



PA 306: Policy Systems

Spring 2017

Room: Old Mill Annex A207

Tuesdays, 4:35 – 7:35 pm

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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

- 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

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.

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** (5th 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	Topic: Overview of Public Policy Theories and Frameworks Background Readings: Sabatier & Weible 2014, Chapter 1 Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapters 1, 2 and 3
January 24	(

(2C) Mortensen, Peter B. 2009. "Political Attention and Public Spending in the U.S." *Policy Studies Journal* 37, no. 3: 435–455.

(2B) Leifeld, Philip. 2013. "Reconceptualizing Major Policy Change"

	<p>Distributional and Other Goals Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapter 7</p>
April 4*	<p>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." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 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." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 45: 283– 311. (2C) Shipan, Charles, and Craig Volden. 2008. "The Mechanisms of Policy Diffusion." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 52: 840– 857.</p> <p>Policy Analysis Topic: Limits to Public Intervention: Government Failures Reading: Weimer and Vining 2011, Chapters 8 and 9</p>
April 11*	<p>Policy Theory Topic: Complex Systems Framework Readings: (1) <i>OECD Global Science Forum (2009) "Applications of Complexity Science for Public Policy: New Tools for Finding Unanticipated Consequences and Unrealized Opportunities."</i> Available online at http://www.oecd.org/sti/sci-tech/43891980.pdf (2A) Ostrom, E. (2009) <i>Beyond Markets and States: Polycentric Governance of Complex Economic Systems. Nobel Price Lecture.</i> 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) <i>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</i> , Number 11. (2C) Laver, M., 2005. Policy and the dynamics of political competition.</p>

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

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

- 105. **Policy: A Journal of Public
Policy and Ideas**
- 106. **Policy & Practice**
- 107. **Policy and Society**
- 108. Policy, Politics, & Nursing
Practice