NYU DC
UPADM-GP 9101
The Politics of Public Policy

Spring 2019

Instructor Information
● Candace Turitto Ph.D.
● By appointment – email me at the address below
● CT92@nyu.edu

Course Information
● UPADM-GP 9101
● The Politics of Public Policy
● Wednesdays, 6:15-9:15pm  
  ○ B109

Course Overview and Goals
This course aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of the intricate workings
and politics of American public policy. From the basic contours of the policy cycle, to the various
values of the multiple audiences involved in policy, to contemporary approaches and application
of incentives and punishment in policy design, this course offers students a wide-ranging
knowledge of American public policy.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:
● Identify and describe the essential actors and audiences involved in areas of public
  policy.
● Understand the basic outline and particular details of the policy process, from the
  agenda-setting stage through the implementation and evaluation stages.
● Identify the various values and frames used in public policy development, including a
  comprehension of why and in what cases certain explanations of policy issues are
  successful.
● Lead and participate in substantive discussions around public policy issues with their
  peers, to include a deft handling of varied opinions and judgments of policy options.
● Thoroughly research and write about a public policy issue area, to include identifying its
  audience, describing its policy history, and concisely arguing a policy resolution.
Course Requirements

Class Participation

You must attend class. It will contribute to your grade. If you have a particularly difficult circumstance, please let me know as soon as possible. NYU policies enforce a 2% penalty, per instance, on the final grade for any student with unexcused absences. If you miss a class without an allowable reason, your 94% (A-) final grade will become a 92% (B+). I will enforce this policy.

You also must participate in class. This usually hinges on the quality of your contributions to discussions. The student who has read the material in preparation for our discussion will find this task quite simple. Those who have no read the material will find it difficult to contribute to the conversation, which is also difficult to hide over a three-hour lecture. If you are unprepared for our discussions, your participation grade will reflect that fact.

Additionally, I will do all that I can to make our environment a welcoming one in which each student feels at ease expressing themselves. All students should aim to that goal alongside me. Be courteous to others – do not interrupt, belittle, rush, ignore, or in any other way disrespect your classmates. You all own this world together; it’s in all our best interest for you to start listening to each other as soon as you can.

Chapter Discussion Lead

Each student will sign up to lead discussion on one chapter from our main text (Stone) once during the semester. More information will be provided as to what this discussion lead will entail, but each student should expect to have a very strong understanding of their chapter, and to prepare several lines of questioning that engage their classmates in discussion, and which connect new ideas to others we already discussed.

Additionally, those students who are not leading a discussion during a particular week will still be graded according to their participation in the discussion. Do not pay attention to your own chapter and disregard someone else’s – it will be reflected in your grade.

Audience Identification Assignment

Each student will briefly describe two policy issues which draw their interest, and which make a class like this one particularly relevant for them. In addition, for each of the issues, students will identify different members of each policy’s audience and outline the purpose, goals, and preferences of each audience member regarding the issue. More information will be provided leading up to the assignment.

Policy Outline

Using one of the two issues identified in the audience assignment, each student will generate an outline of arguments to be used in a later Policy History Assignment. More information will be provided leading up to the outline’s due date.
Policy History Memo

Each student will write a 3-4 page Policy History Memo on one current political issue (same topic as Policy Outline). More information will be provided leading up to the memo’s due date.

Policy Decision Memo

Each student will write a 1-2 page Policy Decision Memo on their political issue of choice (same topic as Policy History Memo). This memo will be assigned in lieu of a final exam. More information will be provided leading up to the assignment.

Tests & Quizzes

We will have a midterm exam after Spring Break that covers the primary basics of public policy and the policy cycle covered in the first half of the course. There will be no quizzes. You will have a major assignment (Decision Memo) at the end of the semester in lieu of a final exam.

Guest Speakers

Hosting professional guest speakers will be one way we get more hands-on experience in understanding the politics behind public policies. Near the ends of the semester, we will hopefully have the privilege of hosting 1 or 2 guest speakers. For each speaker, students will be expected to be fully prepared for a rigorous intellectual discussion. This includes having a thorough understanding of the speaker’s background and experiences, as well as brainstorming multiple lines of questioning and topics to raise during the discussion.

Due to the nature of their professions, as well as the timing of our class, scheduling this class meeting may prove challenging. Therefore, please be patient if we must adjust our syllabus slightly as we do what we can to accommodate these schedules.

Staying Informed

On your own throughout the week, you are highly encouraged to stay informed with current events and political happenings. You can do this in several ways – The Washington Post (or others), Politico, podcasts, etc. Know your source and cast a wide net.

Assigned Readings

There are TWO required texts for this course (listed below). Additionally, I have provided scanned copies of a couple of additional sources (journal articles and book selections) which can be found on the NYU Classes Site, in the course’s Resources folder. The full list of readings is listed below:

Policy Paradox, Deborah Stone (required text)

The CQ Press Writing Guide for Public Policy, Andrew Pennock (required text)
Grading of Assignments
The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments/Activities</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>[5%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Discussion Lead</td>
<td>[15%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience Identification Assignment</td>
<td>[10%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Outline</td>
<td>[10%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>[20%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy History Memo</td>
<td>[20%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Decision Memo</td>
<td>[20%]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter Grades
Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>Points</td>
<td>Percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
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<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>65-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>Below 65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**View Grades**

Grades will be made available on the NYU Classes site.

