

**PO 741
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS**

Fall 2011

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Office Hours
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This course has three purposes: 1) to discuss the analytical and theoretical foundations of the field of the policy sciences, 2) to discuss the limitations on "rational" policymaking and 3) to examine in detail the following policies: welfare, health care, and education in the U.S., Western Europe, and Japan. Thus, the course will have both an analytical and comparative perspective. The course has a web page that can be found at <http://blackboard.bu.edu> where you must look for this course on the top right. The readings designated **ONLINE** can be downloaded from that web page.

Course Requirements

The course grade will be based on

- 1) class participation and attendance: 15%
- 2) short paper assignments: students will be asked to write
 - 2 short papers (10 pages or less) solving mathematical/analytical problems or critiquing the readings, 40%
- 3) final paper (10-15 pages) 45% DUE Dec. 16 examining the pros and cons of alternatives to a policy problem (e.g. education, welfare, health care, etc.) from the perspective of market failure and government failure, estimated costs and benefits of alternatives from a comparative perspective. Cite the readings. [Note if you want an extension of this paper or any other paper, you will be marked down 1/3 of a grade on the paper (e.g. A to A-) for every week it is late up to a maximum of one letter grade.]

Incompletes are not automatic and must be negotiated. Late papers will incur the above penalty.

HOLIDAYS AFFECTING THIS CLASS: Mon. Oct. 10

Readings:

BOOKS TO BE PURCHASED:

David L. Weimer and Aidan R. Vining, Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice, (5th edition) Longman, 2011.

Jessica R. Adolino, and Charles H. Blake, Comparing Public Policies, second ed., Congressional Quarterly Press, 2010.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS available **ONLINE** are on the course web page (see above).

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

I. ANALYZING POLICY ANALYSIS

1. INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS? (Week of Sept. 12, 19)

Required:

- 1) Rossell, C. "Using Multiple Criteria to Evaluate Public Policies: the Case of School Desegregation," American Politics Quarterly, 1993, **ONLINE**.
- 2) Friedman, M. "The Role of Government," in M. Friedman, Capitalism and Freedom, pp.22-39 (U. Chicago Press, 1962). **ONLINE**.
- 3) Hill, Kim. "In Search of Policy Theory." Policy Currents, 7 (1) April 1997, pp. 1-16 (including APSA Panels) **ONLINE**.

Recommended:

- Schlager, Edella. "A Response to Kim Quaile Hill's "In Search of Policy Theory," Policy Currents, 7 (2) June 1997, pp. 14-15 **ONLINE**.
- Sabatier, Paul. "The Status and Development of Policy Theory: a Reply to Hill," Policy Currents, 7 (4) December 1997, pp. 1-10 **ONLINE**.
- Tobin, J. (1970). "On Limiting the Domain of Inequality," Journal of Law and Economics.
- Choran, C. (1974). "Political Science and the Public Interest," Journal of Politics, 36, 327-355.
- Lindblom, C. (1982). "Another State of Mind," American Political Science Review, 76, 9-21.

2. **ANALYTICAL MODELS OF THE POLICY PROCESS** (week of Sept. 19, 26)

Required:

Policymaking:

1) Charles Lindblom, "The Science of Muddling Through," Public Administration Review, 19 (1959), 79-89. **ONLINE**

2) Weimar and Vining, Chapt. 11, "Adoption" (PURCHASE BOOK)

Implementation:

1) Lester, James and Malcolm Goggin. (1998). "Back to the Future: the Rediscovery of Implementation Studies," Policy Currents, 8, 1-10.

2) Weimar and Vining, Chapt. 12, "Implementation"

Recommended:

Charles Lindblom, "Still Muddling, Not Quite Through," Public Administration Review, 39 (Nov./Dec. 1979) 517-526. **ONLINE**

Paul Schulman, "Nonincremental Policy Making: Notes Toward an Alternative Paradigm," American Political Science Review, 69, (Dec. 1975) 1354-1370 **ONLINE**

(1999) "Perspectives on Implementation Research: Responses to Lester and Goggin's "Back to the Future" Policy Currents, 8 (4), 1-3. **ONLINE**

- Winter, Soren
- De Leon, Peter

(1999) More Responses to Lester and Goggin's "Back to the Future," Policy Currents, 9 (1), 1-8. **ONLINE**

- Schneider, Anne
- Meier, Kenneth

Hill, Michael and Peter L. Hupe, Implementing Public Policy: An Introduction to the Study of Operational Governance, Sage, 2009

Braybrooke, D. and Lindblom, C.E. (1970). A Strategy of Decision, The Free Press.

deHaven-Smith, Lance, Philosophical Critiques of Policy Analysis: Lindblom, Habermas, and the Great Society, 1988.

Bardach, E. and Kagan, M, Going By the Book, (Temple University, 1982).

Bardach, E., The Implementation Game, MIT, 1979.

Policy Analysis: (Oct. 4, 12)

1) Weimar and Vining, Chapt. 1 and 2.

