

## PA 306: Policy Systems

# Spring 2017

Room: Old Mill Annex A207

Tuesdays, 4:35 - 7:35 pm

Instructor:	Asim Zia, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1 - 3 pm. Appointments at other times can also be made by email or	
telephone.	

Welcome to PA 306: Policy Systems. In this introductory graduate-level seminar geared toward current and aspiring public administrators and policy analysts, students will learn about policy analysis frameworks and theories that aim at understanding and assessing the complex dynamics of change and continuity in policy systems. In particular, the emphasis is placed upon the Multiple Streams Framework; Punctuated Equilibrium Theory; Democratic Policy Design and Social Construction; Policy Feedback Theory; the Advocacy Coalition Framework; Narrative Policy Framework; Institutional Analysis and Development Framework, Innovation and Diffusion Models and Complex Systems. Further, students will apply these theories and frameworks to analyze a substantive public policy problem. These policy problems may span, or even cut across, a broad range of policy domains such as (included but not limited to) energy policy, 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 complex 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
  - Policy making in complex systems

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 SEMINAR

This course is designed as a graduate-level 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 policy analysis project with real-world public policy implications. Active participation by students in the seminar discussions and two collaborative projects are also required to help them achieve the course objectives through an interactive learning experience. Each 3-hour seminar bloc is typically broken down as follows: (1) Instructor introduces the policy theory topic (60-75 minutes); (2) A designated student panel leads the discussion on the policy theory applications (45 minutes); (3) Instructor introduces the policy analysis topic (30 minutes); (4) Open discussion on questions that are generated prior to and during the seminar (30 minutes). In addition, students will engage in a semester-length policy analysis 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 <u>https://bb.uvm.edu</u>. All power point presentations, additional readings, and detailed assignments will be available at the Blackboard website.

## **TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS**

Required: (1) Sabatier, Paul A. and Weible, Christopher M. (Ed.) (2014) **Theories of the Policy Process** (Third Edition). Westview Press. ISBN: 9780813349268

(2) Weimer, David and Aidan R. Vining (2011) **Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice** (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Longman. ISBN 978-0205781300

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

CALENDAR	
Date	Topics and Readings
January 17	<b>Topic: Overview of Public Policy Theories and Frameworks</b>
	Background Readings: Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 1
	Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapters 1, 2 and 3
January 24	(Participant) observation of Vermont Governor's budget message &
	Field research for Assignment 1. No class.
January 31*	<b>Policy Theory Topic: Multiple Streams Framework</b>
	Readings: (1) Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 2 [Zahariadis]
	(2A) Avery, George. 2004. "Bioterrorism, Fear, and Public Health
	Reform: Matching a Policy Solution to the Wrong Window." Public
	Administration Review 64: 274–288.
	(2B) Lipson, Michael. 2007. "A 'Garbage Can Model' of UN
	Peacekeeping." Global Governance 13: 79–97.
	(2C) Liu, Xinsheng, Eric Lindquist, Arnold Vedlitz, and Kenneth
	Vincent. 2010. "Understanding Local Policy Making: Policy Elites'
	Perceptions of Local Agenda Setting and Alternative Policy
	Selection." Policy Studies Journal 38, no. 1: 69–91.
	Policy Analysis Topic: Gathering Information for Policy Analysis
	Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapter 14
February 7*	Policy Theory Topic: The Punctuated Equilibrium Theory
	Readings: (1) Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 3 [Baumgartner,
	Jones and Mortensen]
	(2A) Chaqués, Laura, and Anna Palau. 2009. "Comparing the
	Dynamics of Change in Food Safety and Pharmaceutical Policy in
	Spain." Journal of Public Policy 29, no. 1: 103–126.
	(2B) Jones, Bryan D., Herschel Thomas III, and Michelle Wolfe.
	2014. "Policy Bubbles." Policy Studies Journal 42, no.1: 146-171.

