

**CORE-GP.1022 • Introduction to Public Policy
NYU-Wagner • Spring 2014**

Teaching Staff:

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Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the political institutions and processes through which public policy is made and implemented in the United States (and other democratic political systems). The course also introduces students to the tools of policy analysis. The first half of the course presents models of policymaking and tools of policy analysis. The second half of the course applies these concepts to specific policy areas such as health care and education, as illustrated by real-world case studies. The course emphasizes written and oral communication through the development of professional memo-writing and presentation skills.

Course Requirements: Course grades will be determined as follows: three short policy memos (40%); in-class, closed-book midterm exam (30%); team project (20%); and class participation (10%).

Course Readings: Two books are required:

- Kraft & Furlong, *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis and Alternatives*, 4th edition (2013)
- Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, 2nd updated edition (2011)

Please do not use earlier editions of these books; they are missing critical updates. A copy of each book is on reserve at the library. Additional readings will be posted on the course website, and case studies will be available for purchase through the website.

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments will not be accepted (except in cases of documented emergency) out of fairness to those who abide by deadlines.

Class Attendance: Missing more than one class will result in a lower participation grade. In the event of a one-time schedule conflict, you must request permission to attend a different section.

Technology Policy: Phones are not to be used in class. To promote student engagement in the group discussion, laptop use during class is discouraged, and is only allowed for taking notes. Violations will result in a zero for class participation.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to abide by NYU-Wagner's academic code (<http://wagner.nyu.edu/students/policies/academic-code>). Violations may result in a failing course grade and disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities: Students requiring special exam accommodations should submit documentation from the Moses Center to the professor in the first week of class.

The pairs of dates listed below refer to the two sections of this course; students must attend the section in which they are officially enrolled. Class times and locations are listed on the website. All readings must be completed before class.

PART 1. POLICYMAKING & POLICY ANALYSIS

Class 1 (Jan 28/29): Politics & Public Policy

- Kraft & Furlong, chapter 1
- Kingdon, chapter 1
- Smith & Larimer, "Public Policy as a Concept and a Field (or Fields) of Study"

Class 2 (Feb 4/5): The Political & Institutional Environment

- Kraft & Furlong, chapter 2
- Kingdon, chapters 2 & 3
- Hecló, "Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment"
- Federalist Papers 10 & 51 <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>

Class 3 (Feb 11/12): Models of Policymaking

- Kraft & Furlong, chapter 3, pp. 75-85
- Jenkins-Smith & Sabatier, "Evaluating the Advocacy Coalition Framework"
- Lindblom, "The Science of 'Muddling Through'"
- Schneider and Ingram, "Social Construction of Target Populations"

Class 4 (Feb 18/19): Models of Policymaking (continued)

- Kraft & Furlong, chapter 3, p. 85-end
- Kingdon, chapters 4-10
- Baumgartner & Jones, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*, chapters 1 & 2

Class 5 (Feb 25/26): Policy Analysis

- Kraft & Furlong, chapters 4-6
- Bardach, *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*, Introduction & Part 1
- "Memo-Writing Guidelines" (<http://wagner.nyu.edu/files/students/WritingMemos.pdf>)
- **Policy memo 1 due in class**

Class 6 (March 4/5): Policy Implementation & Evaluation

- deLeon and deLeon, "What Ever Happened to Policy Implementation?"
- McLaughlin, "Learning from Experience: Lessons from Policy Implementation"
- Bovens, Hart, & Kuipers, "The Politics of Policy Evaluation"

Class 7 (March 11/12): Midterm Exam

PART 2. APPLICATIONS & CASE STUDIES

Class 8 (March 25/26): Economic & Budgetary Policy

- Kraft & Furlong, chapter 7
- Case Study: “California’s Budget Crises, Tax Reform, and Domestic and International Tax Competition”

Class 9 (April 1/2): Education Policy

- Kraft & Furlong, chapter 10
- Case Study: “Michelle Rhee and the Washington D.C. Public Schools”
- **Policy memo 2 due in class**

Class 10 (April 8/9): Health Care & Social Policy

- Kraft & Furlong, chapters 8 & 9
- Kingdon, “Epilogue: Health Care Reform in the Clinton and Obama Administrations”
- Case Study: “The Battle over the Clinton Health Care Proposal”
- **Team project proposals due in class**

Class 11 (April 15/16): Environmental & Energy Policy

- Kraft & Furlong, chapter 11
- Case Study: “The Challenge of Adapting to Climate Change: King County Brings Local Action to a Global Threat”

Class 12 (April 22/23): Foreign Policy / Wrapping Up

- Kraft & Furlong, chapters 12 & 13
- Case Study: “U.S. Food Aid: Cash or Commodities?”
- **Policy memo 3 due in class**

Class 13 (April 29/30): **Team Presentations**

Class 14 (May 6/7): **Team Presentations**