

PUBLIC POLICY PROCESSES

Department of Government
University of Texas
Spring 2013

Government 384M

Batts 1.104

Thur 9:30-12:30

Office hours: T

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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 April 11th, and will be due back to the instructor on April 18th. It will approximate the policy process comprehensive exam in structure.

Grades will be allocated on the following activities:

- (1) proposal for a paper topic (10%);

- (2) take-home examination (30%)
- (3) 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/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>)

Course Materials

Available at the Co-Op:

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

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.

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

Suzanne Mettler. 2011. *The Submerged Welfare State*.

Alan Jacobs, 2011. *Governing for the Long Term*.

Schedule of Sessions

January 17th: 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 24th: 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.

Jones, Bryan, and Herschel F. Thomas. 2013. Bounded Rationality and Public Policy Decision-Making. In *The Routledge Handbook of Public Policy*

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.

January 31st: 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 7th: 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.

Max Rose and Frank Baumgartner. 2012. Framing the Poor.

February 14th: 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 21st: Punctuated Equilibrium, Budgeting, and the Processing of Information

True, James, 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.

Jones, Bryan D. and Frank R. Baumgartner. 2012. From There to Here. *Policy Studies Journal* 40: 1-19.

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

Prindle, David. 2012. Importing Concepts from Biology into Political Science: The Case of Punctuated Equilibrium. *Policy Studies Journal* 40: 21-41.

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

February 28th: 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*.

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.

Boushey, Graeme. 2012. Punctuated Equilibrium Theory and the Diffusion of Innovations. *Policy Studies Journal* 40: 127- 146.

March 7th: Causation and Measurement

Campbell, Andrea. 2012. Policy Makes Mass Politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*

Pierson, Paul. 1993. When Effect Becomes Cause. *World Politics* 45: 495-628.

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

March 14th: No CLASS; Spring Break

March 21nd: 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.

Jacobs, Alan. 2011. *Governing for the Long Term*.

March 28th: 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 4th: Comparative Political Analysis

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. 2011. 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 11th and April 18th: Public Opinion, Institutions, Political Parties, and Public Policy

Suzanne Mettler, 2011. *The Submerged Welfare State*.

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 25th: Policy Termination and Modification

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 2nd **Paper presentations

May 6th **(Monday): Paper due