

# PA 306: Policy Systems

Spring 2011

Room: Lafayette Hall L210

Tuesdays, 4:00 – 6:45 pm

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Welcome to PA 306: Policy Systems. In this introductory graduate-level *service-learning* course geared toward current and aspiring public administrators and policy analysts, students will learn about micro-, meso-, and macro-scale frameworks and theories that aim at understanding and assessing the dynamics of change and continuity in policy systems. In particular, the emphasis is placed upon meso-, and macro-scale policy system frameworks and theories, such as Institutional Analysis and Development Framework, the Multiple Streams Framework; Social Construction and Policy Design; the Network Approach; Punctuated Equilibrium Theory; the Advocacy Coalition Framework; Innovation and Diffusion Models and Large-N Comparative Models. Further, students will apply these micro-, meso- and macro-scale theories to a substantive policy problem that is of interest to a community partner, which could be a government agency or a non-profit organization. These policy problems may span, or even cut across, a broad range of policy domains such as (included but not limited to) economic policy, food policy, environmental policy, defense and foreign policy, space policy, homeland security, disaster and emergency management, social policy, transportation policy, land-use policy and health policy.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCY LEARNING GOALS

At the completion of this course, students would be able to:

- Understand a wide range of public policy frameworks and theories for understanding and assessing the dynamics of change and continuity in policy systems;
- Engage in public policy analysis and evaluation, attaining higher competency in applying at least one policy system framework and theory;
- Critically analyze discourses surrounding public policy problems
- Develop and refine their research, writing, analytical, and problem-solving skills

This course extensively covers the following core Master of Public Administration (MPA) competencies:

- To lead and manage **public governance**
  - Public, private & non-profit sector collaboration and conflicts
  - Systems dynamics
- To participate in and contribute to the **policy process**
  - Political theory and practice
  - Policy streams, cycles and systems
  - Problem identification
  - Policy implementation
  - Policy analysis and evaluation
- To **analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make decisions**
  - Program evaluation and action research
  - Organizational learning and development

This course also exposes students to the following core MPA competencies:

- To articulate and apply a **public service perspective**
  - Authentic citizen participation and community
  - Social and economic equity
- To **communicate** and interact productively with **a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry**
  - Pluralism/multiculturalism/cultural diversity
  - Coalition and team building
  - Information systems and technology

## **A GRADUATE SERVICE-LEARNING SEMINAR**

This course is designed as a graduate-level service-learning seminar, so all students are expected to take an active leadership role in stimulating class discussions on readings, assignments and relevant policy discourses as well as design and implement a major service-learning project with real-world public policy implications. Active participation by students in the seminar discussions and blogs is encouraged to help them achieve the course objectives through an interactive learning experience. Students will engage in a semester-length service-learning project to apply and refine the concepts, skills and tools discussed during the class.

At the beginning of each class, students will have an opportunity to ask questions pertaining to course expectations and assignments. If any student anticipates missing a class, please let me know.

## **COURSE WEBSITE**

A course website is created on Blackboard, which can be accessed at <https://bb.uvm.edu>. All power point presentations, additional readings, and detailed assignments will be available at the Blackboard website.

<b>TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS</b>
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Required:

Ostrom, Elinor (2005) **Understanding Institutional Diversity**. Princeton University Press. ISBN 0691122385

Sabatier, Paul A. (Ed.) (2007) **Theories of the Policy Process** (Second Edition). Westview Press. ISBN: 0813343593

Stone, Deborah. 2001. **Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making** (Third Edition). W.W. Norton & Co. ISBN: 0393976254

Additional readings that are included in the list of readings below (shown in *italics*) are available on the Blackboard website.

