Section 001: Wednesday, 4:55p-7:25p., Bobst LL1-50
Professor Anthony Bertelli
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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:15-3:15pm, Puck 3073.

Course Description

This course examines competing values in the implementation of public policies, that is, in the effort to turn policy goals into realities. My focus this semester is on democracy as a normative value and what it implies for how scholars and practitioners think about their roles when implementing policies. Is there a tension between democracy and policy implementation? How can we resolve that tension? The course should prove valuable for any student interested in a better understanding of why it is complicated for politicians and public officials to say that they are giving the people what they want.

Course Objectives

1. To understand how democracy and the implementation of policies interact
2. To understand the values with which democracy competes in policy implementation
3. To develop a framework for assessing democracy against claims about how to implement public policies

Teaching Approach

To build a sophisticated understanding of the arguments we consider, you will need to engage in all components of the course. It is expected that you will complete all required reading in advance of the session for which they are listed, take notes on the material, and be prepared to summarize and to critically evaluate it. Many of these readings will be challenging for you (as, indeed, they are for me), so your questions about the claims they make are essential to your learning. You will help guide the discussion in our class meetings; your classmates are counting on you to bring your own perspective to small-group and whole-class conversations. Classes will include both lecture and discussion components – but feel free to ask pertinent questions at any point. I encourage the expression of diverse viewpoints in class and in your written work.

Grading and Assessment

Examinations. (Higher score contributes 80% to course grade). Two non-cumulative examinations will be given in class on the dates listed in the course calendar. They will be constituted of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions.
Class Participation. (Contributes 20% to course grade). This is awarded for contributing to a productive learning environment over the course of the term. All students in the course benefit from high levels of class attendance and participation, so you are expected to prepare and attend. For instance, missing classes and being unprepared to discuss readings during sessions will lower this portion of your grade.

An element of your participation score will be drawn from your contributions to the forum section on our NYU classes page. Each week, I will ask a question and would like you to respond briefly to it with one or more thoughts based on the assigned reading. Please do this by 3pm on the day of class so that I can use some of your thoughts to frame our discussion.

NYU Classes

All announcements will be delivered through NYU Classes and materials and assignments posted there. I may modify assignments, due dates, and other aspects of the course as we go through the term with notice provided as soon as possible through the NYU Classes course page.

Academic Integrity

The students and faculty at NYU are very concerned about academic integrity. Each student should have the assurance that the rules of the game are understood by everyone and enforced equally. Students are encouraged to learn and study together. Individual assignments are just that, but mutual assistance is appropriate. The Wagner School has an academic code that is available here: http://wagner.nyu.edu/students/policies/academic-code. Every student is expected to maintain academic integrity and is expected to report violations to me. If you are unsure about what is expected of you, ask.

Additional Administrative Details

- You are responsible for obtaining any materials distributed in or outside of class.
- Please silence cell phones while in class.
- I reserve the right to revise this syllabus as the term progresses.
- The use of technology in class is generally discouraged – students seem to get the best results by taking notes by hand in class and reviewing them later.

Policy Regarding Disability Services and Programs

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities, 726 Broadway, 2nd Floor, (212-998-4980). Reasonable accommodations can be made for students with qualified disabilities, but only for students who have registered with the Moses Center and provide documentation from that office. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me in the first week of the term.

Required Readings
All other readings will be posted on NYU Classes; what I have listed on the syllabus below is subject to change with notice provided by email.

Course Calendar

Part I: Theories and Concepts

Session 1 (Jan 25):  Is there a tension between democracy and policy implementation?

- **Objective:** Provide an overview of the course’s main problem.
- No assigned reading in advance of week 1.

Session 2 (Feb 1):  Competing values.

- **Objective:** Understand values that compete with democracy in legitimating public policy?

Session 3 (Feb 8):  Defining representative democracy.

- **Objective:** Understand the idea of representative democracy in a general way.

Session 4 (Feb 15):  What style of democracy should drive the policy process?

- **Objective:** Discuss the claim that a procedural view of democracy is critical to the legitimation of policy implementation.
Part II: Theorizing the Practice of Policy Implementation

Session 5 (Feb 22):  *Why can’t we just run government like a business?*

- **Objective:** Understand and democratically evaluate the managerialist argument for implementing policies that underlies such movements as the New Public Management and Reinventing Government.


Session 6 (Feb 29):  *Democracy’s demands for managing policy implementation.*

- **Objective:** To refine our framework for assessing claims about how policy implementation should be done against democratic requirements.

- Review readings from sessions 2-4.

Mar 8:  Exam 1 (In Class)

Mar 15:  Spring Recess (No Class)

Session 7 (Mar 22):  *Why can’t we just involve citizens in implementation?*

- **Objective:** Understand and democratically evaluate the argument for citizen participation in policy implementation.

- Fung, “Minipublics: Deliberative Designs and Their Consequences.”


Session 8 (Mar 29):  *Why can’t implementing authorities just collaborate with one another?*

- **Objective:** Understand and democratically evaluate the claim that better implementation stems from collaboration by public, non-profit, and private organizations.


Apr 5: No Class

Part II: Case Studies

- **Objective:** To apply our framework in a variety of contexts.

Session 9 (Apr 12): *Building and financing infrastructure in developing countries*


Session 10 (Apr 19): *Repealing “Obamacare”*


Session 14 (Apr 26): *Conclusion and review*

- **Objective:** What questions about implementing policies can we (and can’t we) ask the people? Is accountability possible in a landscape of complex governance?

May 3: Exam 2 (In Class)