INTRODUCTION:

Scholars of public policy seek to understand and improve our collective responses to public problems, such as economic development, poverty, globalization, racial discrimination, violence against women, acid rain, or deforestation (to name a few). Collectively recognizing and responding to such problems is thoroughly political. Policy scholars must consider how (and whether!) public power and authority can be used to yield just and effective results. Since policy analysts are by their very nature at once both participants in and analysts of political processes, the field of public policy also raises philosophical and methodological questions at the heart of social science inquiry: How can we study policy processes as "scientists" when our very analyses become enmeshed in those processes?

Public policy refers to government response (or non-response) to political issues or problems. Government response can include statements by government officials, legislation, executive orders, and other activities of government and its representatives, or the lack of these activities. The field of public policy includes the study of both how government should respond to particular problems and why government responds the way it does. Often, policy scholars study how governments respond to particular problems, such as unemployment, violence against women, environmental degradation, or national defense. Such an application of social scientific methods to particular political settings is called policy analysis. In this class, students will gain experience in policy analysis through an examination of a policy issue of their choice.

The class aims to acquaint the student with the main concepts and themes in the field of public policy. The course is organized around normative concepts and conceptual categories in social theory of public policy. The first part of the course focuses on actors or agents in the policy process, the people or groups that we can see proposing ideas, making decisions, exerting influence. Political actors include individual leaders, intellectuals, activists, interest groups, and social movements. The second section concerns structures that broadly circumscribe and condition everyday policymaking, structures that may not be immediately apparent to policy participants. Such broad social and material structures include: democratic norms and procedures; socio-economic structures of gender, race and class; cultural contexts; and institutional structures. Actors and structures combine in processes of policymaking. By applying these theoretical categories to particular policy issues, we will see how actors and structures work together to constitute policy processes and outcomes.

REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENT STRUCTURE:

Prerequisites: No previous knowledge of policy is required to participate in this seminar. A willingness to read, think hard, and work through the class material in group discussions is the only requirement.

Readings presentation: In a brief presentation, the student will introduce the readings, briefly summarize the main points, themes and points of (dis)agreement among the readings, and raise some issues for discussion. Each student will make a readings presentation once in the semester.
Students should sign up for a week of their choice as soon as possible in order to get their first preference. This presentation should be between ten and fifteen minutes.

**Weekly reading comments/questions:** Every student in the class will also be responsible for preparing a thoughtful comment or discussion question relating to the readings each week. These comments or questions must be handed in at the beginning of class. They should be at least a paragraph and no more than one page double-spaced. They can be handwritten or typed. 

****The specific connection to the main arguments or themes of the reading should be apparent. ***** No weekly question is due the week the student does the readings presentation.

**Weekly attendance, readings and participation:** Participation grades will be based on your attentiveness to, preparedness for, and engagement in class discussion. Attendance, it need hardly be said, is mandatory. If for some reason you are unable to attend a class or classes, please let me know. Students are responsible for coming to class prepared to discuss assigned readings.

**Papers:** Students will also be required to write two shorter papers and one long paper. The short papers will ultimately be revised and combined into the long policy analysis paper. The short papers will develop the main parts of a policy analysis, which the students will then combine into a final policy analysis paper. These papers can be about any policy issue of interest to the students.

- Paper proposal (1 page) due **Jan 31**
- Paper 1: Problem Definition and Policy Alternatives: Analytic Literature Review (10 pages) due **Feb 14**
- Paper 2: Model the Political System: Identify Relevant Actors, Structures and Processes (10 pages) **Mar 20**
- Paper 3 Final Policy Analysis Paper (Combining papers 1 and 2, analyzing the alternatives and drawing out implications for theory and policy 20-25 pages)). Due **April 27**

**More information about the papers will be provided in a separate handout.**

**Paper presentation:** About two weeks before the final paper is due (**April 10**). Each student will make a brief (5-7 minute) presentation on their paper, which will be followed by discussion and critique. Students will revise their final papers in light of these comments. Students who are not presenting are expected to be listening carefully and providing critical, constructive feedback. Such feedback will be evaluated as part of the overall seminar participation grade.

