

# **Public Policy Process**

## **BPOLST 500**

Autumn 2010

Tuesdays, 5:45-10:00, UW1 031

### **Instructor:**

Nives Dolšak, Associate Professor

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**Office hours:** Tuesdays, 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM, and by appointment.

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on political and institutional aspects of public policy process. We will examine reasons for public policy, how they are articulated and negotiated, who formulates public policy, what generic policy instruments are chosen, and how policies are implemented.

We will employ multiple ways of learning to build a broad knowledge of current policy issues across policy arenas and government levels. Through class research projects and policy controversy case studies, you will gain detailed knowledge of the process of defining the public policy problem, identification of key stakeholders, institutions that could address the policy problems, and policy instruments that could be implemented.

### **Course Objectives**

One of the most important goals of this class is to use assigned readings, class discussions, and research projects to make a theoretical-practical connection that illuminates our knowledge of theories of public policy and our understanding of real-life policies that impact our daily lives.

This course will help you develop skills to:

- (1) Identify a public policy problem;
- (2) Identify constituencies involved in the policy problems, determine their respective interests, and define the elements of policy negotiation space;
- (3) Understand stages in the policy process;
- (4) Understand, critique and apply theories of policy process;
- (5) Apply basic policy evaluation methods to analyze the policy problem and provide policy recommendations in selected policy arenas;
- (6) Write succinctly about public policy problems and solutions, using quantitative data to support your arguments;
- (7) Design an effective approach for advocating for a particular policy issue and policy solution.

## Required Readings

Please note that I expect all students to **read the assigned readings PRIOR to the class** and come prepared to the class to discuss the readings.

### Textbooks:

(1) Theodoulou, Stella Z. and Chris Kofinis. 2004. *The Art of the Game: Understanding Policy Making*. Thomson Wadsworth.

(2) *Issues for Debate in American Public Policy. Selections from CQ Researcher*. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. 2009. Congressional Quarterly Press.

Note that individual articles are available online through the CQ Researcher:

<http://catalog.lib.washington.edu/record=b4906426~S4>

(3) Smith, Kevin B. and Christopher W. Larimer. 2009. *The Public Policy Theory Primer*. Westview Press.

*Readings on Electronic Reserve at the University of Washington, Bothell Library or publicly available on the Internet (<http://library.uwb.edu/reserve.html>):*

Please note that you will need your UW NetID to access Electronic Reserves.

- (1) Cooper, Phillip J. 2003. *Governing by Contract: Challenges and Opportunities for Public Managers*. Congressional Quarterly Press, A Division of Sage. Pp. 16-53.
- (2) Jansson, B.S. 2003. Ch. 5. *Committing to an Issue: Building Agendas*. In *Becoming and Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. (140-167) Pacific Grove, CA: Thomson; Brooks/Cole.
- (3) Jansson, B.S. 2003. Ch. 10. *Developing Political Strategy*. In *Becoming and Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. (327-344) Pacific Grove, CA: Thomson; Brooks/Cole.
- (4) Jansson, B.S. 2003. Ch. 11 *Putting Political Strategy into Action*. In *Becoming and Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. (345-374) Pacific Grove, CA: Thomson; Brooks/Cole.
- (5) Kerwin, Cornelius M. and Scott R. Furlong. 2011. (4<sup>th</sup> edition). *The Substance of Rules and the Reasons for Rulemaking*. In *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy*. Pp. 1-38.
- (6) Kerwin, Cornelius M. and Scott R. Furlong. 2011. (4<sup>th</sup> edition). *The Process of Rulemaking*. In *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy*. Pp. 39-88.
- (7) Levine, Bertram J. 2009. *Introduction*. In *The Art of Lobbying: Building Trust and Selling Policy*. Congressional Quarterly Press, A Division of Sage. Pp. 1-9
- (8) Levine, Bertram J. 2009. *The Lobbyist's Professional World*. In *The Art of Lobbying: Building Trust and Selling Policy*. Congressional Quarterly Press, A Division of Sage. Pp. 10-50.
- (9) Stone, Deborah. 2002. Ch. 8: *Causes*. In *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*. (188-209) W.W. Norton & Company.
- (10) Stone, Deborah. 2002. Ch. 9: *Interests*. In *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*. (210-231) W.W. Norton & Company.

- (11) Weimer, David L. and Aidan R. Vining. 2005. Rationales for Public Policy: Market Failures. In *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, (71-112). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- (12) Weimer, David L. and Aidan R. Vining. 2005. Rationales for Public Policy: Other Limitations of the Competitive Framework. In *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, (113-131). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- (13) Weimer, David L. and Aidan R. Vining. 2005. Rationales for Public Policy: Distributional and other Goals. In *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, (132-155). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- (14) Weimer, David L. and Aidan R. Vining. 2005. Limits to Public Intervention: Government Failures. In *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, (156-191). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- (15) Weimer, David L. and Aidan R. Vining. 2005. Correcting Market and Government Failure. In *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, (209-260). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

### **Assignments, Evaluation, and Grading**

You grade will be based on the below listed assignments. Most assignments will be submitted electronically through the class Blackboard site.