	(2C) Mortensen, Peter B. 2009. "Political Attention and Public Spending in the U.S." Policy Studies Journal 37, no. 3: 435–455.
	Policy Analysis Tonic: Londing on Vour Foot: Organizing Vour
	Policy Analysis Topic: Landing on Your Feet: Organizing Your Policy Analysis
	Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapter 15
February 14*	Policy Theory Topic: Democratic Policy Design & Social
	Construction
	Readings: (1) Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 4 [Schneider,
	Ingram and deLeon]
	(2A) Jacoby, William G. 2000. "Issue Framing and Public Opinion
	on Government Spending." American Journal of Political Science
	44, no. 4: 750–767.
	(2B) Crowley, Jocelyn, Margaret Watson, and Maureen R. Waller.
	2008. "Understanding Power Talk: Language, Public Policy, and
	Democracy." Perspectives on Politics 6, no. 1: 71–88.
	(2C) Chanley, Sharon, and Nicholas O. Alozie. 2001. "Policy for the
	'Deserving' but Politically Weak: The 1996 Welfare Reform Act and
	Battered Women." Policy Studies Review 18 (summer): 1–25.
	Deline Anglasia Tania Cast Dansfit Anglasia Associat
	Policy Analysis Topic: Cost-Benefit Analysis: Assessing
	Efficiency Deadings Wainen and Vining 2011 Chanters 16 and 17
Eshmany 21*	Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapters 16 and 17
February 21*	<b>Policy Theory Topic: Policy Feedback Theory</b> <b>Readings:</b> (1) Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 5 [Mettler and
	SoRelle]
	(2A) Chen, Jowei. 2013. "Voter Partisanship and the Effect of
	Distributive Spending on Political Participation." American Journal
	of Political Science 57, no. 1: 200–217.
	(2B) Faricy, Christopher. 2011. "The Politics of Social Policy in
	America: The Causes and Effects of Indirect Versus Direct Social
	Spending." Journal of Politics 73: 74–83.
	(2C) Jordan, Jason. 2013. "Policy Feedback and Support for the
	Welfare State." Journal of European Social Policy 23, no. 2: 134–
	148.
	Policy Analysis Topic: Correcting Market and Government
	Failures: Generic Policies
	Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapters 1 and 10
February 28*	<b>Policy Theory Topic: The Advocacy Coalition Framework</b>
	Readings: (1) Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 6 [Jenkins-Smith et
	al.]
	(2A) Leach, William D., and Paul A. Sabatier. 2005. "To Trust an
	Adversary: Integrating Rational and Psychological Models of
1	Collaborative Policymaking." American Political Science Review 99,
	no. 4: 491–503.

	<ul> <li>(2B) Leifeld, Philip. 2013. "Reconceptualizing Major Policy Change in the Advocacy Coalition Framework: A Discourse Network Analysis of German Pension Politics." Policy Studies Journal 41, no. 1: 169–198.</li> <li>(2C) Weible, Christopher M. 2007. "An Advocacy Coalition Framework Approach to Stakeholder Analysis: Understanding the Political Context of California Marine Protected Area Policy." Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory 17: 95–117.</li> <li>Policy Analysis Topic: Efficiency and the Idealized Competitive Model</li> </ul>
	Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapter 4
March 7	Town Meeting Day Recess. No Class
March 14	Spring Recess. No Class
March 21*	<ul> <li>Policy Theory Topic: Narrative Policy Framework</li> <li>Readings: (1) Sabatier &amp; Weible 2014, Chapter 7 [McBeth, Jones and Shanahan]</li> <li>(2A) McBeth, Mark K., and Elizabeth A. Shanahan. 2004. "Public Opinion for Sale: The Role of Policy Marketers in Greater</li> <li>Yellowstone Policy Conflict." Policy Sciences 37, no. 3: 319–338.</li> <li>(2B) Shanahan, Elizabeth A., Michael D. Jones, Mark K. McBeth, and Ross R. Lane. 2013. "An Angel on the Wind: How Heroic Policy Narratives Shape Policy Realities." Policy Studies Journal 41, no. 3: 453–483.</li> <li>(2C) Jones, Michael D.2014. "Communicating Climate Change: Are Stories Better Than 'Just the Facts'?" Policy Studies Journal 42.4 (2014): 644-673.</li> <li>Policy Analysis Topic: Rationales for Public Policy: Market Failuers and Other Limitations of the Competitive Framework Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapters 5 &amp; 6</li> </ul>
March 28*	<ul> <li>Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapters 5 &amp; 6</li> <li>Policy Theory Topic: Institutional Analysis and Development Framework</li> <li>Readings: (1) Sabatier &amp; Weible 2014, Chapter 8 [Ostrom et al.] (2A) Lam, Wai Fung, and Elinor Ostrom. 2010. "Analyzing the Dynamic Complexity of Development Interventions: Lessons from an Irrigation Experiment in Nepal." Policy Sciences 43, no. 1: 1–25.</li> <li>(2B) Lubell, Mark, Mark Schneider, John T. Scholz, and Mihriye Mete. 2002. "Watershed Partnerships and the Emergence of Collective Action Institutions." American Journal of Political Science 46, no. 1: 148–163.</li> <li>(2C) Chhatre, Ashwini, and Arun Agrawal. 2008. "Forest Commons and Local Enforcement." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 105, no. 36: 13286–13291.</li> <li>Policy Analysis Topic: Rationales for Public Policy:</li> </ul>

Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapter 7April 4*Policy Theory Topic: Innovation and Diffusion Models Readings: (1) Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 9 [Berry and Berry] (2A) Baybeck, Brady, William D. Berry, and David Siegel. 2011. "A Strategic Theory of Policy Diffusion via Intergovernmental Competition." Journal of Politics 73: 232–247. (2B) Jensen, Nathan M., and René Lindstädt. 2012. "Leaning Right and Learning from the Left: Diffusion of Corporate Tax Policy Across Borders." Comparative Political Studies 45: 283–311. (2C) Shipan, Charles, and Craig Volden. 2008. "The Mechanisms of Policy Diffusion." American Journal of Political Science 52: 840– 857.Policy Analysis Topic: Limits to Public Intervention: Government Failures Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapters 8 and 9April 11*Policy Theory Topic: Complex Systems Framework		Distributional and Other Goals
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April 11*Policy Theory Topic: Complex Systems Framework Readings: (1) OECD Global Science Forum (2009) "Applications of Complexity Science for Public Policy: New Tools for Finding Unanticipated Consequences and Unrealized Opportunities." Available online at http://www.oecd.org/sti/sci-tech/43891980.pdf (2A) Ostrom, E. (2009) Beyond Markets and States: Polycentric Governance of Complex Economic Systems. Nobel Price Lecture. Available at http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic- sciences/laureates/2009/ostrom_lecture.pdf (2B) Zia, Asim, Arne Bomblies, Andrew W. Schroth, Christopher Koliba, Peter D.F. Isles, Yushiou Tsai, Ibrahim N. Mohammed, Gabriela Bucini, Patrick Clemins, Scott Turnbull, Morgan Rodgers, Ahmed Hamed, Brian Beckage, Jonathan Winter, Carol Adair, Gillian L. Galford, Donna Rizzo and Judith Van Houten (2016) Coupled impacts of climate and land use change across a river-lake continuum: insights from an integrated assessment model of Lake Champlain's Missisquoi Basin, 2000-2040. Environmental Research Letters 11, Number 11. (2C) Laver, M., 2005. Policy and the dynamics of political competition. American Political Science Review, 99(02), pp.263-281.April 18*Policy Theory Topic: A Comparison of Theories of the Policy Process and Future Research Program Reading: Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 10 [Cairney and		
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Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 11 [Weible]		-

	Policy Analysis Topic: Government Supply: Drawing Organizational Boundaries Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapter 13 Class Presentations on the team-based Policy Analysis Projects
April 25	Policy Theory Topic: Advancing policy process research Reading: Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 11 [Weible]
	<b>Class Presentations on the individual Policy Analysis Projects</b>
May 2	Class Presentations on the individual Policy Analysis Projects

## 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 context of a policy analysis project. Here is an overview of the assignments. More detailed instructions for each of these assignments will be thoroughly discussed in the class, posted on the Blackboard and periodically reviewed in class.

