts 3.154; Tel: 4719973
Email: bdjones@u.austin.utexas.edu

This course is broadly concerned with political science research about policy processes. It will involve an exploration of the major theories of policy change, and will examine important empirical contributions to the field. The course will examine the micro-foundations of policy dynamics (models of decision-making), and explore policy agendas, the formation of public policies, and factors influencing agenda and policy change over time. It will emphasize process approaches of policy change rather than substantive issues (although we will find it impossible to study processes in a substantive vacuum).

While the course will focus primarily on the American politics literature, we will also examine policy processes in comparative perspective. The course will include working with the Policy Agendas datasets, now located at the University of Texas (policyagendas.org), and an introduction to the comparative policy agendas projects, now underway in nine European countries.

Requirements

Research Paper. Each student will develop a research paper that is related to one or more of the theoretical perspectives on policy processes discussed in the course. I am flexible about what you address, but it is necessary to get prior approval from me for whatever you decide to study. A proposal for the paper topic is due the 6th week of the semester. Each student will make a brief formal presentation to the class on his or her research project.

Class organizer. Each student will serve as a class organizer at least once during the term, with responsibility to provide the class an overview of issues and a discussion framework. Class organizers will make available to the class a short paper summarizing the up-coming discussion.

Take-home examination. A take-home exam will be distributed on March 22nd, and will be due back to the instructor on April 5th. It will approximate the policy process comprehensive exam in structure. The examination will cover material we have discussed up through March 22nd.

Grades will be allocated on the following activities:

- (1) the proposal for a paper topic (10%);
- (2) the take-home examination (30%)
- (3) the independent research paper due and presentation (40%)
- (4) class organization and class participation (20%).

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Statement regarding academic dishonesty: A statement regarding UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) and an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism (Link to University Honor Code: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/qi09-10/ch01/index.html>)

Course Materials

Available at the Co-Op:

Andrea Campbell, *How Policies Make Citizens*. Princeton.

Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. 2009. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*, 2nd Ed. University of Chicago Press..

Bryan Jones and Frank Baumgartner, 2005. *The Politics of Attention*.

Paul Sabatier, ed. 2007. *Theories of the Policy Process*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, Second Edition.

Kevin Smith and Christopher Larimer. 2009 *The Public Policy Theory Primer*. Westview Press.

Graeme Boushey, 2010. *Diffusion Dynamics*. Cambridge.

Eric Patashnik. *Reforms at Risk*. Princeton.

Schedule of Sessions

January 18th: Policy Studies as a Field of Inquiry

Smith and Larimer, Chapters 1 and 2.

Paul Sabatier, The Need for Better Theories, Chapter 1 in Sabatier, *Theories of the Policy Process*.

Edella Schlager, "A Comparison of Frameworks, Theories, and Models of Policy Processes," Chapter 10 in Sabatier *Theories of the Policy Process*.

Paul Sabatier, "Fostering the Development of Policy Theory," Chapter 11 in Sabatier *Theories of the Policy Process*.

January 25th: The Microfoundations of Policy Process Theories

Smith and Larimer, Chapter 3

Jones, Bryan. 2003. Bounded Rationality and Political Science. *Journal of Public Administration Theory* 13: 295-412.

Elinor Ostrom. 1998. "A Behavioral Approach to the Rational Choice Theory of Collective Action". *American Political Science Review* 92: 1-22.

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

Etzioni, Amitai. 1967. "Mixed Scanning: A Third Approach to Decision Making." *Public Administration Review*. 27: 385-392.

William D. Leach and Paul A. Sabatier. 2005. To Trust an Adversary: Integrating Rational and Psychological Models of Collaborative Policymaking. *American Political Science Review* 99: 491-503.

February 1st: Interest Groups, Policy Subsystems and Advocacy Coalitions

Smith and Larimer, Chapter 4.

Charles O. Jones and Randall Strahan. 1985. The Effect of Energy Politics on Congressional and Executive Organization in the 1970s. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 10: 151-79.

McCool, Daniel. 1998. The Subsystem Family of Concepts. *Political Research Quarterly* 51: 551-570.

Paul Sabatier and Hank Jenkins-Smith, "The Advocacy Coalition Framework: An Assessment," Chapter 7 in Sabatier *Theories of the Policy Process*

Thomas Gais, Mark Peterson, and Jack Walker. 1884. Interest Groups, Iron Triangles, and Representative Institutions in American National Government. *British Journal of Political Science* 14: 161-85.

Worsham, Jeffrey. 2006. Up In Smoke: Mapping Subsystem Dynamics in Tobacco Policy. *Policy Studies Journal* 34: 437-52.

February 8th: Issue Definition and Social Construction

Daniel Carpenter and Gisela Sin. 2007. Policy Tragedy and the Emergence of Regulation: The Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938. *Studies in American Political Development* 21 (Fall): 149-180.

Helen Ingram, Anne Schneider, and Peter de Leon, "Social Construction and Policy Design", Chapter 4 in Sabatier.

Deborah A. Stone, "Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas," *Political Science Quarterly* 104 (Summer 1989): 281-300.

February 15th: Agenda Setting and the Expansion of Political Conflict

Peruse the Policy Agendas website (<http://www.policyagendas.org/>)

Nikolaos Zahariadis, "Ambiguity, Time, and Multiple Streams," Chapter 4 in Sabatier *Theories of the Policy Process*.

E.E. Schattschneider. 1957. Intensity, Visibility, Direction, and Scope. *American Political Science Review* 51: 933-42.

Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. 2009. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics, Second Edition*.

