

POLS 500
University of Illinois at Chicago
INTRODUCTION TO POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
Fall 2014, Wednesday, 6:30-9:00 PM, BSB 1171
Alba Alexander

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This course explores the dynamic processes that drive policy-making in the United States and generate decisions, “nondecisions” or, for that matter, indecision. We develop a critical understanding of what the terms “political” and “public policy” mean. The course considers key theories and concepts such as agenda setting, policy paradigms, feedback, drift, and backlash. The readings provide students with analytical frameworks to explore why some problems reach the public agenda, why some solutions are adopted and others rejected, and why some enacted policies succeed or fail. We examine public policy primarily at the national level.

Availability of Readings

At the UIC Bookstore you can purchase:

•Kingdon,J. (2011). *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, 2nd ed. New York, NY: Pearson. ISBN-13:978-02005000869

Course Reserves. The Kingdon book along with many recommended readings are on reserve at the Daley Library.

Blackboard. The required readings are available as pdf files. You will find readings—and other relevant materials, including the syllabus, by clicking on the **Content** heading in the menu on the course home page. In addition, announcements and answers to students’ questions will be posted on the home page. Students should regularly check the site (at least twice each week) for new material and announcements.

Assignments and Grading

The course is designed as a seminar. Active and informed student involvement is essential. Attendance at every session is expected. Assignments should be submitted on the due dates. Major assignments will include writing a policy advocacy paper, leading class discussion, conducting peer-review, presenting final paper findings, and completing a final research paper. Class participation, attendance, punctuality and the extent and quality of your contributions to the class discussions will count toward your participation grade. Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

Participation and Preparation.....	15%
Policy Advocacy Paper.....	20%
Oral Presentations.....	30%
Final Paper.....	35%

Date

Course Outline and Reading

Aug. 27
Required
Reading:

Week 1. Approaches and Typologies

- (Please complete this required reading prior to arriving in class on the 27th.)
- Smith, K.B., & Larrimer, C.W. (2013). *The public policy theory primer*. New York, NY: Westview Press, chaps. 1, 2.
 - Lowi, T. J. (1964). American business, public policy, case studies and political theory. *World Politics*.
 - Offe, C. (2009). Governance: An “empty signifier”? *Constellations*, 16, 4.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Lasswell, H.D. (1971). *A pre-view of policy sciences*. American Elsevier Publishing.
- Wilson, J.Q. (1973). *Political organizations*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Rhodes, R.A.W. (2007). Understanding governance: ten years on. *Organization Studies*, 28, 8.
- Dahl, R. A. (1961). *Who governs?: Democracy and power in an American city*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Gilens, M., & Page, B.I. (2014). Testing theories of American politics: Elites, interest groups, and average citizens. *Perspectives on Politics*, 12, 3.

Sept. 3
Required
Reading:

Week 2. Limits of Rationalism

- Simon, H. (2000). Bounded rationality in social science. *Mind and Society*, 1, 1.
 - Lindblom, C.E. (1959). The science of “muddling though.” *Public Administrative Review*, 19, 2.
- Lieberman, A. (Producer, Director) *Dangerous Prescription* (2003). Frontline, PBS.

Due:

→ Policy Advocacy Paper Topic (TBD in class)

Post to BB Tuesday, Sept. 2 by 10:00 pm.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Green, D., & Shapiro, I. (1994). *Pathologies of rational choice theory: A critique of applications in political science*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Lindblom, C.C. (1979). Still muddling, not yet through. *Public Administration Review*, 39, 6
- Forester, J. (1984). Bounded rationality and the politics of muddling through. *Public Administration Review* 44.
- Smith, G.D., & May, D. (1980). The artificial debate between rationalism and incrementalist models of decision-making. *Policy and Politics*, 8, 2.
- Jones, B.D. (1999). Bounded rationality. *Annual Review of Political Science*.
- Carpenter, D. (2013). Corrosive capture? The dueling forces of autonomy and industry influence in FDA pharmaceutical regulation. *In Preventing regulatory capture: Special interest influence and how to limit it*. Cambridge, MA:

Harvard University Press.