**Assignment Structure:**
- Seminar Participation: 15%
- Weekly Comments/Reading Questions: 10%
- Readings Presentation: 10%
- Paper proposal: 5%
- Paper 1: 10%
- Paper 2: 15%
- Paper 3 (Final Paper): 25%
- Paper Presentation (5-7 minutes): 5%
Books:
The books I have ordered for this class are:
   John W. Kingdon. 2011. Agendas Alternatives and Public Policy
   Paul Sabatier ed. 2007. Theories of the Policy Process

These books are available at the usual University bookstores. Additional readings are available on the blackboard page and through the library’s web page. Readings available on blackboard are indicated by BB; Readings available through the library are indicated by jstor (if they are available through that database) or otherwise as Libraries. Readings readily available on the web can be accessed using the web address provided. If you have any trouble with finding the reading, please let me know as soon as possible.

Note that in the event of a major campus emergency or other unforeseen problems, these course requirements, deadlines and grading structure are subject to change. Any such changes will be described on the Blackboard page for this class.

Contacting the Professor: I can be contacted directly at the e-mail address and telephone number listed on the first page of this syllabus. You may also drop by my office hours or email or call to make an appointment. Dropping by my office uninvited just before class begins is usually the worst time to try to have a discussion.

Policy Regarding Academic Integrity:
You are expected to adhere to University standards concerning academic integrity. Note that violations include (among other things) presenting the work of others as your own and failing to credit those whose ideas you use. Be sure to learn proper methods for crediting work you use in your research paper, and never try to turn in work that is not your own, in whole or in part. Be aware that punishments for violations can be quite severe, and can include expulsion from the University.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READING & DISCUSSION TOPICS

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY AND POLICY ANALYSIS

Jan 10: Week I: Introduction to the course
*Review of syllabus, assignments, etc.

Jan 17 Week II Introduction to Public Policy and Policy Analysis
What is public policy? (Recognizing policies, types of policies)
What is policy analysis? a policy issue? A policy problem?
The politics of policymaking and analysis
Reading:
Stone, 2003 Introduction and Part I Politics, pages 1-84
Kingdon, 2010, “Chapter 1: How does an idea’s time come?” 1-20
Mazur Theorizing Feminist Policy Cha 2 pgs 25-46
Graham, 2002 “Public Policy and Politics” New Directions in Comparative Politics 103-118 (BB)
Dryzek, Policy Analysis as Critique, OUP Handbook on Public Policy (BB)

PART I: POLITICAL ACTORS AND PUBLIC POLICY
Agents are the catalysts for policy change. An account of the dynamics of the policy process must give an account of action. Here we focus on different types of political actors and how, when and why they influence public policy.

Jan 24 Week III Insiders in Policymaking
Topics: What role do government bureaucrats and elected officials play in policymaking? How does the background and identity of policymakers affect their decisions? What about political parties and partisanship? How do elected functionaries make decisions? What explains their behavior? What does it mean for policymakers to represent particular constituencies?
Reading:
Kingdon, Chapter 2. (and pages 61-65, on elections-related participants)
Mazur Chapter 4 “Political Representation Policy” Theorizing Feminist Policy
Bartels, “Unequal democracy and political representation” cha. 9. In Unequal Democracy.(BB)

Reading in Preparation for Problem Definition Papers:
Kingdon, Cha 5 Problems
Stone Part 3 Problems
Jan 31 Week IV Outsiders in Policymaking: Interest Groups, Advocacy and Business
Topics: How do organized groups of citizens affect policy and politics? Consideration of
different conceptualizations of organized group impact on policymaking, such as interest groups,
corporatism and pluralism, “iron triangles”, issue networks and social movements. Do social
movements affect policy processes? Exactly how does this occur? Does this influence improve
or detract from democratic policymaking?
Readings:
68 (4) (jstor)
Kingdon, Chapter 3.
Meyer “Introduction: Social Movements and Public Policy” cha. 1 (BB)
Political System. ed Anthony King, Washington DC: American Enterprise Institute RP
Khagram, Riker and Sikkink. 20002. From Santiago to Seattle Cha. 1 Restructuring World
Politics U of Minnesota Press. BB
Moghadam 2009. Globalization and Social Movements, Chapters 1 and 2. BB
Review: Jacobs and Page

***Policy Proposals Due Jan 31 (will be discussed)

PART II: POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND PUBLIC POLICY:
This section introduces the idea of social structure and discusses various structural elements of
the political context and how they shape public policy.

