PAD 6025  
Theoretical Perspectives in Public Policy

Instructor One:  Professor Rick Feiock  
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Class Page:   http://www.campus.fsu.edu

Objectives:
This is a seminar in public policy for students in Public Administration and Policy, and suitable for doctoral students enrolled in other programs which share an interest in public policy. The course covers a variety of topics related both to the substance and methods of public policy. We will examine theoretical frameworks from a variety of disciplines. These include: welfare economics, political science, political economy, and organization theory. We will also emphasize the role of theory in empirical policy research. There is an extensive literature related to each of these topics; the class will read and discuss some of the important recent materials as well as relevant classics.

A seminar is distinguished from a class in that students in a seminar are expected to provide the major set of intellectual stimuli for consideration, with the instructors guiding and assisting students and, during discussions, assisting in the synthesis of diverse student input. The seminar will be collegial in the sense that there is a genuine search for answers to some of the more vexing intellectual problems associated with the study of public policy. Ultimately, however, the success of the seminar as a learning experience for all participants will depend on the commitment and participation of each class member.

Course Requirements and Grading:
Students will be expected to be full participants in shaping the character of the seminar; that requires all students to come to class prepared to discuss the readings for each session. One student will be required to post a brief critical commentary and questions on the readings two days in advance of each class meeting. There will be a final examination which will be in format similar to the written prelim exams and two papers. The first will be a proposal for an empirical research paper to address a policy theory question. This proposal will be due June 8th and presented in class on June 10th. The final paper will build upon the proposal and carry out the research. This paper will be due July 17th.
Student performance will be evaluated as follows:
Participation  20%
Research Proposal  10%
Final Exam  35%
Research Paper  35%

**Academic Honor Code:**
Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code.
http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center at 644-9566, SDRC@admin.fsu.edu, or visit the web site at http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/

**Required Books:**

Frank Baumgarner and Bryan Jones, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*,


Additional readings are downloadable through JSTOR, the BlackBoard course page, or will be photocopied and placed on reserve in Bellamy 611. These reading are designated with an (R) on the following list of readings and assignments. Readings in the edited text by Sabattier are designated (S) on the syllabus.

Course Outline and Schedule

May 11\textsuperscript{th}  Defining Policy Typologies

Weimer and Vining, Policy Analysis Chapter 5 pp. 74-94
-handout from Debra Salazar, “Conflict Expansion: Public Policy Typologies and Rational Choice”
-handout from James Q. Wilson’s book Organizations
-handout on writing Research Proposals

May 13\textsuperscript{th}  Assessing Policy Theories

“The Need for Better Theories” Sabatier, Ch. 1.
“Fostering Development of Policy Theory” Sabatier Ch. 10.
Peter delLeon “The Stages Approach to the Policy Process” Sabatier Ch. 2
Linda Deleon article on policy theories
Kim Quail Hill, “In Search of Policy Theory” Policy Currents 1997
http://apsapolicysection.org/vol7_1/71.pdf

May 18\textsuperscript{th}  Welfare Economics Theory

Steven E. Rhoads, The Economists View of the World: Government, Markets and Public Policy. [recommended]
Weimer and Vining, Policy Analysis Concepts and Cases, Chs. 4-9

May 20\textsuperscript{th}  Transaction Cost Theories and Policy Instruments

Weimer and Vining, Policy Analysis: Concepts and Cases, Chapter 10

http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/prg/stavins/choice.htm

Lester Salamon  Beyond Privatization: The Tools of Government Action
Chs. 1-2 (R).
May 25th  Policy Subsystems Theories and the Advocacy Coalition Framework


Edella Schlager “A Comparison of Frameworks Theories and Models of the Policy Process” Sabatier Ch. 9.

May 28th  Cooperation, Collaboration and Collective Action


June 3rd and 8th  Explaining Policy Change: Agenda Setting, and Policy Innovation and Diffusion Theories

June 3rd

Sabatier Book, Chapter 5  Punctuated-Equilibrium Theory
Sabatier Book, Chapter 4 Agenda Setting


**June 8th  Newer Additions to Innovation Research: Reinvention, Policy Entrepreneurs, Morality Policy**

Michael Mintrom, *Innovation in Education Policy and Policy Entrepreneurs*


**Additional Readings:**


**June 10th  In-class presentations on your Research Proposal Topics**

**June 15th  Policy Implementation**


Sabatier Book, Chapters 9 and 10
Suggested Reading of Old Classics:

Pressman and Wildavsky, *Implementation*, 1978

Bardach, Eugene, *The Implementation Game*


**June 17th  FINAL EXAM**