**Course Schedule**

**Topics and Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1 6-Feb-19</td>
<td>*Intro to the Policy Cycle</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Session 2 13-Feb-19 | *Institutional Politics of Policy  
Case Study: Designing the Bush Tax Cuts | - “Abandoning the Middle” (Hacker and Pierson) – available on NYU Classes |                                                     |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>*Institutional Politics of Policy cont’d.</td>
<td>- Semisovereign People (Chs 1-2) – available on NYU Classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Feb-19</td>
<td>*Control and Expansion of Conflict</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>*Institutional Politics of Policy cont’d.</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 1-2)</td>
<td>POLICY AUDIENCE ASSIGNMENT DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Feb-19</td>
<td>*Audiences of Policy</td>
<td>- Pennock (Ch 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*The Market, The Polis, and Equity</td>
<td>POLICY AUDIENCE ASSIGNMENT DUE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 5</td>
<td>*Ideas and Policy</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 3 – Student Led)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-Mar-19</td>
<td>*Efficiency</td>
<td>- Pennock (Ch 9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 6</td>
<td>*Ideas and Policy cont’d.</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 4 – Student Led)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13-Mar-19</td>
<td>*Welfare</td>
<td>- Pennock (Ch 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-Mar-19</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Class</td>
<td>No Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 6</td>
<td>*Ideas and Policy cont’d.</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 5 – Student Led)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Mar-19</td>
<td>*Liberty and Security</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 6 – Student Led)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 7</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Apr-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 8</td>
<td>*Power and Decision-Making in Policy</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 7-8 – Instructor Led)</td>
<td>POLICY OUTLINE DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Apr-19</td>
<td>*Symbols and Numbers</td>
<td>- Pennock (Ch 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 9</td>
<td>*Power and Decision-Making in Policy cont’d.</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 9 – Student Led)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-Apr-19</td>
<td>* Causes and Interests</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 10 – Student Led)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 10</td>
<td>*Policy Design</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 11 – Student Led)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-Apr-19</td>
<td>*Decisions and Incentives</td>
<td>- Stone (Ch 12 – Student Led)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week/Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Assignment Due</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Session 11 1-May-19 | *Policy Implementation  
*Rules and Facts                        | - Stone (Ch 13 – Student Led) 
- Stone (Ch 14 – Student Led) 
- Pennock *(skim Ch 3-4)* |                |
| Session 12 8-May-19 | *Policy Evaluation  
*Rights and Powers                          | - Stone (Ch 15 – Student Led) 
- Stone (Ch 16 – Student Led) 
- Pennock (Ch 7)            |                |
| Session 13 15-May-19 | Guest Speaker Hold                        | POLICY HISTORY DUE                                                     | GUEST SPEAKERS  
POLICY HISTORY DUE     |
| Session 14 22-May-19 | Finals Week                                | - Class Party                                                          | DECISION MEMO DUE | DECISION MEMO DUE |

Tests and Quizzes
- Midterm Exam: April 3, 2019, 6:15-9:15pm

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials
There are **two required textbooks** to purchase for this course. Additional readings will be provided on the NYU Classes site, under Resources.

1) **Policy Paradox**, by Deborah Stone (W.W. Norton Publishing)
2) **The CQ Press Writing Guide for Public Policy**, by Andrew Pennock (SAGE Publishing)

*Abandoning the Middle*, Hacker and Pierson (copy available on NYU Classes Site)
*The Semisovereign People*, Schattsneider (copy available on NYU Classes Site)
Resources

- Access your course materials: NYU Classes (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- Databases, journal articles, and more: Bobst Library (library.nyu.edu)
- Assistance with strengthening your writing: NYU Writing Center (nyu.mywconline.com)
- Obtain 24/7 technology assistance: IT Help Desk (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students’ semester grades. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade (for courses that meet once per week; for courses that meet twice per week, it is a one percent reduction per missed class).

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must use the online absence reporting form within 24 hours of their first missed class. Students may be required to produce a doctor’s note with that day’s date, especially if the student has missed any classes already that semester or if exams/presentations/papers occurred in the missed class.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Staff at least 7 days before the missed date(s) in question. If faculty members do not receive notification of an excused absence, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each lecturer to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/ or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave Washington, DC before the end of the finals week.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.
**Late Assignment**

1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed.
3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.
4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.
6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.
7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

**Incomplete Grade Policy**

An “incomplete” is a temporary grade that indicates that the student has, for good reason, not completed all of the course work. This grade is not awarded automatically nor is it guaranteed; rather, the student must ask the instructor for a grade of “incomplete,” present documented evidence of illness, an emergency, or other compelling circumstances, and clarify the remaining course requirements with the instructor.

In order for a grade of “incomplete” to be registered on the transcript, the student must fill out a form, in collaboration with the course instructor and the academic administration at the site; it should then be submitted to the site’s academic office. The submitted form must include a deadline by which the missing work will be completed. This deadline may not be later than the end of the following semester.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

As the University's policy on "Academic Integrity for Students at NYU" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the lecturer. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that
is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

NYU Policies and Guidelines on Academic Integrity

NYU Library Guides

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Religious Observances

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the Washington, DC Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.