3. **LIMITATIONS OF THE RATIONAL POLICY ANALYSIS MODEL** (Weeks of Oct. 3, 17)

1) Easterbrook, "Beyond the Hurricane Hype," Reuters, 8/26/10 **ONLINE**

2) Nassim Taleb, Foiled by Randomness, Chapt. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, Postscript **ONLINE**

3) Nassim Taleb, The Black Swan, Chapt. Prologue, 1, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15 Glossary **ONLINE**

Paper assignment #1 due one week after last class on this section.

4. **THE POLICY ANALYSIS MODEL AND ITS TOOLS** (Weeks of Oct. 17, 24, 31)

Required:

1) David Weimer and Aidan Vining, Policy Analysis, Concepts and Practice (Chapt. 4-10, 13, 16-18). **PURCHASE**

Recommended:

- Edith Stokey and Richard Zeckhauser, A Primer for Policy Analysis, Chapters 9-10, **ONLINE**.
Journal of Public Policy Analysis and Management
- MacRae, Duncan, and Whittington, Dale, Expert Advice for Policy Choice: Analysis and Discourse, Georgetown University Press, 1997
- Havemann, R. and Margolis, S., Public Expenditures and Public Policy Analysis, Houghton-Mifflin, 1983.
- Behn, Robert and Vaupel, James, Quick Analysis for Busy Decision Makers, Basic Books, 1982.
- Thompson, Mark, Benefit-Cost Analysis for Program Evaluation, Sage, 1980.
- MacRae, D. and Wilde, J., Policy Analysis for Public Decisions, Duxbury, 1979.
- Sassone, Peter and Schaffer, William, Cost-Benefit Analysis, A Handbook, Academic Press, 1978.
- Schelling, Thomas Micromotives and Macrobehavior, Norton, 1978.

Paper assignment #2 due one week after last class on Weimer and Vining.

**II. COMPARING PUBLIC POLICIES ACROSS COUNTRIES TO
BE REVISED**

5. INTRODUCTION (Week of Nov. 7)

Required:

- 1) Adolino and Blake, 2011, Chapt. 1 (including intro) - 4 **PURCHASE BOOK**
- 2) Przeworski, Alvarez, Cheibub, Limongi, "Economic Development and Political Regimes," 2003 in *The Democracy Sourcebook*, eds., Robert Dahl, Ian Shapiro, and Jose Antonio Cheibub. **ONLINE**
- 3) Goldberg, et al., "Low Per capita Income Countries Never Remain Democracies," 2004. **ONLINE**

Recommended:

- Journal of Comparative Public Policy
- Heidenheimer, Arnold, Hecllo, Hugh and Adams, Carolyn, Comparative Public Policy, (4th Ed.) St. Martin's Press, 1990).
- Francis Castle, The Comparative History of Public Policy, Oxford University Press, 1989.
- MacPherson, Stewart and Midgely, James, Comparative Social Policy and the Third World, St. Martin's Press, 1987.
- Fagerlind, Ingemar and Saha, Lawrence J., Education and National Development, Pergamon Press, 1983.
- McLennan, Barbara N., Comparative Politics and Public Policy, Duxbury Press, 1980.

6. SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY (Week of Nov. 14)

Required:

- 1) Adolino and Blake, 2011, Chapt. 9
- 2) Bane, "Poverty Politics and Policy," September 2008 **ONLINE**
- 3) Janti, "Mobility in the United States in Comparative Perspective," Sept. 2008. **ONLINE**
- 4) Mayer and Wallace, "Poverty Levels and Trends in Comparative Perspective," Sept. 2008 **ONLINE**
- 5) Moffitt, "Welfare Reform: the U.S. Experience" 2008 **ONLINE**
- 6) Murray, "Guaranteed Income and the Welfare State [U.S.], 2008 **ONLINE**
- 6) Scholz, "Taxation and Poverty: 1960–2006 [U.S.]," *Focus*, 2007. **ONLINE**
- 7) Rector, "How Poor are America's Poor?" Heritage Foundation, 2009. **ONLINE**
- 7) Farrell et al, Welfare Time Limits (Executive Summary) [U.S.], MDRC, 2008 (**ONLINE**)
- 9) London Times, "Welfare Mothers to be Forced to Work," Dec. 2008 (**ONLINE**)
- 10) Jaumotte, "Women and Work," OECD, 2005 (**ONLINE**)
- 11) Morgan, Kimberly J. "The Politics of Mothers' Employment: France in Comparative Perspective," *World Politics* 55 #2 (Jan, 2003): 259-289. **ONLINE**
- 14) Lowrey, "The List: the Best Places to Lose Your Job," *Foreign Policy*, March 2009 with comments by S.Perez and a competing list. **ONLINE**

Recommended:

Martin, C.J., "Reinventing Welfare Regimes, Employers and the Implementation of Active Social Policy," *World Politics*, 57 (Oct. 2004), 39-69.