Angell, M. (2010). FDA: This agency can be dangerous. *New York Review of Books*, September.

**Sept. 10
Required
Reading:**

Week 3. Getting On (and Off) the Agenda: Pluralism and Its Critics

- McFarland, A. (2007). Neopluralism. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 10,1.
- Bachrach, P. & Baratz, M. (1962). The two faces of power. *American Political Science Review* 56.
- Kingdon, J. W. (2011). *Agendas, alternatives and public policies*, 2nd ed. New York, NY: Pearson.

**Supplementary
Readings:**

Alford, R.R. (1975). Paradigms of relations between state and society. In L.N. Lindberg, R. Alford, C. Crouch, & C. Offe (Eds.). *Stress and contradiction in modern capitalism*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books .

Lukes, S. (1974). *Power: A radical view*. London, England; New York, NY: Macmillan.

Schattschneider, E.E. (1960). *The semi-sovereign people:A realist's view of democracy in America*. Chicago, IL: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Cohen, M. D., March, J.G. & Oslen,J. P. (1972). A garbage can model of organizational choice. *Administrative Science Quarterly*. 17.

Vogel, D. (1987). Political science and the study of corporate power: A dissent from the new conventional wisdom. *British Journal of Political Science*, 17, 4.

Miliband, R. (1969). *The state in capitalist society*, New York, NY:Basic Books.

Gaventa, J. (1982). *Power and powerlessness: Quiescence and rebellion in an Appalachian valley*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press.

Domhoff, G.W (1976). *Who rules America?* Englewood Cliffs,,NJ: Prentiss-Hall.

Dahl, R. (1957). The concept of power. *Behavioral Science* 2,3.

**Sept. 17
Required
Reading:**

Week 4. Ideas and Power

- Hall, P.A. (1993). Policy Paradigms, Social Learning and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in Britain. *Comparative Politics*, 25, 3.
- Campbell, J.L. & Pedersen, O.K. (2014). *The national origins of policy ideas*. Princeton, NJ:Princeton University Press.

Due:

→ **Policy Advocacy Paper** (TBD in class)
Post to BB by 5:30 pm. Bring hard copy to class.

**Supplementary
Reading:**

Beland, D. (2009).Ideas, institutions and policy change. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 16,5.

- Blyth, N.M. (1997). Any more bright ideas? The ideational turn of comparative political economy. *Comparative Politics*, 29,2,229-249.
- Alexander, A., & Jacobsen, K. (2008). Counter-reform in the American welfare state: Ideas, institutions and progressive taxation. *New Political Science*, 30,3.
- Rich, A. (2011). Ideas, expertise and think tanks. In D. Beland, & R. H. Cox (Eds.). *Ideas and politics in social science research*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press
- Benford, R.D. & Snow, D.A. (2000). Framing processes and social movements: An overview and assessment. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26.
- Maher, T.M. (2001). Framing: An emerging paradigm or phase of agenda setting. In S.D. Reese, O.H. Gandy, & A.E. Grant (Eds.). *Framing public life: Perspectives on media and our understanding of the social world*.
- Schmidt, V. A. (2008). Discursive institutionalism: The explanatory power of ideas and discourse. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11.
- Stone, D. A. (1989). Causal stories and the formation of policy agendas. *Political Science Quarterly*, 104.

**Sept. 24
Required
Reading:**

Week 5. How Do Things Change?

- Baumgartner, F. R. & Jones, B.D. (2009). *Agendas and instability in American politics*. 2nd ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Eldredge, N., & Gould, S.J. (1972). Punctuated equilibria: An alternative to phyletic gradualism. In T.J.M. Schopf (Ed.), *Models in paleobiology*. San Francisco, CA: Freeman, Cooper.
- McDonough, T., Reich, M., & Kotz, D. (Eds.) (2010). *Contemporary capitalism and its crises: Social structure of accumulation theory for the 21st century*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Supplementary
Reading:**

