Barnard College  
Dept. of Political Science  

Power, Politics and Policymaking  
BC3210x  
Spring 2008

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Course Description  
This course investigates the question of government performance by examining the intersection of people, organizational structure and politics. How is the public will translated into public policy by the individuals who make up government? How do choices in organizational structure affect the implementation of policy? Why is government failure (of people, policies or organizations) hard to predict, and sometimes harder to fix? Using readings, policy exercises and case studies, the class will critically analyze the question of why some government policies and programs work, while others do not. While this class serves as an introduction to theories of public policy, bureaucracy and organization, the focus of the class is on understanding the exercise of public power and the policy outcomes that are produced.

Class Participation  
An overview of the readings for the week will be covered at the beginning of each class. The rest of the class time will focus on answering the questions for the week, as well as the broader questions and themes that are our focus for the semester. Please keep in mind that these questions are a start, not an end, to our discussion. Students share a responsibility in ensuring that class time is used productively. You must prepare for class by reading the assignments and thinking about the issues and questions they raise before coming to class.

Work Product Requirements  

Reading summary  
Each student will produce a summary of at least two readings that compares/contrasts one reading with another. The summary will be at least 3 pages long.

Policy Memos  
Two 3 to 5 page policy memos are required for this class. Each policy memo will discuss a policy program or organization from two out of the three case study areas covered in class: Crime and Criminal Justice Policy, Poverty and Social Welfare Policy; or, Cities and Urban Renewal Policy. Instructions for preparation of the memos will be distributed in class.

Oral Presentation and Final paper  
The last three class sessions will be spent on student presentations. Each student will give an oral and written presentation of a policy memo of her or his choice. Instructions for this oral presentation will be given to students by the instructor. A final paper 10 page paper based on your oral presentation and policy paper will also be required.
Grading

Class Participation 10%
Reading Summary 15%
Due February 23rd
Policy Memos 30%
2 @15% each
Memo #1 due by March 11th
Memo #2 due by March 30th
Oral Presentation 20%
Final Examination Paper 25%
Total 100%

Course Learning Objectives
At the end of the course you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the American public policy process, including the structure of political decision making, the role of institutional and organizational structure, and the impact of individual behavior.

- Discuss how the public policy process is shaped and contributes to an understanding of current policy issues.

- Analyze current policy challenges in with regard to political and institutional context and understanding.

- Apply theories of political behavior and structure to compare, distinguish and evaluate public policy.

- Synthesize reading materials and lecture notes to write two short policy memos, which will increase your discursive and critical thinking skills.

Course Readings
Books available at BookCulture bookstore, and at Barnard Reserves. Other readings available on CourseWorks course site as indicated by (CW). If necessary, reading assignments may be modified by instructor.

Steven Maynard-Moody & Michael Musheno, *Cops, Counselors and Teachers*
Course schedule - Summary
Section 1  January 21\textsuperscript{st}/26\textsuperscript{th}
What is Power?
Section 2  January 28\textsuperscript{th} & Feb 2\textsuperscript{nd}/4\textsuperscript{th}
Setting the Scope of Conflict
Section 3  Feb 9\textsuperscript{th}/11\textsuperscript{th}/16\textsuperscript{th}
Agenda setting
Section 4  Feb 23\textsuperscript{rd}/25\textsuperscript{th} & March 2\textsuperscript{nd}
Urban Renewal
Section 5  March 4\textsuperscript{th}/9\textsuperscript{th}
Implementing Policy – individuals
Section 6  March 23\textsuperscript{rd}/25\textsuperscript{th}/30\textsuperscript{th}
Social Welfare
Section 7  April 6\textsuperscript{th}/8\textsuperscript{th}
Implementing Policy - organizations
Section 8  April 12\textsuperscript{th}/15\textsuperscript{th}/20\textsuperscript{th}
Crime and Criminal Justice
Section 9 (April 22\textsuperscript{nd}/27\textsuperscript{th}/29\textsuperscript{th})
Oral Presentations & Class Conclusion

Course Schedule – Detail

Section 1  January 21\textsuperscript{st}/26\textsuperscript{th}
What is Power?
Bachrach and Baratz, “The Two Faces of Power” (CW)
Mills, The Power Elite (CW)

State power
Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Chapter 1 and 2
Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, “Panopticism” (CW)
Anderson, *American Census*, chapters 1, 4-7

Section 2  January 28\textsuperscript{th} & Feb 2\textsuperscript{nd}/4\textsuperscript{th}
Setting the Scope of Conflict
Schattschneider, *The Semi-sovereign People*, Chapters 1, 2 & 4 (CW)
Baumgartner & Jones, *Agendas & Instability*, Part 1

Section 3  Feb 9\textsuperscript{th}/11\textsuperscript{th}/16\textsuperscript{th}
Agenda setting
Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives*, Chapter 1 (Overview) and Chapter 3 (Outside In) (CW)
Miller, *Perils of Federalism*, Chapters 1-4

No Class – February 18\textsuperscript{th}
Section 4 Feb 23rd/25th & March 2nd
Urban Renewal
Scott, Seeing Like a State, Chapters 3 to 5

Cases Study: New York
Flint, Wrestling with Moses, TBA
Jackson, Robert Moses, TBA

The case of Albany, NY
http://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivanm/empiresp/empiresp.html

Section 5 March 4th/9th
Implementing Policy – individuals
Maynard-Moody, Cops, Teachers, Counselors, TBA
Lipsky, Street Level Bureaucrats (selections) (CW)
Arendt, “Eichmann in Jerusalem” (CW)

No Class - March 11th
Policy Memo Due – March 11th

No Class - March 16th/18th (Spring break)

Section 6 March 23rd/25th/30th
Social Welfare
Michael Katz, In the Shadow of the Poorhouse, TBA
Piven and Cloward, Regulating the Poor, TBA

Case Study: Foster Care
Dennis Saffran, “Fatal Preservation” City Journal
http://www.city-journal.org/html/7_3_fatal.html
Bernstein The Lost Children of Wilder (CW)

Policy Memo Due - March 30th

Section 7 April 6th/8th
Implementing Policy – organizations
Pressman & Wildavsky, Implementation, Chapters 3-5 (CW)
Adams, Unmasking Administrative Evil, Chapters 1 and 6 (CW)

Section 8 April 12th/15th/20th
Crime and Criminal Justice
Miller, Perils of Federalism, Chapters 5-7

Case Study: Broken Windows
Timothy Lynch, “We Own the Night: Amadou Diallo’s Deadly Encounter with New York City’s Street Crime Units.” Cato Institute Briefing Papers #56

“The New York City Police Department’s ‘Stop & Frisk’ Practices: A Report to the People of the State of New York From The Office Of The Attorney General”
http://www.oag.state.ny.us/press/reports/stop_frisk/stop_frisk.html

COPS Program Spurs Community Policing Nationwide, According to New Urban Institute Evaluation, The Urban Institute
http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=900043

Section 9 (April 22nd/27th/29th)
Oral Presentations & Class Conclusion

Final Paper Due – TBD