PAD 6025
Theoretical Perspectives in Public Policy
T 5:15-8:00pm; Bel 623

Instructor: Professor Fran Berry
Office Hours: 627 Bellamy  Tuesday 3:00-5:00pm Thursday 3:00-5:00pm
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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 a format similar to the written prelim exams and a research paper using a policy theory. This paper will be presented in class on Nov. 14th and due into Prof. Berry by Dec. 5th. There will be one written critique of the weekly class readings when you are NOT the discussion leader for that class, and a short research design using a theory. Both of these (and the research paper) have handouts which will be posted to the Blackboard discussion site. Class participation is counted by class attendance as well as speaking up on class readings, and contributing to the discussion.

Student performance will be evaluated as follows:
Participation  15%
Literature Critique  10%
Research design (5-8 pages)  10%
Final Exam 30%
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, or the BlackBoard course page (BB).
Course Outline and Schedule

Aug. 29th  Course Overview and Introduction

Sept. 5th  Assessing Policy Theories
“The Need for Better Theories” Sabatier, Ch. 1.
“Fostering Development of Policy Theory” Sabatier Ch. 10.
Peter deLeon “The Stages Approach to the Policy Process” Sabatier Ch. 2
Kim Quail Hill, “In Search of Policy Theory” *Policy Currents* 1997
http://apsapolicysection.org/vol7_1/71.pdf

Please read this substantive review of three policy theories:

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

Sept. 12th  Defining Policy Typologies

Weimer and Vining, *Policy Analysis* Chapter 5 pp. 74-94
Birkland, Chapter 6, Policy Types and Typologies

Sept. 19th  Agenda Setting

Sabatier Book, Chapter 4 Agenda Setting


Frank Baumgarner and Bryan Jones, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics* (for the 20th and 27th)

Sept. 26th  Puncturated Equilibrium

Oct. 3rd  Policy Subsystems Theories and the Advocacy Coalition Framework


Oct. 10th  Explaining Policy Change: Policy Innovation & Diffusion Theories


Frances Berry and Wm.Berry, Chapter 7, Innovation and Diffusion Models in Policy Research, from Sabatier, Theories of the Policy Process, 1999 OR new chapter.

Read one of the following two articles:


Optional:
Jack Walker, “The Diffusion of Innovations Among the American States,”

Oct. 17th  Newer Additions to Innovation Research: Reinvention, Policy Entrepreneurs, Morality Policy


PICK ONE OR TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:


Oct. 24th  Policy Evaluation and Policy Instruments

Eisenberg, Dan, “Evaluating the effectiveness of Policies related to Drunk Driving” JPAAM, spring 2003.

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


Oct. 31st  Cooperation, Collaboration and Collective Action


Sabatier, Chapter 3 by E. Ostrom

Principal-Agent and Fiscal Federalism Theory:

Nov. 7th  Cooperation, Collaboration and Collective Action


ADD HERE

Nov. 14th  In-class Presentations on your papers

Nov. 21st  Policy Implementation
Mazmanian and Sabatier, Implementation and Public Policy, chapters 1-2 (BB)


Nov. 21st  Networking


Dec. 5th  Social Constructivist or Interpretivist Approach


Liberman, Robert, Anne Schneider and Helen Ingram. 1995. Social Construction (Continued). *American Political Science Review* 89 (2): 437-446. (This is a dialogue based on the 1993 Schneider and Ingram article.)


Dec. 11-15  FINAL EXAM Week