***POIR 599***

***Special Topics:***

***Comparative Public Policy***

First summer term 2015 (May 21 – June 30)

Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Course Website on Blackboard at: https://blackboard.usc.edu

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Policy is the stock in trade of the contemporary state, and much (some would say most) of what politics is about. This course offers an overview of the literature in political science on policymaking and implementation. Particular emphasis will be placed on the various analytical lenses that have been brought to bear to understand the politics of policy, on application of those frameworks to both developed and developing country settings, and on the transnational context of policy.

A term paper of 20-25 pages on a topic of your choice will be due at the end of the semester, and will count toward 55 percent of your grade. Please consult with the instructor early in the semester about your interests for a topic. Written topic statements are strongly encouraged. In the June 18 class session, each student will present a draft of their paper for feedback from the class. Papers will be due the last day of the first summer term.

The other written assignment for the course (45 percent) will consist of brief online discussion postings (150 – 300 words) on Blackboard for each class session. Depending on the number of students enrolled, each student will be assigned to lead discussion of at least one portion of the readings. Blackboard submissions will be due no later than 3 p.m. on the day before the seminar. Timely submissions will enable all of us to prepare for and organize the seminar discussions.

This list of assignments is based on the assumption that all students will do all the required reading, attend all classes and participate regularly and constructively in discussions. Failure to do any of these tasks will be considered just cause for lowering of your final grade.

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

**Class schedule:**

May 21: Organizational meeting

May 25: General approaches and frameworks

Scharpf, F. W. (1991). Games real actors could play: The challenge of complexity. *Journal of Theoretical Politics, 3*(3), 277-304.

Tang, S. Y., & Mazmanian, D. A. (2010). Understanding Collaborative Governance from the Structural Choice-Politics, IAD, and Transaction Cost Perspectives. Unpublished paper.

Bevir, M. (2006). Democratic Governance: Systems and Radical Perspectives. *Public Administration Review, 66*(3), 426-436.

Hacker, J. S., & Pierson, P. (2014). After the “Master Theory”: Downs, Schattschneider, and the Rebirth of Policy-Focused Analysis.

Recommended:

March, James G. and Johan P. Olsen. 1984. “The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life.” *American Political Science Review* 78: 734-749.

Hall, Peter A. and Rosemary C.R. Taylor. 1996. “Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms.” *Political Studies* 44, 5: 936-957.

Immergut, E. M. (1998). The theoretical core of the new institutionalism. *Politics and society, 26*, 5-34.

Mettler, S., & Soss, J. (2004). The consequences of public policy for democratic citizenship: Bridging policy studies and mass politics. *Perspectives on politics, 2*(01), 55-73.

May 28: The state and state capacity

Mann, M. (1984). The autonomous power of the state: its origins, mechanisms and results. *European journal of sociology, 25*(02), 185-213.

Soifer, H. (2008). State Infrastructural Power: Approaches to Conceptualization and Measurement. *Studies in Comparative International Development, 43*(3-4), 231-251.

Acemoglu, D., García-Jimeno, C., & Robinson, J. A. (2014). State Capacity and Economic Development: A Network Approach: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Weiss, Linda. 1998. *The Myth of the Powerless State*. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press). Chapter 2, “The Sources of State Capacity,” pp. 14-40.

June 1: Bureaucracy and Bureaucratic Power

Carpenter, D. P. (2001). *The forging of bureaucratic autonomy: Reputations, networks, and policy innovation in executive agencies, 1862-1928*: Princeton University Press.

Silberman, B. S. (1993). *Cages of reason: the rise of the rational state in France, Japan, the United States, and Great Britain*: University of Chicago Press.

Weber, M. (1978). *Economy and society: An outline of interpretive sociology* (G. Roth, Trans.). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press (excerpts).

June 4: Executive-Legislative Relations

Huber, J. D., & Shipan, C. R. (2002). *Deliberate discretion?: The institutional foundations of bureaucratic autonomy*: Cambridge University Press.

Haggard, S., & McCubbins, M. D (eds,) (2001). *Presidents, parliaments, and policy*: Cambridge University Press (introduction).

June 8: Networks and Public Policy

Dowding, Keith. 1995. "Model or Metaphor? A Critical Review of the Policy Network Approach." *Political Studies* 3 (1): 136-158.

Marsh, David, and Martin Smith. 2000. "Understanding Policy Networks: Towards a Dialectical Approach." *Political Studies* 48 (1): 4-21.

Tanja A. Borzel, Tania A. 1998. "Organizing Babylon - on the Different Conceptions of Policy Networks." *Public Administration* 76: 263-73.

Konig, Thomas, and Thomas Brauninger. 1998. The Formation of Policy Networks: Preferences, Institutions and Actors' Choice of Information and Exchange Relations." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 10 (4): 445-471.

June 11: Policy Diffusion

Dobbin, Frank, Beth Simmons, and Geoffrey Garrett. 2007. "The Global Diffusion of Public Policies: Social Construction, Coercion, Competition or Learning?" *Annual Review of Sociology* 33: 449-72

Shipan, Charles R., and Craig Volden. 2008. "The Mechanisms of Policy Diffusion." *American Journal of Political Science* 52 (4): 840-57.

Braun, Dietmar, and Fabrizio Gilardi. 2006. "Taking 'Galton's Problem' Seriously: Towards a Theory of Policy Diffusion." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 18 (3) : 298-322.

Elkins, Zachary, and Beth Simmons. 2005. "On Waves, Clusters, and Diffusion: A Conceptual Framework." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 598 (1):33-51.

NO CLASS JUNE 15: Papers due to be posted online by 9 a.m. June 17. Please read papers and be prepared to discuss.

June 18: Presentations of student papers

**June 22: Federalism and Multilevel Governance**

Hooghe, L., & Marks, G. (2003). Unraveling the Central State, but How? Types of Multi-level Governance. *American Political Science Review, 97*(02), 233-243.

H. Obinger, S. Leibfried & F. Castles (Eds.). 2008 *Federalism and the welfare state. New world and European experiences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ostrom, E., & Janssen, M. A. (2005). Multi-level governance and resilience of social-ecological systems. *Globalisation, poverty and conflict*, 239-259.

June 25: Local Public Goods and Urban Governance

Ostrom, E. (1990). *Governing the commons : the evolution of institutions for collective action*. Cambridge England ; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Oates, W. E. (1999). An essay on fiscal federalism. *Journal of economic literature, 37*(3), 1120.

Sellers, J. M. (2002). *Governing from below : Urban regions and the global economy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**June 30: Final paper due, by e-mail to instructor (sellers@usc.edu)**