

Political Science 237
Public Policy and Public Administration
Fall 2007

John Reynolds
Comenius 113
Phone: 861-1408
E-mail: mejvr01@moravian.edu

Office Hours: M, W, F 11:00-noon; T, Th 10:15 to 11:15 and by appointment

INTRODUCTION

Within the U.S. political economy, there are two principal ways to provide for the collective action necessary to meet basic human needs and solve persistent social problems, including economic production and national defense. One is to rely on private markets. The other is through public administration. Reliance on the former requires establishing the authority of private property rights and their manipulation by private interests. Reliance on the latter requires a system of law and administration directed by democratic political processes and executed by a range of administrative entities wielding public authority.

To a considerable degree, both private and public organizations rely on some form of complex organization, bureaucratic structure and an ongoing commitment to rational decision making. In turn, the rational organization of complex tasks is very heavily dependent on the production, analysis and use of information. That is, the control and analysis of information profoundly impacts who wins and who loses in this society, on who receives the benefits and who bears the costs of organized activity.

These propositions extend to the formulation of policy, the administration of programs and the evaluation of administrative performance. This course is primarily concerned with how these factors characterize the administrative process in the United States. As such, the course is directed at five outcomes:

1. An understanding of the intellectual and historical origins of the modern administrative state.
2. An appreciation of the characteristics of complex organizations and the institutional structures which constitute the American administrative state.
3. An understanding the policy process including the organization and use of information, the role of constituency interests and the political constraints that impact on agency performance and accountability.
4. Reflective consideration of the normative standards that guide public policy making in the United States.
5. An introduction to the nature of decision making, policy design and implementation with a particular emphasis on recognizing and assessing the inventory of policy tools available to decision makers.

The course will feature an emphasis on environmental policy as a means to examine these issues and reach these outcomes.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absences due to participation in legitimate Moravian College extracurricular activities; a doctor's excuse or notification by the Dean of Students Office will allow a student to be excused from class. All other excuses are subject to the instructor's discretion.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students should be aware of their obligations under the Academic Honesty Policy published in the Student Handbook.

BOOKS

Donald Kettl and James Fesler, **The Politics of the Administrative Process**, third edition, (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 2005)

Walter Rosenbaum, **Environmental Politics and Policy**, seventh edition, (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 2007)

Deborah Stone, **Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making**, (New York: W.W. Norton, 2002)

EVALUATION OF THE STUDENT'S WORK

The student's grade will be determined on a 300 point basis through the following assignments:

Take Home Essay I	50 points
Take Home Essay II	50 points
Take Home Essay III	60 points
Take Home Essay IV	100 points
Instructor evaluation	40 points

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION

This portion of the student's grade will be based on attendance, student performance in class and in meeting student responsibilities including completion of the readings. It is expected that each student will have completed the readings prior to the class in which the reading is due. Students will be expected to answer questions when asked and a record of in class participation will be kept. To facilitate completion of reading assignments, each student will write three questions on that day's reading assignment. If there are readings from more than one text, there needs to be at least one question from each text. These questions should be typewritten and available for submission to the instructor upon request.

TAKE HOME ESSAYS

Each student will complete four take home essays. These essays are intended to demonstrate the degree to which the students have mastered the material in the course and the degree to which the student outcomes listed above have been achieved. The essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Clear definition of terms
- Organization, clarity and concreteness of the discussion
- Evidence of engagement in the reading

Each essay is constructed to cover a portion of the course materials. The materials that should be referenced in preparing each essay and the due date for each essay are listed below the essay number.

There is no absolute minimum or maximum length for these essays, but generally it is expected that they will be 3 to 5 pages typewritten.

Take Home Essay I

Course assignments to be included: 8/28 through 9/20

Due date: 9/25

What is the administrative state? Why does it exist? Where does it fit into the U.S. Constitutional structure? Why is it important?