CALENDAR

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics and Readings</b>
January 18	<p><b>Topic: (1) Public Policy Theories and Models (2) Micro-Scale Policy Analysis I: Discourse and Argumentation Analysis</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapter 1 <i>Kumar and Pallathucheril 2004;</i></p>
January 25	<p><b><i>No class. Field work for SL project development. IRB certification and Blog writing set up</i></b></p>
February 1	<p><b>Topic: (1) Micro-Scale Policy Analysis II: Decision Analytical Approach</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> <i>Bardach, Eugene (2009) A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. (Read Pages 1-64 and skim pages 65-136).</i> <i>Rittel and Webber (1973) Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning.</i></p>
February 8	<p><b>Topic: Meso-Scale Theory I: Institutional Analysis and Development Framework</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapter 2 Ostrom 2005, Chapters 1, 2 and 4</p>
February 15	<p><b>Topic: Meso-Scale Theory I: Institutional Analysis and Development Framework</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Ostrom 2005, Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9</p>
February 22	<p><b>Topic: Meso-Scale Theory II: Multiple Streams Framework</b></p>

	<b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapter 3
March 1	<b>Topic: Meso-Scale Theory III: Social Construction and Policy Design</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapter 4 Stone 2002, Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
March 8	<i>Spring Recess</i>
March 15	<b>Topic: Meso-Scale Theory III: Social Construction and Policy Design</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Stone 2002, Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10
March 22	<b>Topic: Meso-Scale Theory III: Social Construction and Policy Design</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Stone 2002, Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and Conclusion <i>Hirsch et al. In Press</i>
March 29	<b>Topic: Meso-Scale Theory IV: The Network Approach</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapter 5 <i>Koliba and Zia 2009</i>
April 5	<b>Topic: Meso-Scale Theory V: The Advocacy Coalition Framework</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapter 7
April 12	<b>Topic: Macro-Scale Theory I: The Punctuated Equilibrium Theory</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapter 6
April 19	<b>Topic: (1) Macro-Scale Theory II: <i>Innovation and Diffusion Models</i>; (2) Macro-Scale Theory III: <i>Large-N Comparative Studies</i>;</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapters 8 and 9
April 26	<b>Topic: Meta-Theory of Public Policy</b>  <b>Readings:</b> Sabatier 2007, Chapters 10 and 11 <i>Zia et al. 2011</i>
May 3	<b>Service Learning Project Class Presentations</b>

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Majority of the assignments are geared towards providing you hands-on experience in conducting public policy analysis and evaluation and applying theoretical models and frameworks discussed during the class in a real-world service-learning context of a community project. Here is an overview of the assignments. More detailed instructions for each of these

assignments will be thoroughly discussed in the class and posted on the Blackboard. FOR ASSIGNMENTS 1 AND 2, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE UVM INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB) CERTIFICATION. YOU MUST ACQUIRE UVM IRB CERTIFICATION BY FEBRUARY 1, 2011 AND EMAIL YOUR CERTIFICATE TO THE CLASS TA.

**Assignment 1: Service Learning (SL) Policy Analysis Project (35%)**

**Assignment 2: Chittenden County Community Perception Survey on Transportation Policies, Programs, Plans and Projects (20%)**

**Assignment 3: Meta-Theoretical Analysis (20%)**

**Blogs on Policy Problems, their Analyses and Prescriptions (15%)**

**Class Participation (10%)**

<b>RELEVANT PUBLIC POLICY JOURNALS</b>
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1. Advances in Economic Analysis & Policy
2. Agenda: A Journal of Policy Analysis & Reform
3. American Economic Journal: Economic Policy
4. American Foreign Policy Interests: The Journal of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy
5. The American Journal of Tax Policy
6. American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy, and the Law
7. Analyses of social issues and public policy
8. Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy
9. Applied Health Economics and Health Policy
10. Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy
11. Asian American Policy Review
12. Asian Politics and Policy
13. Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy & Practice
14. Canadian-American Public Policy
15. Canadian journal of educational administration and policy
16. Canadian Public Policy : Analyse de Politiques
17. Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy
18. Climate Policy
19. Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy
20. Communication Law and Policy
21. Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal
22. Consumer Economic Policy
23. Contemporary Economic Policy
24. Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy
25. Criminology & Public Policy