February 22nd: Punctuated Equilibrium, Budgeting, and the Processing of Information

James True, Bryan Jones, and Frank Baumgartner, "Punctuated-Equilibrium Theory: Explaining Stability and Change in American Policymaking," Chapter 6 in Sabatier *Theories of the Policy Process*.

Davis, Otto A., M.A.H. Dempster, and Aaron Wildavsky. 1966. A Theory of the Budgetary Process. *American Political Science Review* 60: 529-47.

Bryan D. Jones and Frank R. Baumgartner. 2005. *The Politics of Attention*. Chapters 1-4.

Jones, Bryan, Tracy Sulkin, and Heather Larsen-Price. 2003. Policy Punctuations in American Political Institutions. *American Political Science Review* 97: 151-70.

Sam Workman, Bryan Jones, and Ashley Jochim. 2009. Information Processing and Policy Dynamics. *Policy Studies Journal* 37: 75-92.

March 1st: Policy Diffusion

****Paper proposal due**

Frances Stokes Berry and William D. Berry, "Innovation and Diffusion Models in Policy Research," Chapter 8 in Sabatier, *Theories of the Policy Process*.

Boushey, Graeme. 2008. *Diffusion Dynamics*.

Karch, Andrew. 2006. National Intervention and the Diffusion of Policy Innovations. *American Politics Research* 34: 403-426.

Kurt Weyland, "Theories of Policy Diffusion," *World Politics* 57 (January 2005): 262-95.

March 8th: Causation and Measurement

Campbell, Andrea. 2003. *How Policies Make Citizens*.

Frank Baumgartner, Bryan Jones and John Wilkerson. 2002. Chapter 2 of Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones, Eds., *Policy Dynamics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Stuart Soroka, Christopher Wlezien, and Iain McLean. 2005. How Measures Matter. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society A* 169 Part 2: 255-71.

March 15th: No CLASS; Spring Break

March 22nd: Institutional and Policy Design

Smith and Larimer, Chapters 3 and 8

March, James and Johan Olsen. 1983. Organizing Political Life. *American Political Science Review* 77: 281-96.

Elinor Ostrom, "Institutional Rational Choice: An Assessment of the Institutional Analysis and Development Framework," Chapter 2 in Sabatier *Theories of the Policy Process*.

Elinor Ostrom. 1999. "Coping with Tragedies of the Commons". In Nelson Polsby, ed., *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 493-535.

May, Peter J. Reconsidering Policy Design: Policies and Publics. *Journal of Public Policy* 11 (Part 2): 187-206.

March 29th: NO CLASS; Midwest Political Science Association Meetings

April 5th: Comparative Political Analysis

****Take-home exam due.**

Peruse the Comparative Agendas Project website:

(<http://www.comparativeagendas.org/>)

William Bloomquist, The Policy Process and Large-N Comparative Studies. Chapter 9 in Sabatier.

Baumgartner, Frank, Bryan Jones, and John Wilkerson. In Press. The Comparative Study of Policy Agendas. *Comparative Political Studies*.

Baumgartner, Frank, Christoffer Green-Pedersen, and Bryan Jones. 2006. The Comparative Study of Policy Agendas. *Journal of European Public Policy* 13 (7): 959-74.

Green-Pedersen, Christoffer and Michelle Wolfe. 2009. The Institutionalization of Environmental Attention in Denmark and the United States. *Governance* 22: 625-46.

Albek, Erik, Christoffer Green-Pedersen and Lars Beer Nelson. 2007. Making Tobacco Consumption a Political Issue in the United States and Denmark. *Journal of Comparative Political Analysis* 9: 1-20.

Green-Pedersen, Christoffer, and Jesper Krogstrup. 2008. Immigration as a Political Issue in Denmark and Sweden. *European Journal of Political Research* 47:610-634.

April 12th: Policy Design and Implementation

Smith and Larimer, Chapters 5, 6 and 7.

Dan Wood and Richard Waterman. 1993. "The Dynamics of Political Control of the Bureaucracy". *American Political Science Review* 85: 801-28.

Sabatier, Paul. 1986. Top-Down and Bottom-up Approaches to Implementation Theory. *Journal of Public Policy* 6: 21-48.

Simon, Herbert. 1947. The Proverbs of Administration. *Public Administration Review* 6: 53-67.

Hammond, Thomas. 1990. In Defense of Luther Gulick's 'Notes on a Theory of Organization'. *Public Administration Review* 68: 143-73.

Peter May, Josh Sapotichne, and Sam Workman. 2006. Policy Coherence and Policy Domains. *Policy Studies Journal* 34: 381-404.

Peter May, Sam Workman, and Bryan Jones. 2008. Organizing Attention: Responses of the Bureaucracy to Agenda Disruption. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (JPART)* 18: 517-541.

April 19th: Public Opinion, Institutions, Political Parties, and Public Policy

Jones, Bryan, Heather Larsen-Price, and John Wilkerson. 2009. Representation and American Governing Institutions. *Journal of Politics* 71: 277-90.

Mortensen, Peter. 2009. Political Attention and Public Spending in the US. *Policy Studies Journal*

Stuart Soroka and Christopher Wlezien. 2005. "Opinion-Policy Dynamics". *British Journal of Political Science*. 35: 665-689.

April 26th: Policy Ideas and Policy Results

May, Peter. 1993. Policy Learning and Failure. *Journal of Public Policy* 12: 331-354.

Eric M. Patashnik. 2008. *Reforms at Risk*.

Berry, C., B. Burden, and W. Howell. 2010. After Enactment: The Lives and Deaths of Discretionary Programs. *American Journal of Political Science*. 54: 1-17.

May 3rd **Paper presentations

May 9th **(Monday): Paper due