



RUTGERS-NEWARK

School of Public Affairs and Administration

The Public Policy Process (20:834:524 and 20:831:524) [3 credits]

Course Description

This course introduces students to the public policy process and to the institutions and actors involved. These include legislative bodies, chief executives, administrative agencies, courts, interest groups, advocacy coalitions, and the media. Students study the stages in public policymaking: identifying and describing public problems, agenda setting, policy decision-making, policy design, implementation, evaluation, and policy learning. Activities in the course include policy development research, preparing policy memoranda, and policy analysis.

Learning Objectives

By successfully completing this course students will be able to effectively use evidence to guide their participation in, and contribution to the public policy process, with insight into different policy types and tools, while appreciating the importance of context (social, economic, historical, political, and technological) toward developing effective policies.

Schedule / Outline of Topics

1. Course overview and introduction to elements of the US public policymaking system
2. Public administrator's role and leadership in public policymaking
3. Public policymaking and its context
4. Policy research methods and sources
5. Existing policies and policy types
6. Identifying and describing public problems
7. Agenda setting and interest groups, social construction of target populations.
8. Policy decision-making and the use of power in decision-making
9. Policy design, policy tools, and policy implementation and failure
10. Policy learning among stakeholders.
11. Policy analysis as a field in public affairs and administration
12. Policy analysis: individual projects
13. Evaluating policy options: constructing an Outcomes Matrix.
14. Final policy analysis papers and presentations

Texts / Materials / Resources

The selection of textbooks and readings will vary by instructor. Listed below are some of the possible textbooks, materials, and resources an instructor may select for this course:

- The Constitution of the United States of America, 1788
 - <http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html>
- The Federalist Papers: Alexander Hamilton # 9; James Madison # 10 and # 51.
 - http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/fed.asp
- Birkland, Thomas A. (2020) *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making*, 5th Edition (Routledge: New York). ISBN: 978-1-138-49561-6 paperback; ISBN: 978-1-315-02394-8-1 e-book
- Shambaugh IV, George, E., and Weinstein Jr., Paul J. (2015). *The Art of Public Policy Making: Tools, Techniques and Processes in the Modern Executive Branch*, 2nd Ed. International: Addison Wesley Longman. ISBN: 032108103

This is a sample syllabus. Students should always obtain syllabi for their current courses from their professors.
(v.7/23/24)



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Public & Nonprofit Organizations

- United States Congress
 - <https://www.congress.gov/>
- New Jersey State Legislature
 - <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>
- Government of the City of Newark, NJ
 - <https://www.newarknj.gov/>