Topics: What is social structure? What is the relation between structure and agency? What are
some basic categories of social-structural analysis? What is the State? Is the idea of the state still
relevant in an era of globalization and multilevel governance?
Readings:
Giddens, Anthony. 1982. “Action, Structure, Power” in Profiles and Critiques in Social Theory,
Berkeley: University of California Press.(BB)
Codata and Perissinotto. “The State and Contemporary Political Theory” (BB)
http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s8932.html
Stone Chas 13, 15, 16
Risman, Gender as a Social Structure, Gender and Society 2004 (jstor)
Hey, “Globalization and Public Policy” OUP Handbook. (BB)
Feb 14 Week VI: Social Structures and Public Policy: Gender, Race and Intersectionality
What is Gender? What is Race? What is Intersectionality? How might these concepts be used in policy analysis?
Readings:
Mazur, *Theorizing Feminist Policy* 9,10
Blofeld and Haas. “Policy Outputs.” OUP Handbook on Politics and Gender. (BB)
Hawkesworth “Sex, Sexuality and Gender.” OUP Handbook on Politics and Gender. (BB)
Marx, Anthony. *Making Race and Nation* (excerpt) (BB)
Weldon. “Intersectionality.” *Politics, Gender and Concepts* eds. Goertz and Mazur. (BB)

**Paper 1 Due**

Feb 21 Week VII: Social Structures: Culture and Civil Society
Readings:
Inglehart and Welzel. “Political Culture and Democracy” from *New Directions in Comparative Politics* BB
Htun and Weldon. “Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change” (BB)

Reading for Paper 2:

Feb 28 Week VIII: Political Economy and Social Structure: Class, Markets and Development
Readings:
Stone Cha 10,11,12
Karshenias and Moghadam Chapter 1. In *Social Policy in the Middle East: Economic, Political and Gender Dynamics.* Jan 2006, pages 1-30. (BB)
Rudra “Globalization and the Welfare State” *IO* (Jstor)
Mazur, “Reconciliation Policy” and “Equal Employment”
Mar 6  Week IX Social Structures: Institutions
Readings:
Ostrom “Institutional Rational Choice” Sabatier ed. *Theories of Policy Process*
Mazur “Blueprint policy” *Theorizing Feminist Policy* 3
Theda Skocpol 1992, Protecting Mothers and Soldiers Introduction. (BB)
Vivien Schmidt “Discursive Institutionalism” (BB)
Ellen Immergut “Institutional Constraints on Policy.” *OUP Handbook on Public Policy.* (BB)

Mar 13 Spring Break

PART III: PROCESSES
In this section we consider how different conceptualizations of actors and structures and the relations between them produce different models of the policy process.

Mar 20 Week X: Rationality, Incrementalism and Garbage Cans: Models of Policy Making
Readings:
Andrew Weiss and Edward Woodhouse “Reframing Incrementalism: A Constructive Response to the Critics” *Policy Science (jstor)*
Kingdon, chas 4, 5, 8,9,10
Stone 9 (Review 10,11, 12)
****Paper 2 Due****

Mar 27 Week XI Changing, Combining and Conflicting Structures: Norm, Law, Market
Readings:
April 3 Week XII: Ideas: Social Construction, Learning, Diffusion and Deliberation
Readings:
Freeman, “Learning in Public Policy.” OUP Handbook on Public Policy (BB)
Stone 14 “Facts” and Conclusion
Berry and Berry. “Innovation and Diffusion” in Sabatier Theories of the Policy Process

April 10 Week XIII. Paper Presentations and Discussion

April 17 Week XIV Informal Institutions, Norms and Public Policy
***Attend Keynote Address, Elinor Ostrom, April 16.
(Continue reading and attend the public lecture on Monday, but no class meeting)

April 24. Week XV Evaluating Policy Analysis and Conclusion
What should policy research be doing? What is it doing? Where is it going? Where should policy research be going?
Readings:
Bacchi, Carol. “Foucault, Policy and Rule: Challenging the Problem-Solving Paradigm.”
http://vbn.aau.dk/files/33190050/FREIA_wp_74.pdf
Frank Fischer “Beyond Empiricism” BB
Dallmayr. “Critical Theory and Public Policy” BB
Sabatier “The Need for Better Theories” 3-20 and “Fostering the Development” 321-326

***Final Paper Due April 27****