The Politics of Public Policy: City, Nation, Globe
NYU Wagner School of Public Policy

Professor Carrie Nordlund

Course Meetings: Wednesday: 9:30-12:15
194 Mercer St, Room 203
Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4 and Wednesday 2-3, Puck Building 3059
Email: Nordlund@nyu.edu

This course provides an overview of the politics of public policy in a constitutional democratic system, primarily practiced in the United States, but often in comparative perspective. The first half of the course introduces students to the models of policymaking and policy analysis. The second half examines the role of American political actors and applies the models from the beginning of the semester to specific policy areas.

REQUIRED BOOKS & READINGS:
- Additional course documents are available on Classes

ASSESSED VALUATION:
- Participation: 10%
- Midterm: 25%
- Policy Memo (2): 30%
- Presentation: 10%
- Final: 25%

Late assignments are not accepted. To create a fair and equal policy all students are required to turn in assignments on the due date specified in the syllabus.

Students with disabilities: Any students requiring accommodations should contact me to make proper arrangements. Please be prepared to share your documentation from the NYU disabilities office regarding appropriate accommodations.

Academic Honesty: This course follows NYU’s policy on plagiarism. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter with serious consequences. In short, don’t cheat.
Part I: Policymaking and Policy Analysis

September 3: Politics and Public Policy
Kraft and Furlong, Chapter 1
Kingdon, Chapter 1
Smith & Larimer (2009) “Public Policy as a Concept & Field of Study” from The Public Policy Theory Primer
Sabatier (1991) “Toward Better Theories of the Public Policy Process” from PS: Political Science and Politics

September 10: Models of Policymaking
Kraft and Furlong, Chapter 3

September 17: Models of Policymaking, Part 2
Kingdon (2011), Chapter 4-7 from Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies

September 24: Policy Analysis
**POLICY MEMO #1 DUE IN CLASS**

Kraft and Furlong, Chapter 4

October 1: Markets, Non-Profits and the Public Sector
Sandler (2001), Chapter 7 “Knowledge is Power: Asymmetric Information” from Economic Concepts for the Social Sciences

October 8: Decision Analysis
Rabin (2013) “Healthy habits: some thoughts on the role of public policy in healthful eating and exercise under limited rationality” from Behavioural Public Policy
Voorhoeve (2013) “A response to Rabin” from Behavioural Public Policy

October 15: **MIDTERM** IN CLASS

October 22: Public Problems and Policy Alternatives
Kraft and Furlong, Chapter 5
Baumgartner and Jones (2009), Chapters 1-3 from Agendas and Instability in American Politics

October 29: Assessing Policy Alternatives
Kraft and Furlong, Chapter 6
Part II: Policy Problems

November 5: Policy Networks – Healthcare Reform

**POLICY MEMO #2 DUE IN CLASS**

Peterson (1993) “Political Influence in the 1990s: From Iron Triangles to Policy Networks” from *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*
Kingdon (2011), Epilogue

November 12: President Obama and the Politics of Race

Canes-Wrone (2006) Chapter 1 from *Who Leads Whom? Presidents, Policy and the Public*

November 19: Racial Mobilization in the 21st Century

Philpot (2004) “A party of a different color? Race, campaign communication, and party politics” from *Political Behavior*
Swain (2006) Excerpts from *Black Faces, Black Interests: The Representation of African Americans in Congress*
Hajnal and Lee (2011) Excerpts from *Why Americans don’t join the party: race, immigration and the failure of political parties to engage the electorate*

November 26: “Obama’s Deal” PBS Frontline Documentary

December 3: The Supreme Court and Reproductive Rights

Segal and Cover (1989) “Ideological Values and the Votes of the Supreme Court Justices” from *American Political Science Review*
Saletan (2003) Chapter 1 from *Bearing Right: How Conservatives Won the Abortion War*

**FINAL EXAM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 9:30 A.M.- 12:15 P.M., 194 MERCER ST, ROOM 203**