	Points
Bibliography entries (workshop)	5
Stakeholder Review (workshop)	5
Policy Controversy Presentation	15
Policy Issue Paper	30
Final exam	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>

#### **Workshop Assignments**

Instructions/templates for these assignments will be distributed during each workshop.

#### **Policy Controversy Presentation**

Using the Blackboard discussion board, you will sign up for one of the policy controversies addressed in the textbook. On the date defined in the weekly schedule (see the end of the syllabus), you will give a 10-15 minute presentation of the policy controversy. In this presentation, you will briefly summarize the policy at the federal level as outlined in the textbook (5-7 minutes). Then, you will summarize what policies have recently (in the last 3 years) been adopted in WA State in this policy area (5-7 minutes). For recommendations on how to create and give effective oral presentations, see the tips on Blackboard.

I will grade this assignment based on the following criteria: (1) How clear are your arguments? (2) Are the issues addressed in a comprehensive manner or are important aspects (from your perspective) left out? (3) How effectively are data used in the presentation?

**Due: In class, on the assigned day.**

## **Issue Paper**

Your will write a 5000 to 7000 word document (including references) in which you will provide all necessary background information for your policy solution product.

In this document, you will:

1. Present the history of the problem. When did the problem first arise? How did it evolve over time?
2. Explain the problem employing the concepts of market/government failures. Address what policy instruments have been used in the United States to address policy problems of this particular type.
3. Explain how various sub-populations contribute to this problem?
4. Develop justification for a policy change. Put the problem in numbers. What losses is the public accruing? What are potential gains from this situation?
5. Describe your policy solution. How does this differ from solutions implemented previously?
6. Describe the causal mechanisms. How will the solution work; which subpopulations will it impact and how?
7. Who will implement this policy solution? Does this policy actor have the authority to implement the policy solution? What are the expected resource needs?
8. Provide all necessary citations/sources of data.

I will grade this assignment based on the following criteria: (1) Does the assignment address the above items? (2) How well do your data support your statements? (3) Are the causal links argued in the policy solution proposition based on a valid theory? (4) Is the policy solution implementation feasible given the authorities policy actors have? (5) Does the assignment clearly convey the above information? (6) Does the assignment follow the length/style guidelines? Please submit this document as a doc, rtf, or pdf format file on Digital Drop box in Blackboard.

**Due:** Friday, December 3, 9:00 PM.

## **FINAL EXAM**

I will administer one thirty-minute quiz during regular class time. The quiz will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions to ensure that students understand the concepts essential for identifying public policy problem, its stakeholders, and public policy venues; recommending policy solutions; and applying theories of policy process.

**Scheduled: during regular class time, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Location TBA.**

## **Online Course Communication and File Exchange**

I will use Blackboard site to post my announcements, share course documents with you, organize on-line discussion forums, administer a quiz, post grades, receive your assignments, and e-mail you. To be able to access the BPOLST 500 Blackboard site (<http://bb.uwb.edu>), you will first have to enroll in this class on the UWB blackboard site. The guidelines on how to enroll in a Blackboard site are appended at the end of this syllabus. Please also read the note about Blackboard e-mails in the same Appendix. If you have any problems accessing Blackboard site, contact the UWB Help desk at IT@uwb.edu or at 425-352-3456.

You will submit all your written assignments electronically at the Blackboard class site. For each assignment, please submit only one file (Word , rtf, or PDF format). This document should include all

tables, graphs, references, and notes. To submit a document, use the “digital drop box” option in “tools”. Post your document using the **SEND File** option, NOT the ADD file option.

### **Late Submission Policy**

I do not accept late assignments, except in a case of a documented medical emergency.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you believe that you have a disability and would like academic accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services at 425.352.5307, 425.352.5303 TDD, 425.352.5455 FAX, or at [dss@uwb.edu](mailto:dss@uwb.edu). You will need to provide documentation of your disability as part of the review process prior to receiving any accommodations.

### **Academic Integrity**

I expect students to uphold the highest standards of academic conduct pursuant to the University of Washington Student Conduct Code, Section WAC 478-120-020-2(a). I expect that you are familiar with and adhere to the rules regulating academic conduct as outlined by the UW Bothell policies on maintaining academic integrity (<http://www.uwb.edu/academic/policies/academic-conduct>). I encourage you to review the information on academic integrity, accessible at <http://libguides.uwb.edu/ai>.

