

POL 322/522, PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

An examination of the basic concepts of and methods for analyzing public policy making in the United States. Identification of the important factors at every step, including interested public and private groups, governmental decision-makers, bureaucrats, and program evaluation. Examination of selected policy issues facing our political system.

POL 322/522, PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS*

Donald R. Burkholder, Ph.D. Classroom: Briggs 125
Date and Time: MWF at 12 Noon Office Hours: 10-10:50 W&F and by appt'mt.
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Texts: James E. Anderson, Public Policymaking (5th), Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2003.

Deborah Stone, Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making (Rev.), W. W. Norton & Co.: New York, 2002.

The Wall Street Journal. (Subscribe through class, at the student rate).

Note: Reading assignments and any assigned homework, study guides, etc., are to be completed PRIOR to the beginning of the class for which they are listed. They must be on the podium before the professor begins class. No make-up assignments, exams, quizzes.

W, Sept. 3 - Discussion of class content, requirements, distribution of course description, course objectives, initial assignments. Political Process Model, Policy Making Model, Issue-Attention Cycle, Single-Member District System, Proportional Representation, Classical Liberalism, Centralization v. Decentralization, Four Freedoms, Administrative Discretion. Discussion of Annotated Bibliography and Short Summary Paper.

F, Sept. 5 -Further discussion of introductory comments, concepts, requirements.

M, Sept. 8 -Anderson, Ch. 1, The Study of Public Policy.

W, Sept. 10 -Stone, Introduction, pp. 1 - 14,

F, Sept. 12 - Discussion comparing the methods and/or approaches to the study of public policy as set forth in Anderson with the problem of paradoxes set forth in Stone.

M, Sept. 15 - Anderson, Ch. 2, The Policy-Makers and their Environment.
-Discussion of areas of policy-making for research concentration.

W, Sept. 17 -Stone, Part 1, The Market and the Polis

F, Sept. 19 - Discussion of policy making environment, the market and the polis, conceptions of equity, efficiency, security, liberty.

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M, Sept. 22 - Research training, McNichols Library Reference area. Required.

W, Sept. 24 - Stone, Part 2 - Goals. Equity, Efficiency, Security, Liberty.

F, Sept. 26 - Discussion. Stone's Market and Goals as they relate to Anderson's presentation of the environment.

M, Sept. 29 - Anderson, Ch. 3. - Policy Formation: Problems, Agendas, and Formulation. Homework assignment for following class.

W, Oct. 1 - Homework previously assigned, and discussion as assigned, re the case studies in Anderson dealing with agenda setting: Coal Mine Safety; Environmental Pollution Control, and the case study regarding Policy Formulation as a Technical Process: Formulating Policy: The Family and Medical Leave Act.

F, Oct. 3 - Stone, Part III, Problems. Symbols, Numbers.

M, Oct. 6 - Stone, Part III, Causes, Interests, Decisions. Homework assignment for the following class.

W, Oct. 8 - Homework previously assigned, and discussion as assigned.

F, Oct. 10 -FIRST MID-TERM

M, Oct. 13 -Anderson, Ch. 4, Policy Adoption. Theories of Decision-Making. Rational-Comprehensive Theory. Incremental Theory. Mixed Scanning.

W, Oct. 15 - Anderson continued. Decision Criteria. Values -Organizational, Professional, Personal, Policy Values, Ideological Values. Justification for research topic due at beginning of class. Discussion of progress on research topic.

F, Oct. 17 - RESEARCH PERIOD. NO CLASS MEETING.

M, Oct. 20 - Report on research progress.
-Discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the rational-comprehensive, incremental, and mixed scanning theories of decision-making. The interplay of values in and with each of these theories.

W, Oct. 22 - Stone, Part IV - Solutions. Inducements, Rules, the Making of Facts. Their interplay with the three primary theories of decision-making.

F, Oct. 24 - Stone, Part IV - Rights, Powers. Legal compared with normative rights. Powers as constitutional engineering.

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M, Oct. 27 - Anderson, Ch. 4, Policy Adoption. Constituency Interests -Delegate, Trustee, and Politico Roles. Non-elected public officials and their role as representative. Public Opinion - opinion polls, focus groups, extent of public understanding of various policies, manipulation. Policies that shape broad direction of policy differentiated from policies that shape the day-to-day, routine decisions on specific aspects of policy.

W, Oct. 29 - Anderson, Ch. 4, Deference - hierarchical superiors or others. Administrative discretion. Decision Rules- stare decisis, per se, strategic premises. Homework assignment for the following class.

F, Oct. 31 -Homework previously assigned, and discussion as assigned. Anderson, Ch. 4. The Public Interest - Majority, Consumer, or ? Redford's three approaches to determining what constitutes the public interest. 1] Areas rich in conflict, e.g., labor relations, energy, transportation; 2] Widely and continuously shared interests, e.g., world peace better education, clean air, avoidance of severe inflation. 3] The need for organization and procedures to represent and balance interests.

M, Nov. 3 - Anderson, Ch 4. Styles of Decision-Making. Coalitions, Bargaining, Persuasion, Command, Majority Building in Congress.

W, Nov. 5 -Anderson, Ch. 4, Presidential Decision-Making. Foreign compared with domestic policy. Factors shaping presidential decision-making: 1] Permissibility; 2] Available resources; 3] Available time; 4] Previous commitments; 5] Available information. Case Study-Consumer Bankruptcy.

F, Nov. 7 - SECOND MID-TERM.

M, Nov. 10 - Anderson, Ch. 5, Budgeting and Public Policy. Budget and Accounting Act of 1921. Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1973. Formulation, preparation, authorization, execution [including rule-making under congressional committee mandate] . Entitlements.

W, Nov. 12 -Anderson, Ch. 5 - Case Study - the Struggle to Balance the Budget. Homework assignment for Monday, Nov. 17.

F, Nov. 14 - RESEARCH PERIOD. No class meeting.

M, Nov. 17 - Homework previously assigned, and class discussion. Individual reports on research progress.

W, Nov. 19 - As assigned.

- F, Nov. 21 - Anderson, Ch. 6, Policy Implementation. Who Implements Policy? Administrative Organization. Administrative Politics. Administrative Policymaking.
- M, Nov. 24 -Case Studies: National Park Service Fire Policy, and The Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Homework assignment for Wed., Nov. 26.
- W, Nov. 26 -Homework as previously assigned, and class discussion. Individual reports on research progress.
-Anderson, Ch. 7, Policy Impact, Evaluation, and Change. Policy Impact. Policy Evaluation Processes. Case Study: The GAO and Food Safety. Problems in Policy Evaluation. Policy Evaluation: The Use and Misuse of Cost-Benefit Analysis.
- F, Nov. 28 -THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. No class.
- M, Dec. 1 - Case Study: The Politics of Evaluation: Head Start. Policy Termination. Case Study: The Policy Cycle: Airline Regulation and Deregulation.
- W, Dec. 3 -Annotated Bibliography, Summary Paper due at beginning of class.
- F, Dec. 5 - Anderson, Ch. 8, Concluding Comments.
-Stone, Part IV, Solutions. Conclusion: Political Reason. Policy Paradox in Action.
-Individual research reports, discussion with class.
- Thursday, Dec. 11 - FINAL EXAM, 11:00 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

* Subject to change.