

*Fall 2001
Section 50
UB 27
Wednesdays, 6:00-9:50*

*Dr. Mittie Olion Chandler
208 Urban Affairs Building
687-3861
Office Hours: Wednesday, 4:00-6:00
and by appointment
e-mail: lurie@urban.csuohio.edu*

UST 616/716

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 identify the 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, especially as captured by the developmental, redistributive, and regulatory policy classifications.
4. To consider the advantages and disadvantages of public policy as an incremental and non-incremental enterprise.

5. To promote individual awareness of opportunities to influence public policy decision making.
6. To impart an enhanced understanding of what factors may affect future public policy development and outcomes.

COURSE MATERIALS

The following books have been ordered through Barnes and Noble Bookstore:

The Policy-Making Process, Charles E. Lindblom and Edward J. Woodhouse

The Corruption of American Politics, Elizabeth Drew

Public Policy: Perspectives And Choices, Charles L. Cochran and Eloise F. Malone

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. During weeks 2-8, prepare two discussion points based upon the assigned readings for possible use during each class which are:
 - a. Enlightening or informative
 - b. Controversial or debatable
 - c. Questionable or disputable

The questions may be transmitted by e-mail, WebCt, or hard copy.

3. During weeks 9-13, answer two discussion questions at the end of the assigned chapters. The responses should be about 2 pages in length. Each student will lead the class discussion during one of these weeks.
4. Present an interim policy report that summarizes the topic you have chosen for the policy analysis paper (discussed below) which includes the following:
 - a. Reason for choosing the topic
 - b. Major issues related to the topic

- c. Level of study – local, state, federal, international, comparative
 - d. Supporters and opponents
 - e. How issue reached agenda status
 - f. Current status of policy
 - g. List of data sources
5. Follow the course of a public policy during the term using various data sources including newspaper articles, Internet, journals, magazines, public meetings, etc. Conventional research data sources must be consulted in the final paper (at least two books and two journal articles). Present an interim policy update (week 8). Prepare a written policy analysis and present it in summary form during one of the last two classes (weeks 14-15).

The analysis should include relevant readings assigned for that topic, but can include any other materials from the course or supplemental sources. The content of the analysis should address the following:

- a. The status of the policy debate (nationally, statewide, and/or locally)
- b. The major issues and perspectives related to the policy
- c. Developments in the policy area during the semester. An excellent source of information is on the Internet at *www.policy.com*. Specific features at the site are *News and Events*, *Issues Analysis*, *Developing Stories*, and *Policy Newsstand*.
- d. Intergovernmental dynamics, roles and responsibilities
- e. Agenda setting, formulation, legitimation, budgeting, implementation, evaluation, and termination issues.
- f. Major actors in the policy arena and their relative influence
- g. Linkages to other policy areas

The length of the analysis should range between 15 and 25, typed, double-spaced pages. The paper is due during finals week on December 12.

Style guide: Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. 1996. Also, use an Internet search engine to search for Turabian, style manuals, writing, or similar terms.

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, incorporation of course concepts)

Timeliness (less one increment per day late)

GRADES

Attendance and participation		10%
Interim policy report	15%	
Substantive policy discussion		15%
Substantive policy responses		15%
Final policy presentation		15%
Final policy paper		30%

GRADING FORMAT

A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, F

Grades for late assignments are lowered one increment per day beyond the due date.

LAST DAY TO DROP

September 7, 2001 (will not appear on transcript)

November 2, 2001 (appears as a "W" on transcript)

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSIGNMENTS

Aug. 29 Overview of course

Introduction to the study of urban public policy
The nature and status of urban policy study
What systems and what processes?

Sept. 5 Defining public policy: what is it? Basic concepts

Required reading

Public Policy (PP), Chapter 1: Basic Concepts in Public Policy
Policy-Making Process (PMP), Chapter 1: The Challenges Facing
Policy Making
Chapter 2: The Limits of Analysis

Suggested additional reading

“Up and down with ecology -- the ‘issue-attention cycle’ “ Anthony
Downs, *The Public Interest*, Volume 28 (Summer 1972)

Video: So you want to buy a president?

Sept. 12 Initial steps of the policy process Policy models

Required Reading

PP, Chapter 2: Methods and Models for Policy Analysis
PMP, Chapter 3: The Potential Intelligence of Democracy

Suggested additional reading

An Introduction to the Study of Public Policy, Charles O. Jones
(1984)

Guest speaker: Sam Fulwood, III, Plain Dealer (invited)

Video: The Myth of the Liberal Media: the propaganda model of news

Sept. 19 Public policy brokers and entrepreneurs

Required reading

PP, Chapter 3: Rational Public Choice
The Corruption of American Politics (CAP), Chapters 1-2

Guest speaker: Patrick Sweeney, Executive-in-Residence, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs

Suggested additional reading

Implementation, Jeffrey Pressman and Aaron Wildavsky (1984)
Implementation and Public Policy, Michael T. Hayes (1992)
Women Leaders in American Politics, James David Barber and Barbara Kellerman, eds. (1986)