- Kuhn, T. S. (2012). *The structure of scientific revolutions* (4th ed.). Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.
- Moore, B. (1966). *Social origins of dictatorship and democracy*. Boston, MA: Beacon.
- Bell, D. (1976). *The cultural contradictions of capitalism*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Jones, B., Sulkin, T. & Larsen, H. (2003). Policy punctuations in American political institutions. *American Political Science Review*.
- Marx, K. (1907). *The eighteenth brumaire of Louis Napoleon*. Chicago, IL: Charles Kerr.
- Smith, M.R. & Marx, L. (Eds.) (1994). *Does technology drive history?: The dilemma of technological determinism*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Birkland, T.A. (1997). *After disaster: Agenda setting, public policy and focusing events*. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press
- True, J.L., Jones, B.D., & Baumgartner, F.R. (2007). Punctuated-equilibrium theory: Explaining stability and change in public policymaking. In P.A.

Sabatier (Ed.), *Theories of the policy process* (4th ed.). Boulder, CO. Westview Press.

Pralle, S.B. (2003). Venue shopping, political strategy, and policy change: The internationalization of Canadian forest advocacy. *Journal of Public Policy*, 23,3.

Capano, G. (2009). Understanding policy change as an epistemological and theoretical problem. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, 11,1.

**Oct. 1
Required
Reading:**

Week 6. The Rise of Historical Institutionalism

- Pierson, P. (2000). Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics. *American Political Science Review*. 94, 2.
- Mahoney, J., & Thelen, K. (2010). A gradual theory of institutional change. In idem. *Explaining institutional change: ambiguity, agency, and power*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Pierson, P. (1993). When effect becomes cause: Policy feedback and political change. *World Politics*, 45, 4.

**Supplementary
Reading:**

- Skocpol, T. (1995). Why I am an historical institutionalist. *Polity*, 28, 1.
- Patashnik, E. M. & Zelizer, J.E. (2010). When policy does not remake politics: The limits of policy feedback. New Haven, CT: Yale Law Conference.
- Mettler, S. & Soss, J. (2000). The consequences of public policy for democratic citizenship: Bridging policy studies and mass politics. *Perspectives on Politics*, 2.
- Clemens, E, & Cook, J. (1999). Politics and institutionalism: Explaining durability and change. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 25.
- Thelen, K. 1999. Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2.
- Steinmo, S. (2008). What is historical institutionalism? In D. Della Porta, & M. Keating (Eds.), *Approaches in the social sciences*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.
- Hacker, J. S. (2004). Privatizing risk without privatizing the welfare state: The hidden politics of social policy retrenchment in the United States. *The American Political Science Review*, 98, 2.
- Capoccia, G., & Kelemen, R.D. (2007). The study of critical junctures: Theory, narrative, and counterfactuals in historical institutionalism. *World Politics*, 59.
- Pierson, P. (2000). Not just what, but when: Timing and sequence in political processes. *Studies in American Political Development*, 14, 1.
- Hall, P. A., & Taylor, C.R. (1996). Political science and the three new institutionalisms. *Political Studies*, 44.
- March, J.G. (1984). The new institutionalism: Organizational factors in political life. *American Political Science Review*, 78,3.

Due: ➔ **Final Paper Topic Proposal** (TBD in class)

Post to BB by 5:30 pm Oct. 4th. Bring hard copy to class.

**Oct. 8
Required
Reading:**

Week 7. The State

- Nettl, J.P. (1968). The state as a conceptual variable. *World Politics*, 20,4.
- Skocpol, T. (1985). Bringing the state back in: Strategies of analysis in current research. In P.B. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer, & T. Skocpol (Eds.). *Bringing the state back in*. Cambridge, U.K. Cambridge University Press.
- King, D., & Lieberman, R.C. (2008). Finding the American state: Transcending “statelessness.” *Polity*, 40, 3.
- Evans, P. (1997). The eclipse of the state? Reflections on stateness in an era of globalization. *World Politics*, 50.