**Assignment 1: Policy Analysis Project (35%)** To be introduced in the class on January 17, 2017

Assignment 2: Team-Based Policy Project on Legislative Committees (25%) To be introduced in the class on February 7, 2017

Assignment 3: Critical Review of Policy Framework Applications (30%): Every week, indicated by a \* on the calendar, you will submit a 250-400 word critical review of the assigned readings. Your critique could address theoretical, methodological and/or analytical issues. You must bring a printed copy of your review at the start of each class for the assigned readings.

#### **Class Participation and Leadership (10%)**

#### **Inclusiveness:**

<u>Disability/Access</u>: In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact ACCESS, the office of Disability Services on campus. ACCESS works with students to create reasonable and appropriate accommodations via an accommodation letter to their professors as early as possible each semester. Contact ACCESS: A170 Living/Learning Center - 802-656-7753 - <u>access@uvm.edu</u>.

<u>Religious Holidays</u>: Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to me in

writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time.

## **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Academic Integrity Policy

1. Students may not plagiarize.

All ideas, arguments, and phrases, submitted without attribution to other sources must be the creative product of the student. Thus, all text passages taken from the works of other authors (published or unpublished) must be properly cited. The same applies to paraphrased text, opinions, data, examples, illustrations, and all other creative work. Violations of this standard constitute plagiarism.

2. Students may not fabricate.

All experimental data, observations, interviews, statistical surveys, and other information collected and reported as part of academic work must be authentic. Any alteration, e.g., the removal of statistical outliers, must be clearly documented. Data must not be falsified in any way. Violations of this standard constitute fabrication.

3. Students may not collude.

Students may only provide, seek or accept information about any academic work to or from another student with the authorization of the instructor. Students may only collaborate on academic work within the limits prescribed by their instructors. Violations of this standard constitute collusion.

4. Students may not cheat.

Students must adhere to the guidelines provided by their instructors for completing academic work. Students may not claim as their own work any portion of academic work that was completed by another student. Students may only use materials approved by their instructor when completing an assignment or exam. Students may not present the same (or substantially the same) work for more than one course without obtaining approval from the instructor of each course. Students must adhere to all course reserves regulations. Violations of this standard constitute cheating

## Grade Appeals

A student who believes that s/he has received an unfair course grade should first contact the registrar's office to verify that the grade submitted by the instructor is the same grade the registrar has recorded. If the grade has been recorded correctly, the student should next contact the instructor, department chair, and dean of the college/school in which the course is offered (in that order) to discuss the matter.

The following deadline must be observed by the student who wishes to appeal a grade (though extensions may be granted by the dean of the college / school offering the course). The student should contact the instructor as soon as possible, and no later than the tenth day of instruction of the semester following the assignment of the grade in question. No grade can be appealed after the student has graduated.

## Educational Records and Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records.

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect.

The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Students may write the University official responsible for the record to ask that it be amended, and should clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of their privacy rights under FERPA

# **RELEVANT PUBLIC POLICY JOURNALS**

- 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. Analyses of social issues and public policy
- 7. Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy
- 8. Applied Health Economics and Health Policy
- 9. Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy
- 10. Asian American Policy Review
- 11. Asian Politics and Policy
- 12. Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy & Practice
- 13. Canadian-American Public Policy
- 14. Canadian Public Policy : Analyse de Politiques
- 15. Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy
- 16. Climate Policy
- 17. Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy
- 18. Communication Law and Policy
- 19. Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal

- 20. Consumer Economic Policy
- 21. Contemporary Economic Policy
- 22. Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy
- 23. Criminology & Public Policy
- 24. Critical Social Policy
- 25. Defense & Foreign Affairs' Strategic Policy
- 26. Development Policy Review
- 27. Drugs: Education, Prevention, & Policy
- 28. Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum
- 29. Economic & Financial Policy Review
- 30. Economic Papers: A journal of applied economics and policy
- 31. Economic policy
- 32. Educational evaluation and policy analysis
- 33. Educational Policy
- 34. Educational research for policy and practice
- 35. Energy policy
- 36. Energy Sources, Part B: Economics, Planning and Policy
- 37. Environmental Economics and Policy Studies
- 38. Environmental Policy and Governance
- 39. Environmental Policy and Law
- 40. Environmental science & policy
- 41. European journal of housing policy

- 42. European Social Policy
- 43. Food policy
- 44. Foreign policy
- 45. Foreign policy analysis
- 46. Forest policy and economics
- 47. Genomics, society and policy
- 48. Global Environmental Change: Human and Policy Dimensions
- 49. Global Social Policy
- 50. Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy
- 51. Harvard journal of law and public policy
- 52. Health Economics, Policy and Law
- 53. Health policy
- 54. Health policy and planning
- 55. Health Research Policy and Systems
- 56. Higher Education Management and Policy
- 57. Housing policy debate
- 58. Information economics and policy
- 59. Information Infrastructure and Policy
- 60. Innovation: Management, Policy & Practice
- 61. International Economics and Economic Policy
- 62. International Journal of Cultural Policy
- 63. International Journal of Drug Policy
- 64. International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy
- 65. Journal for critical education policy studies
- 66. Journal of accounting and public policy
- 67. Journal of Business Administration and Policy Analysis
- 68. Journal of comparative policy analysis
- 69. Journal of Consumer Policy
- 70. Journal of Disability Policy Studies
- 71. Journal of Economic Policy Reform
- 72. Journal of Education Policy
- 73. Journal of Educational Administration and Policy Studies

- 74. Journal of Environmental
  - Assessment Policy and Management
- 75. Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning
- 76. Journal of European public policy
- 77. Journal of European Social Policy
- 78. Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law
- 79. Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management
- Sournal of International Wildlife Law & Policy
- 81. Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research
- 82. Journal of Policy Analysis & Management
- 83. Journal of Policy History
- 84. Journal of policy modeling
- 85. Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research
- 86. Journal of public health policy
- 87. Journal of Public Policy
- 88. Journal of Public Policy & Marketing
- 89. Journal of social policy
- 90. Journal of Transport Economics and Policy
- 91. Journal of Transportation Law, Logistics, and Policy
- 92. Knowledge and Policy
- 93. Knowledge, Technology & Policy
- 94. Land use policy
- 95. Language Policy
- 96. Latin American Policy
- 97. Law & policy
- 98. Marine policy
- 99. Maritime Policy & Management
- 100. Middle East policy
- 101. OECD journal of competition law and policy
- 102. Outlook on Science Policy
- 103. Perspectives: Policy and Practice in Higher Education
- 104. Philosophy & Public Policy Quarterly

105.	Policy: A Journal of Public	
Policy and Ideas		
106.	Policy & Practice	
107.	Policy and Society	
108.	Policy, Politics, & Nursing	
Practice		
109.	Policy Review	
110.	Policy Sciences	
111.	<b>Policy Studies Journal</b>	
112.	<b>Policy studies : the journal</b>	
of the Policy Studies Institute		
113.	Politics & policy	
114.	Population research and	
policy review		
115.	Public policy and	
admir	nistration	
116.	Public policy research	
117.	Public Works Management &	
Policy		
118.	Regional Science Policy &	
Practice		

119. Research policy

- 120. Review of environmental economics and policy
- 121. Review of Policy Research
- 122. Science and Public Policy
- 123. Sexuality Research and Social Policy
- 124. Social Issues and Policy Review
- 125. Social Philosophy and Policy
- 126. Social Policy
- 127. Social Policy & Administration
- 128. Social Policy and Society
- 129. Space Policy
- 130. Sustainability : science, practice, & policy
- 131. Transport policy
- 132. Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice
- 133. Urban Policy and Research
- 134. Utilities policy
- 135. World policy journal