**Sept. 26 The policy process: federal, state and local dimensions
Ideologies and constraints**

Required reading

PP, Chapter 4: Ideologies and Institutional Constraints: Public in America
PMP, Chapter 7: Interest Groups in Policy Making
CAP, Chapters 3-4

Guest speaker: Meryl Johnson, Vice President, Cleveland Teacher's Union

Suggested additional reading

When Federalism Works, Paul Peterson, et al. (1986)
A Nation of Strangers, Ellis Cose (1992)

Oct. 3 Policy typologies

Required reading

PP, Chapter 5: Economic Theory as a Basis of Public Policy
PMP, Chapter 4: The Impression of Voting
CAP, Chapters 5-6

Guest speaker: Michael Bowen, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, HOPE VI Coordinator

Oct. 10 The legacy of fragmentation: policy implementation

Required reading

PP, Chapter 6: Economic Policies: Strategies for Tight Budgets and New Social Needs

PMP, Chapter 8: The Position of Business in Policy Making

CAP, Chapters 7-8

Guest speaker: Joe Gauntner, Director, Cuyahoga Health and Nutrition

Suggested additional reading

Reinventing Government, David Osborne and Ted Gaebler (1992)

Oct. 17 Substantive Issue: Inequality

Required reading

PP, Chapter 7: The Politics and Economies of Inequality

PMP, Chapter 9: Political Inequality

CAP, Chapter 9

Guest speaker, Judge Ronald Adrine, Cleveland Municipal Court (invited)

Video: Legacy (on passage of California's "three strikes" law)

INTERIM POLICY REPORTS DUE

Oct. 24 Professionalism and policy

Substantive Issue: Crime

Required reading

PP, Chapter 8: Crime: The Policy Quagmire

PMP, Chapter 5: Elected Functionaries

CAP, Chapter 10

Oct. 31 Improving policy outcomes: reinventing government

Substantive Issue: Housing

Required reading

PMP, Chapter 10: Impaired Inquiry
PP, Chapter 11: Crisis in Housing and Urban Issues
CAP, Chapters 11-12

Suggested additional reading

Our Town: Race, Housing, and the Soul of Suburbia, David Kirp, et al., Rutgers University Press (1995)

“Exclusionary Zoning in the Suburbs: The Road from Mt. Laurel to Chester,” *Zoning and Planning Law Report* 16(3): 105-110 (March 1993)

Nov. 7 Budget issues/campaign finance issues

Substantive Issue: Education

Required reading

PP, Chapter 9: Education Policy: Low Grades for National Effort
PMP, Chapter 11: Making the Most of Analysis
CAP, Chapters 13-14

Nov. 14 Lobbyist influence

Substantive Issue: Health Care

Required reading

PP, Chapter 10: Health Care: Diagnosing the Problem
PMP, Chapter 12: More Democracy?

Guest speaker: Marsha Egbert, Senior Program Officer, George Gund Foundation (former lobbyist)

Nov. 21 Advocacy

Substantive Issue: Environment

Required reading

PP, Chapter 12: Environmental Policy: Domestic and International
Issues

CAP, Chapter 15

Guest speaker: David Beach, Director, EcoCity Cleveland

Suggested additional reading

Confronting Environmental Racism, Robert D. Bullard, ed. (1993)

Nov. 28 Student Presentations – policy analyses

Dec. 5 Student Presentations – policy analyses

Dec. 12 FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD – Policy Analyses due

FINAL PAPERS DUE

WEBSITES*

<http://www.policy.com>

Thousands of links to policy-related position papers, reports, press releases, newspaper and magazine articles, government documents, and court decisions from a huge array of organizations across the political spectrum.

You can browse the documents by topic or search them by organization, keywords, title, author, and date.

The site also offers daily news stories about policy issues from the Associated Press and summaries of articles from major policy magazines.

<http://dmoz.org/Society/Issues/>

This site links to more than 6,000 Web sites about various political issues. The top page has links to a few general sites and leads to separate pages about specific subjects, each of which typically provides dozens or hundreds of links.

Each link is briefly annotated.

<http://gate.nira.go.jp/ice/index.html>

Detailed information about more than 200 think tanks around the world.

The think tanks are arranged by country. Most of the think tanks are from the United States, although an excellent selection of think tanks from other countries is provided.

The information about each think tank often includes the Web site address, postal address, telephone number, fax number, history, areas of research, geographic focus, titles of publications, number of staff, names of key researchers and their specialties, budget figures, and titles of periodicals published.

<http://www.politicalinformation.com>

This search engine is updated every two or three weeks.

A separate engine lets you search political news from dozens of sources, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Roll Call*, *Hill News*, *Boston Globe*, *Newsday*, *Washington Post*, CNN, MSNBC, ABC News, and PBS. The database is updated every two hours.

Another highlight is a directory of more than 1,500 links, which are arranged into more than 200 categories.

You can also sign up at the site to receive a newsletter by e-mail about political use of the Internet.

<http://www.politicalresources.net/>

These links lead to sites operated by political parties, organizations, governments, media outlets, and others. You can browse the links by region or country.

*Source: *How to Track Politics on the Internet*, Bruce Maxwell, CQ Press, 2000