**Supplementary
Reading:**

- Cammack, P. (1989). Bringing the state back in? *British Journal of Political Science*, 19,2.
- Mitchell, T. (1991). The limits of the state: Beyond statist approaches and their critics. *American Political Science Review*, 85,1.
- Almond, G. A. (1988). The return of the state. *American Political Science Review*, 82,3.
- McConnell, S. (2008). The old institutionalism and the new. *Polity*, 40,3.
- Baldwin, P. (2005). Beyond weak and strong: Rethinking the state in comparative policy history. *Journal of Policy History*, 17,1.
- Sparrow, B. (2008). American political development, state-building, and the “security state”: Reviving a research agenda. *Polity*, 40,3.
- Novak, W.J. (2008). The myth of the “weak” American state. *American Historical Review*, 113,3.
- Abrams, P. (1988). Notes on the difficulty of studying the state. *Journal of Historical Sociology*, 1.
- Skowronek, S. (1982). *Building a new American state*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Huntington, S. P. (1968). *Political order in changing societies*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Scott, J.C. (1998). *Seeing like a state: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Hooghe, L., & Marks, G. (2003). Unraveling the central state, but how? Types of multi-level governance. *American Political Science Review*, 97,2.

**Oct. 15
Required
Reading:**

Week 8. The Uses of Network Analysis

- Hecl, H. (1978). Issue networks and the executive establishment. In A. King, (Ed), *The New American Political System*. Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute.
- Grossman, M. (2014). *Artists of the possible: Governing networks and American policy change since 1945*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Sabatier, P.A. (1988). An advocacy coalition framework of policy change and the role of policy-oriented learning therein. *Policy Sciences*, 21.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Heaney, M.T., & McClurg, S.D. (2009). Social networks and American politics. *American Politics Research*, 37, 5.
- Jochim, A.E. & May, P.J. (2010). Beyond subsystems: Policy regimes and governance *Policy Studies Journal*, 38,2.
- Borzel, T. A. (1998). Organizing Babylon—on the different conceptions of policy networks. *Public Administration*, 76, 2.
- Fowler, J.H., Heaney, M.T., Nikerson, D.W., Padgett, J.F., & Sinclair, B. (2011). Causality in political networks. *American Politics Research*, 39, 2.
- Emirbayer, M., & Goodwin, J. (1994). Network analysis, culture, and the problem of agency. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 99.6.
- Atkinson, M.A. & Coleman, W.D. (1989). Strong states and weak states: Sectoral policy networks in advanced capitalist economies. *British Journal of Political Science*.
- Weible, C.M., Sabatier, P.A. & McQueen, K. (2009). Themes and variations: Taking stock of the advocacy coalition framework. *Policy Studies Journal*, 37.
- Hafner-Burton, E.M., Kahler, M., & Montgomery, A.H. (2009). Network analysis for international relations. *International Organization*, 63, 3.

Oct. 22

Required

Reading:

Week 9. The Imperative of Coalitions

- Brady, D.W. (2010). Party coalitions in the U.S. Congress: Intra-v. interparty. In L.S. Maisel, & J.M. Berry (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of American political parties and interest groups*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Ferguson, T. (1984). Normalcy to New Deal: industrial structure, party competition and American public policy in the Great Depression. *International Organization*, 38,1.
- Rochon, T. R., & Meyer, D.S. (Eds.). (1997). *Coalitions and political movements*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Mayhew, D.R. (2002). *Electoral realignments: A critique of an American genre*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- Mahoney, C. (2007). Networking vs. allying: the decision of interest groups to join coalitions in the US and the EU. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 14, 3.
- Wilson, W.J. (1999) *The bridge over the racial divide: Rising inequality and coalition politics*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.
- Cook, D., & Polsky, A. J. (2005). Political time reconsidered: Unbuilding and rebuilding the state under the Reagan administration. *American Politics Research*, 33.
- Sundquist, J. L. (1988-1989). Needed: A political theory for the new era of coalition government in the United States. *Political Science Quarterly*, 103,4
- Heaney, M.T. (2006). Brokering health policy: Coalitions, parties, and interest group influence. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 31, 5.

Oct. 29
Required
Reading:

Week 10. Does Public Opinion Matter?