Take Home Essay II

Course assignments to be included: 9/25 through 10/18

Due date: 10/23

How are administrative decisions made? What are the key variables that influence what decisions are reached?

Take Home Essay III

Course assignments to be included: 10/23 through 11/1

Due date: 11/6

Stone poses four principal goals for public policy. Summarize each goal. Provide an example from environmental policy that illustrates the government's pursuit of each goal or where goal conflicts can be found.

Take Home Essay IV

Course assignments to be included: 11/6 through 11/20

Due date: 11/29

There are three steps to this essay:

1. Using the Rosenbaum text, select one of the following issues: toxic and hazardous substances, energy or climate diplomacy.
2. Identify and discuss three elements of the issue area that make implementation of policies in that area problematic or difficult. Make sure you explain why you understand that the selected element constitutes a challenge for the successful implementation of a response to the problems described by Rosenbaum.
3. Select three of the five categories of “solutions” discussed by Stone and discuss how that type of policy approach can be used to address the problems discussed by Rosenbaum.

Course Outline

- I. Introduction (8/28)
- II. Administration and Society
 - A. Intellectual and social roots of administrative state (8/30)
 - B. Political economy (8/30-9/4)
 1. Markets and market failures
 2. Public goods
 3. Power and the functions of the state
 - C. Organization theory and characteristics of bureaucracy (9/6-9/11)
- III. The Administrative State
 - A. Introduction to the administrative state (9/13)
 1. The establishment of the administrative state
 2. Politics/administration distinction
 3. Delegation of authority and mission
 4. Administrative discretion
 5. Accountability and Oversight

B. The Structure of the Administrative State

1. Separation of Powers and Federalism (9/18)
2. The Federal Executive Branch – Structure (9/18 -9/20)
3. The Federal Executive Branch – Process (9/20)

C. The Policy Process

1. The policy cycle, policy types and problem definition (9/25)
2. Policy subsystems, constituencies, clientele and networks (9/27)
3. Budgeting (10/2)

IV. Decision Making and Formal Political Analysis

- A. Social science and causal theory (10/4)
- B. Measurement (10/11)
- C. Methods of decision making (10/16-10/18)

V. Policy Goals

- A. Equity (10/23)
- B. Efficiency (10/25)
- C. Liberty (10/30)
- D. Security (11/1)

VI. Implementation, Policy Design and Policy Tools

- A. Problem of Implementation (11/6)
- B. Policy tools
 1. Rules (11/8)
 2. Inducements (11/13)
 3. Facts (11/15)
 4. Rights and powers (11/20)
- C. Accountability and Control
 1. Judicial review and administration (11/27)
 2. Legislative Control of Administration (11/29)

Reading Assignments - To be completed by date listed

8/30 Stone, Ch. 1; Kettl and Fesler, Ch.2; Rosenbaum Ch. 9

9/6 Kettl and Fesler, Ch. 3

9/13 Kettl and Fesler, Ch. 1

9/18 Kettl and Fesler, Ch. 5; Rosenbaum 3

9/20 Kettl and Fesler, Ch. 6

9/25 Rosenbaum Ch. 2; Stone Ch. 6

9/27 Stone, Ch. 9

10/2 Kettle and Fesler, Ch. 10

10/4 Stone, Ch. 8

10/11 Stone, Ch. 7; Rosenbaum, Ch. 5

10/16 Kettle and Fesler, Ch. 9; Stone, Ch. 10

10/23 Stone, Ch. 2; Rosenbaum, Ch.4

10/25 Stone, Ch. 3

10/30 Stone, Ch. 4

11/1 Stone, Ch. 5

11/6 Kettl and Fesler, Ch. 11

11/8 Stone, Ch. 12; Rosenbaum, Ch. 6

11/13 Stone, Ch. 11

11/15 Stone, Ch. 13

11/20 Stone, Ch. 14 and 15

11/27 Kettle and Fesler, Ch. 12

11/29 Kettle and Fesler, Ch. 13 and 14