The goal of this course is to deepen our understanding of how American public policy is developed. This course is designed with a particular emphasis played by political actors, institutions and context. From interest groups to mayors and the role of the media in foreign affairs we will continually ask: how and why do some issues gain traction with the American public (and decision makers) and others ignored? We will examine how public policy is crafted, negotiated and enacted. It is a complicated story – one worth understanding.

The goal of this course is to provide policy specialists with conceptual tools for analyzing the environment in which policy is made. This course employs analytic frameworks used by political scientists to explain the policy making process. We will integrate a number of topical issues in our discussion and consider the strategic angle by which policy is formed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To learn how to conduct a stakeholder analysis
- To gain practice in memoranda writing for a professional audience
- To learn about the policymaking process in New York City government

REQUIRED BOOKS & READINGS: All course readings are available on Classes

ASSESSED VALUATION:

- Participation: 10%
- Midterm: 20%
- Stakeholder Analysis: 30%
- Presentation: 10%
- Final: 20%
- Deliverables (2) 10%

Late assignments are not accepted. This is not to penalize any one but to create a fair and equal policy for all students. Any extra time that one student is given over another creates an unfair disadvantage.

Accommodations: 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.

**Any student behavior deemed inappropriate by the professor may impact your final grade.**
Part I: Policy Formation

January 29: Overview, Policy Problems, Agenda Setting
Guiding Question: Who is allowed to make policy?

Readings:
- Bachrach and Baratz (1962) “The Two Faces of Power” from *The American Political Science Review*
- “The Party of Nonvoters” from the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

February 5: Topic: Problem Definition
Objective: To apply problem definition theory to a case we see every day, homelessness

Readings:
- Rochefort and Cobb (1994) Chapter 1, “Problem Definition: An Emerging Perspective” from *The Politics of Problem Definition Shaping the Policy Agenda*
- Stone (2012) Chapter 9 “Causes” from *Policy Paradox*

***Deliverable #1: Policy problem and agenda setting due via email by COB Monday, Feb 9***

February 12: Framing
Guiding Question: Whom does the innocence frame benefit?

Readings:
- Schaffner and Sellers (2010) “Introduction” from *Winning with Words*

February 19: Social Capital & Interest Groups
Guest Speaker: Professor David Elcott

Readings:
- Skocpol (1997) “The Tocqueville Problem” from *Social Science History*
- Hero (2003) “Social Capital and Racial Inequality in America” from *Perspectives on Politics*
Part II: Political Institutions

February 26  Stakeholder Analysis
Stakeholder Analysis workshop

Readings:
- Bryson “When do Stakeholders Matter?”
- Varvasovszky and Brugha “How to do (or not to do…) A Stakeholder analysis” from Health Policy and Planning
- “Homelessness in Harvard Square: Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration in Action” [case study]

March 5  The Judiciary and Immigration
Guest Speaker Justice Noel Brennan, U.S. Immigration Judge

Readings:
- Lim (2013) “For Asian Undocumented Immigrants, a life of Secrecy” from The Atlantic

March 12  Public Education
Guest Speaker: De’Shawn Wright, former Washington, D.C. Deputy Mayor for Education, former NY state Deputy Secretary of Education, Wagner Alum

“Michelle Rhee and the Washington, D.C. Public Schools” [case study]
**Stakeholder Analysis Draft 1 due in class**

March 19  SPRING BREAK

March 26  **MIDTERM** in class

April 2  The Influencers: Activists and Social Movement Organizations
Objective: Understand how activists and social movements can move issues to the mainstream agenda

- Lipsky (1968) “Protest as a Political resource” from the American Political Science Review
- “Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault” (2014) from the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault
- Grigoriadis (2014) “Meet the College Women Who Are Starting a Revolution Against Campus Sexual Assault” from New York Magazine
April 9: Media and Social Media
Guiding Question: Why are some issues covered in the news and not others? Why Michael Brown and not other individuals?

Readings:
- Boydstun (2013) Chapter 1 “Patterns in the News and Why They Matter” from Making the News
- Shirky (2011) “The Political Power of Social Media” from Foreign Affairs

Part III Policy Implementation

April 16 Implementation
Objective: connecting Sabatier and Mazmanian article to what we see unfolding in “Getting bin Laden”

- Schmidle (2011) “Getting Bin Laden” from the New Yorker

** Stakeholder Analysis Draft #2 due in class

April 23 Implementation
Guiding Question: What happens when a bill is passed in Congress, how does it become policy?

Readings:
- Lipsky (1980) Chapter 1 “The Critical Role of Street Level Bureaucrats” and Chapter 2 “Street Level Bureaucrats as Policy Makers” from Street Level Bureaucrats

April 30 Policy Evaluation
Guiding Question: How can evaluation be used effectively?

Readings:
- New York’s Teen ACTION program [case study] + video to watch in class
- Teen ACTION: A Program of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), Program Review Summary

**Deliverable #2: Communication Strategy due in via email by COB Monday, May 4

May 7: Presentations
Final draft of Stakeholder Analysis due in class

Final Examination due Thursday, May 21 at 8:00 p.m.