Weekly Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
10/05	<b>The Language of Public Policy</b>	T&K, Ch.1, 2; S&L, Ch. 1,2	
10/12	<b>Rationales for Public Policy:</b> Efficiency Rationales  <u>Policy Controversies: Education</u>	W&V, Pp. 71-131 (ER, 2005)  CQ, Ch. 1,2,3	
10/19	<b>Rationales for Public Policy:</b> Equity and Security Rationales  <u>Policy Controversies: The Environment;</u> <u>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</u>  <u>Workshop: Bibliography</u>	W&V, Pp. 132-155(ER, 2005) Stone, Pp. 188-231 (ER)  CQ, Ch. 4,5,6	Bibliography Entries Due 10/23, 9:00 PM
10/26	<b>Policy Actors</b>  <u>Policy Controversies: Social policy</u>	T&K, Ch. 3, 4; W&V, Pp. 156-191(ER, 2005) S&L, Ch. 3  CQ, Ch. 7,8,9,10	
11/02	<b>Policy Process Theories</b>  <u>Policy Controversies: Business and the Economy</u>  <u>Workshop: Policy Stakeholders</u>	T&K, Ch. 5, 19 S&L, 4  CQ, Ch. 11	Stakeholders Review Due 11/06, 9:00 PM
11/09	<b>Problem Identification and Agenda Setting</b>  <u>Policy Controversies: Homeland security</u>	T&K, Ch. 6, 7, 13, 14 Jansson, Ch. 5, 10, 11 (ER) Levine, Pp. 1-50 (ER)  CQ, Ch. 12, 13	
11/16	<b>Policy Design and Formulation</b>  <u>Policy Controversies: Foreign Policy</u>	T&K, Ch. 8, 15, 16 W&V, Pp. 196-252 (ER, 1999) S&L, Ch. 5, 8  CQ, Ch. 14, 15	
11/23	<b>Policy Adoption and Implementation</b>  <u>Policy Controversies: Health Care</u>	T&K Ch. 9,10, 17 Kerwin, Pp. 1-88 (ER) Cooper (ER) S&L, Ch. 7  CQ, Ch. 16	
11/30	<b>Policy Evaluation and Termination</b>	T&K Ch. 11, 12, 18 S&L, Ch. 6	Issue paper Due 12/04 by 9:00 PM
12/07	<b>Revisiting and Redefining Policy Sciences</b> <u>Student presentations</u>	S&L, Ch. 10	
12/14	<b>Final Exam</b>		Final during the regular class time

# Blackboard Course Sites: Enrolling and Receiving e-mail

## Instructions for students who have not used Blackboard before and are enrolling as a new Blackboard user:

(Note: enrolling in a Blackboard course is a completely separate activity from student registration or the MyUW account)

1. Go to Blackboard at <http://bb.uwb.edu>.
2. Click on the **Create Account** button
3. Fill in only the information with the red asterisk. We recommend that your user ID be the same as your UW NetID. Click on the **Submit** button at the bottom of the page and then click on **OK**.
4. Click on the **Courses** tab. To find your course, type the course ID in the **Course Search** box. Scroll down the page to get to the title of your course.
5. Click on the **Enroll** button on the right side of your course. Click on the **Submit** button at the bottom of the screen and then on **OK**.

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## Instructions for students who have used Blackboard before and already have an account:

1. Go to Blackboard at <http://bb.uwb.edu>
2. Click on the **Login** button and put in the same login and password you had previously. If you don't remember your password, you can click on the **Forgot your password?** link to have your password emailed to you.
3. Click on the **Courses** Tab. To find your course, type the course ID in the **Course Search** box. Scroll down the page to get to the title of your course.
4. Click on the **Enroll** button on the right side of your course. Click on the **Submit** button at the bottom of the screen and then on **OK**.

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Macintosh users - Blackboard 6 Note: Those using an Apple computer with OS 9 or older will not have access to the Virtual Classroom (chat), though the text-only chat called Lightweight chat is available for your use. To use the lightweight chat feature, you will need to download the patch at <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120209>. Macintosh computers using OS 10.2 can use the Virtual Classroom.

PC users - Blackboard 6 Note: A java patch will be automatically installed the first time you access the Virtual Classroom.

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## E-mails from Blackboard:

Email systems (i.e. Hotmail, Yahoo, Comcast, etc.) may label Blackboard mail as junk, and send it to your junk or bulk mail folders. If this happens, you WILL HAVE TO designate that emails sent through Blackboard not go into your junk folders. For instance in Yahoo, if you find an email an instructor in the Bulk folder, you need to open the email and press the "Not Spam" button, and future emails will go into the regular inbox.

The best way for you to be sure you are getting all of your Blackboard email as well as any other mail coming from UW Bothell is to avoid forwarding your u.washington.edu mail. If you have difficulties with the above email issues, please contact the IT help desk at [IT@uwb.edu](mailto:IT@uwb.edu) or 425-352-3456.