

PUBLIC POLICY FORMATION 833:510:01

Fall Semester 2006
Professor Carl Van Horn
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Meetings at Bloustein School: Tuesdays 9:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the making of public policy in the U.S. It is organized primarily around the variety of institutional arenas for policymaking, although the policy-making process will also be important to the course content. The course emphasizes federal and state government policy making and political institutions.

Each weekly class meeting will generally consist of a lecture and discussion. Students are expected to read all the assigned readings prior to class.

Optional readings are listed because they may be covered in lecture, but students are not required to read them for class. Instead, students are encouraged to examine these works, particularly where relevant to their paper projects.

Class participation will constitute 20% the grade for the course. Two papers will constitute the remaining 80%. The first paper will be an analysis of the formulation of an important public policy and the second will be an analysis of the implementation of that same policy. Papers should be no more than 18 pages in length. Late papers will receive lower grades.

The policy to be examined should be chosen, in consultation with me, by October 3.

The first paper will be due by 4:00 p.m. on November 10.

The second paper is due by 4:00 p.m. on December 19.

In order to assist you in making the most effective and efficient use of the government documents section of the RU Libraries, an hour-long orientation session, to be announced in class, will be held at Alexander Library. All students are expected to attend.

Required texts are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore. Optional reading is generally available in a library, but not set aside on reserve. A few out of print readings will be distributed in class.

Required Texts:

Van Horn, Carl E., Donald Baumer and William Gormley, *Politics and Public Policy*, Washington, D.C., CQ Press, 2001, 3rd Edition.

Kingdon, John W., *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, Longman Classics, 2003, 2nd Edition.

Schattscheider, E.E., Semi Sovereign People: A Realist View of Democracy in America, Wadsworth, 1975.

Van Horn, Carl E., (ed), The State of the States, Washington, DC, CQ Press, 2006, 4th Edition.

Recommended Text

Wilson, James Q. American Government—Brief Version, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005 7th Edition.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

5 September: No Class Due to Graduate Student Orientation

8 September: Introduction: Politics and Public Policy

Van Horn et al. Ch. 1
State of the States, Chapter 1
Kingdon, chs. 1, 4 and 5
Wilson, Chs 1,2,4,6

12 September: No Class

19 September: Political Economy, Politics, and Public Policy

Van Horn et al. Ch. 2
Kingdon, chs. 6,7,8
Wilson, Chs 12
Schattscheider, chs. 1, 4, and 8, “Contagiousness of Conflict,”
“Displacement of Conflict,”; “Semi sovereign People”

optional readings:

Friedman, Milton. 1982. Capitalism and Freedom. Chicago: University of Chicago.

Lowi, Theodore J. 1979. The End of Liberalism: The Second Republic of the United States, 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton.

Madison, James. 1787. “The Federalist No. 10.” pp. 53-62 in The Federalist. New York The Modern Library.(Also in Wilson, A 21)

26 September: Living Room Politics

Van Horn et al. Ch. 8
Kingdon, ch. 3
Wilson, Ch 5
State of the States, Chapter 2
Schattschneider, ch. 6, "The Limits of the Political System"

Optional Readings

McIver, John P., et al. 1994. "Public Opinion and Public Policy: A View from the States." pp. 249-266 in *New Perspectives on American Politics*, Dodd, Lawrence C. and Jillson, Calvin, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Abramson, Jeffrey B., Arterton, F. Christopher, and Orren, Gary R. 1988. *The Electronic Commonwealth: The Impact of New Media Technologies on Democratic Politics*. New York: Basic Books.

Patterson, Thomas E. 1993. *Out of Order*. New York: Knopf.

3 October: Cloak-Room Politics

Van Horn et al. Ch.5

Kingdon, ch. 2 -- "Capitol Hill", pp. 34-42

State of the States, Chapter 3

Wilson, Ch 8.

Optional Readings:

Kingdon, John W. 1989. *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*, third edition. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, ch. 1, "Introduction," pp. 3-25 and ch. 12, "Structural Decision Features," pp. 282-95.

Mayhew, David. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale.