26. Critical Social Policy
27. Defense & Foreign Affairs' Strategic Policy
28. Development Policy Review
29. Drugs: Education, Prevention, & Policy
30. Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum
31. Economic & Financial Policy Review
32. Economic Papers: A journal of applied economics and policy
33. Economic policy
34. Educational evaluation and policy analysis
35. Educational Policy
36. Educational research for policy and practice
37. Energy policy
38. Energy Sources, Part B: Economics, Planning and Policy
39. Environmental Economics and Policy Studies
40. Environmental Policy and Governance
41. Environmental Policy and Law
42. Environmental science & policy
43. European journal of housing policy
44. European Social Policy
45. Food policy
46. Foreign policy
47. Foreign policy analysis
48. Forest policy and economics
49. Genomics, society and policy
50. German Policy Studies
51. Global Environmental Change: Human and Policy Dimensions
52. Global Social Policy
53. Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy
54. Harvard journal of law and public policy
55. Health Economics, Policy and Law
56. Health policy
57. Health policy and planning
58. Health Research Policy and Systems
59. Higher Education Management and Policy
60. Housing policy debate
61. Information economics and policy
62. Information Infrastructure and Policy
63. Innovation: Management, Policy & Practice
64. International Economics and Economic Policy
65. International Journal of Cultural Policy
66. International Journal of Drug Policy
67. International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy
68. Journal for critical education policy studies
69. Journal of accounting and public policy
70. Journal of Business Administration and Policy Analysis
- 71. Journal of comparative policy analysis**

72. Journal of Consumer Policy
73. Journal of Disability Policy Studies
74. Journal of Economic Policy Reform
75. Journal of Education Policy
76. Journal of Educational Administration and Policy Studies
77. Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management
78. Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning
79. Journal of European public policy
80. Journal of European Social Policy
81. Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law
82. Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management
83. Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy
84. Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research
- 85. Journal of Policy Analysis & Management**
86. Journal of Policy History
- 87. Journal of policy modeling**
- 88. Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research**
89. Journal of public health policy
- 90. Journal of Public Policy**
91. Journal of Public Policy & Marketing
92. Journal of social policy
93. Journal of Transport Economics and Policy
94. Journal of Transportation Law, Logistics, and Policy
95. Knowledge and Policy
96. Knowledge, Technology & Policy
97. Land use policy
98. Language Policy
99. Latin American Policy
100. Law & policy
101. Marine policy
102. Maritime Policy & Management
103. Middle East policy
104. OECD journal of competition law and policy
105. Outlook on Science Policy
106. Perspectives: Policy and Practice in Higher Education
107. Pharmaceuticals policy and law
108. Philosophy & Public Policy Quarterly
109. Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice
- 110. Policy: A Journal of Public Policy and Ideas**
- 111. Policy & Practice**
- 112. Policy and Society**
113. Policy, Politics, & Nursing Practice
- 114. Policy Review**
- 115. Policy Sciences**
- 116. Policy Studies Journal**
- 117. Policy studies : the journal of the Policy Studies Institute**

118. Politics & policy
119. Population research and policy review
- 120. Public policy and administration**
- 121. Public policy research**
122. Public Works Management & Policy
123. Regional Science Policy & Practice
124. Research policy
125. Review of environmental economics and policy
- 126. Review of Policy Research**
127. Science and Public Policy
128. Sexuality Research and Social Policy
129. Social Issues and Policy Review
130. Social Philosophy and Policy
131. Social Policy
132. Social Policy & Administration
133. Social Policy and Society
134. Space Policy
135. Sustainability : science, practice, & policy
136. Transport policy
137. Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice
138. Urban Policy and Research
139. Utilities policy
140. World policy journal