Commentary on Poverty Dynamics:

Richard Burkhauser, "What Policymakers Need to Know About Poverty Dynamics," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 20 (4) 757-759 (2001);

Michael Wiseman, "A Note on Poverty and the Life Course," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 20 (4) 759-760 (2001).

Neeraj Kaushal and Robert Kaestner, "From Welfare to Work: Has Welfare Reform Worked?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 20 (4) 699-719 (2001).

7. HEALTH CARE POLICY (Week of Nov. 21, 28) **Required:**

- 1) Adolino and Blake, 2009, Chapt. on this subject
- 2) Cochran, et al., 2009 Chapt. 8: Health Care.... **ONLINE**
- 3) Whitman, Glen. (May 2008) "Trouble In The Ranks: How The World Health Organization Unfairly Evaluates National Health Care Systems," **ONLINE**
- 4) Philipson, "Don't Surrender Innovation in the Name of Health Care Reform, The DC Examiner, 3/16/2009 **ONLINE**
- 5) Gratzer, "In Order to Reform Health Care, You Must First Reform Tax Code," April 2009. **ONLINE**
- 6) Coburn and Herzlinger, "Health Care Reform that Will Kill the U.S. Economy, April 2009 **ONLINE**
- 7) Bernstein and MacCourt, "Best Practices for Health Care (and Tort) Reform," *Medical Progress Today*, 8-14-09 **ONLINE**
- 8) Malanga, "Trying to Cover the Unenthusiastic Uninsured," *Real Clear Markets*, June 2009. **ONLINE**
- 9) Dutton, Paul. (2002) "Health Care in France and the United States: Learning from Each Other," *Brookings*, **ONLINE**
- 10) Dutton, Paul. (2007) "France's Model Healthcare System," *Brookings*, **ONLINE**
- 11) FrenchEntrée.com, (2008?) "Healthcare in France-An Introduction." **ONLINE**
- 12) FrenchEntrée.com, (2008?) "Healthcare Changes in France." **ONLINE**
- 13) FrenchEntrée.com, (2008?) "Healthcare France FAQ." **ONLINE**
- 14) *Business Week*, (2007) "French Lesson in Healthcare." **ONLINE**
- 15) Maio, Vittorio and Lamberto Manzoli. (2002). "The Italian Healthcare System," *P & T*, 27(6): 301-308. **ONLINE**.
- 16) Gratzer, David. "Where Would you Rather Be Sick,?" *Wall Street Journal*, 6-15-06. [Canada vs. U.S.]. **ONLINE**
- 17) NPR, (2007) Moore's 'Sicko' Lands Blows on U.S. Health Care," **ONLINE**
- 18) Ramsey, Cynthia. (2007) "Michael Moore's sheer fantasy: Canada's "world-class" health-care system," *MedicalProgressToday.Com* **ONLINE**
- 19) Wikipedia, (Dec. 2008) "Massachusetts 2006 Health Care Reform." **ONLINE**

Recommended:

Seidman, L. (1990). Reconsidering national health insurance. *The Public Interest*, 101 (Fall), 78-88.

Walker, G. (1986). Reforming Medicare: The limited framework of political discourse on equity and economy. *Social Science and Medicine*, 23 (12), 1237-1250.

8. EDUCATION POLICY (Week of Dec. 5, 12)

Required:

- 1) Adolino and Blake, 2009, Chapt. on this subject
- 2) Kerckhoff, Alan C., "Education and Social Stratification Processes in Comparative Perspective," *Sociology of Education*, 2001: 3-18 **ONLINE**
- 3) Heidenheimer, Hecllo, and Adams, Chapt. 2, **ONLINE**
- 3) Eric Hanushek, "The Seeds of Growth," *Education Next*, Fall 2002, 10-18. **ONLINE**
- 4) William Easterly, "Barren Land," *Education Next*, Fall 2002, 18-23 **ONLINE**
- 5) Bracey, Gerald, (2000) "The TIMSS "Final Year" Study and Report: A Critique," *Educational Researcher*, (2000) 4-10. **ONLINE**
- 6) Gorard, Stephen, Fitz, John, and Taylor, Chris. (2001) School Choice Impacts: What Do We Know?" *Educational Researcher* 30: 18-23. **ONLINE**
- 7) "Financing Universities: Who Pays to Study?" (European Universities), *Economist*, 2004 **ONLINE**
- 8) Rothstein, "A Nation at Risk" 25 Years Later, 2008. **ONLINE**
- 9) Fact Check, Education Spin, 2009 **ONLINE**

Recommended:

Westbury, I., "Comparing American and Japanese Achievement: Is U.S. Really a Low Achiever?", Educational Researcher, 21 (5) June-July 1992: 18-24.

Bracey, Gerald, "The Third Bracey Report on the Condition of Public Education," Phi Delta Kappan, Oct. 1993 (75), 104-117.

Bracey, Gerald, "International Comparisons and the Condition of American Education," Educational Researcher, (1996) 25, 5-11.

Instruction ends Mon. Dec. 12