- Bartels, L.M. (2005). Homer gets a tax cut: Inequality and public policy in the public mind. *Perspectives on Politics*, 3, 1.
- Page, B.I., & Shapiro, R. Y. (1992). *The rational public: Fifty years of trends in Americans' policy preferences*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Campbell, A. (2012). Public opinion and public policy. In A. J. Berinsky (Ed.), *New directions in public opinion*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Jacobs, L., & Shapiro, R. (2000). *Politicians don't pander: Political manipulation and the loss of democratic responsiveness*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Gilens, M. (1999). *Why Americas hate welfare: Race, media, and the politics of antipoverty policy*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Himmelfarb, R. (1995). *Catastrophic politics: The rise and fall of the Medicare catastrophic coverage act of 1988*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University.
- Zaller, J. (1992). *The nature and origins of mass opinion*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Burstein, P. (2003). The impact of public opinion on public policy: A review and an agenda. *Political Research Quarterly*, 56, 1.

Nov. 5
Required
Reading:

Week 11. Making It Happen

- Pressman, J. L. & Wildavsky, A. (1984). *Implementation-how great expectations in Washington are dashed in Oakland*. 3rd ed. Berkeley: The University of California Press.
- Schneider, A. & Ingram, H. (1993). Social construction of target populations: Implications for politics and policy. *American Political Science Review*, 87.
- Carpenter, D. (2010). Institutional Strangulation: Bureaucratic Politics and Financial Reform in the Obama Administration. *Perspectives on Politics*, 3.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Robichau, R.W., & Lynn, L.E., Jr. (2009). The implementation of public policy: Still the missing link. *Policy Studies Journal*, 37, 1.
- Lipsky, M. (1980). *Street-Level Bureaucracy*. New York, NY: Russell Sage.
- Lin, A.C. (2002). *Reform in the making: The implementation of social policy in prison*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- deLeon, P., & deLeon, L. (2002). What ever happened to policy implementation? An alternative approach. *Journal of Public administration Research and Theory*, 4.
- Milward, H.B., & Provan, K.G. (2000). Governing the hollow state. *Journal of Policy Administration Research and Theory*, 10, 2.

Nov. 12

Week 12. Analyzing Policy Success/Failure

Required Reading:

- Baldwin, D. A. (2000). Success and failure in foreign policy. *Annual Review of Political Science*,3,1, 167.
 - Marsh,D., & McConnell, A. (2010). Towards a framework for establishing policy success. *Public Adminisitration*, 88, 2.
 - Minstrom, M. & Norman P. (2009). Policy entrepreneurship and policy change. *Policy Studies Journal*, 37, 4.
- Kirk, M. (Producer/Director). (2008). *Bush's War* (Video). U.S. PBS, Frontline.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Bovens, M., t'Hart,P., & Peters, B.G. (Eds.) (2001). *Success and failure in public governance: A comparative analysis*. Northampton,MA:Edward Elgar.
- Nachmias, D. (1980). The role of evaluation in public policy. *The Policy Studies Journal*, 8, 7.
- Sheingate, A. (2003). Political entrepreneurship, institutional change, and American political development. *Studies in American Political Development*, 17, 2.
- Miroff, B. (2003). Entrepreneurship and leadership. *Studies in American Political Development*, 17, 2.
- Hemerijck, A. & Schludi, M. (2000). Sequences of policy failures and effective policy responses. In F.W. Scharpf, & V.A. Schmidt (Eds.), *Welfare and work in the open economy: From vulnerability to competitiveness*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Jervis, R. (2010). Why intelligence and policymakers clash. *Political Science Quarterly*, 25, 2.
- Armstrong, F. (2010) The CIA and WMDs: The damning evidence. *New York Review of Books*, August (see also reply by Thomas Powers).
- Jervis, R. (2010). The CIA and Iraq—how the White House got its way: An exchange. *New York Review of Books*, July (see also response by Powers).

**Nov. 19
Required Reading:**

Week 13. Keeping It Going.

- Patashnik, E.M. (2008). *Reforms at risk: What happens after major policy changes are enacted*. Princeton,NJ: Princeton University Press.

Supplementary

Reading:

- Hirschman, A.O. (1991). *The rhetoric of reaction*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Nov. 24

Week 14. Student Presentations—(class meeting changed from 26th to 24th)

Dec. 4

Week 15. Student Presentations

Due:

→FINAL PAPERS.

Post to BB Dec. 4^h by 5:30 pm. Bring hard copy to class.