Nelson, Albert J. 1991. *Emerging Influential in State Legislatures: Woman, Blacks, and Hispanics*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

Rosenthal, Alan. 1993. *The Third House: Lobbyists and Lobbying in the States*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

10 October: Chief Executive Politics

Van Horn et al: Ch.6

Kingdon, ch. 2 "The Administration," pp. 21-30

Wilson, Ch 9

State of the States, Chapter 4.

Optional readings:

Kernell, Samuel. 1986. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Lowi, Theodore J. 1985. *The Personal President: Power Invested, Promise Unfulfilled*. Ithaca: Cornell University.

Polsby, Nelson W. 1986. *Congress and the Presidency*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.

17 October: Budgeting and Public Policy

Readings

State of the States, Chapter 7.

Wildavsky, Aaron. 1984. *Politics of the Budgetary Process*, fourth ed. Boston: Little, Brown, preface to fourth edition, pp. v-xiv; prologue, pp. xv-xxxi; ch. 1, "Budgets," pp. 1-5; and ch. 2, "Calculations," pp. 6-16 (**Distributed to class**)

optional readings:

Birnbaum, Jeffrey H., and Murray, Alan S. 1987. Showdown at Gucci Gulch: Lawmakers, Lobbyists, and the Unlikely Triumph of Tax Reform. New York: Random House.

Gilmour, John B. 1990. Reconcilable Differences? Congress, the Budget Process, and the Deficit. Berkeley: University of California.

24 October: Guest Speaker: Public Policy Maker

31 October: Court Room Politics

Van Horn et al., Ch.7

State of the States, Chapter 5

Wilson, Ch 11 and 3.

optional readings:

Ely, John Hart. 1980. Democracy and Distrust. Cambridge: Harvard University.

Rakove, Jack N. 1996. Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Segal, Jeffrey A., and Spaeth, Harold J. 1993. The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model. New York: Cambridge University.

7 November: Boardroom Politics

Van Horn et al. Ch. 3

Schattschneider, ch. 7, "What does change look like?" pp. 112-126

optional readings:

Kettle, Donald F. 1993. Sharing Power: Public Governance and Private Markets. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.

Bozeman, Barry. 1987. All Organizations are Public: Bridging Public and Private Organizational Theory. San Francisco: Jossey Bass.

Greenberg, Edward S. 1985. Capitalism and the American Political Ideal. Armonk, NY: ME Sharp.

Osborne, David. 1990. Laboratories of Democracy. Boston: Harvard Business School.

First Paper Due, November 10

14 November: Bureaucratic Politics

Van Horn et al. Ch.4

Kingdon, ch. 2 -- "By Contrast: Civil Servants," pp. 30-34

Wilson, Ch 10

State of the States, Chapter 6

Optional readings:

Lindblom, Charles E. 1959. "The Science of Muddling Through." Public Administration Review 19(Spring):79-88.

Lipsky, Michael. 1980. Street-Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Services. New York: Russell Sage.

Niskanen, William A. 1971. Bureaucracy and Representative Government. Chicago: Aldine-Atherton.

21 November: No Class Due to Thanksgiving Schedule Change

28 November: Policy Implementation

State of the States, Chapters 8, 9, and 10

and

(Distributed to class)

Van Meter, Donald S., and Van Horn, Carl E. 1975. "The Policy Implementation Process: A Conceptual Framework." *Administration and Society* 6(4):445-86.

Sabatier, Paul A., and Mazmanian, Daniel A. "Implementation of Public Policy: A Framework for Analysis." pp. 3-35.

Bardach. "Scenario-writing" and "Fixing the game." pp. 250-84 in *Implementation and Policy Design*.

Additional readings:

Pressman, Jeffrey L., and Wildavsky, Aaron. 1984. Implementation, 3rd edition.

Berkeley: University of California Press.

5 December: Assessing Political Institutions

Van Horn et al. Ch.9

Wilson, Ch 14

Optional readings:

Pressman, Jeffrey L., and Wildavsky, Aaron. 1984. "What Should Evaluation Mean to Implementation?" Pp. 181-205 in Implementation, third edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

12 December: Assessing Public Policy

Van Horn et al. Ch.10

Kingdon, chap. 10

December 19: Final Paper Due