



NYU

**ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

CORE-GP.1022

Introduction to Public Policy

Fall 2019

Course Information

Instructor: Mona Vakilifathi

- Email: mvakilif@nyu.edu
- Office Hours: M 6:45-7:45pm [Global Center for Academic & Spiritual Life (GCASL) 369] and T 4-5pm [Puck Building 3094]

Teaching Assistant: Eric Cova

- Section: T 5:15-6:15pm [7 East 12th Street (7E12) 129]
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Teaching Assistant: Emily Ralic-Moore

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- Email: emr360@nyu.edu
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Teaching Assistant: Brittany Mazzurco

- Section: T 9:10-10:10pm [194 Mercer Street (194M) 201]
- Email: bam396@nyu.edu
- Office Hours: By appointment

Peer Review Workshop Consultant: Visit "Peer Review Group" tab on class website

Lecture: T 6:45-8:55pm [Silver Center for Arts & Science (SILV) 411]

Learning Objectives

Goal 1

The first goal is to provide students an overview of the political actors and institutions involved in U.S. federal, state, and local public policy. We will reference legal, political science, public administration, and public policy research to discuss the four venues of domestic public policy – lawmaking, rulemaking, implementation, and litigation. For each venue, we will (1) introduce the institutional rules and pivotal actors and (2) discuss the interaction of actors and institutions within the context of a case study.

Goal 2

The second goal of this course is to train students how to write a stakeholder analysis, policy memorandum, op-ed, and press release. We will reference economics, political science, public administration, and public policy research to determine a client’s policy goal(s), identify the relevant stakeholders, formulate policy recommendations for a client, execute a policy recommendation for a client, and prepare a public relations strategy to promote the policy recommendation.

Learning Assessment Table

Course Learning Objective	Assignment (See Below)
Goal 1	Op-ed, Stakeholder Analysis, Options Memorandum, Client Presentation, Strategy Memorandum, Press Release
Goal 2	Op-ed, Stakeholder Analysis, Options Memorandum, Client Presentation, Strategy Memorandum, Press Release

Course Website

The course website is available on [NYU Classes](#) under the “[SEMESTER] [YEAR] – Public Policy (Vakilifathi)” tab. The readings are available on the course website. The lecture slides will be uploaded at least one hour before each lecture. The assignments will be uploaded to the website at least two weeks in advance of its due date.

Required Readings

The required readings for this class consist of book chapters, journal articles, government or policy reports, documentaries, news articles, case studies, and simulations. These materials are posted on the course website on NYU Classes under the “Resources” tab and the “Readings” folder. In cases where the case study is not available for free, refer to the hyperlink to purchase and instantly access the case study online.

Although there is no formal prerequisite for this course, you are expected to be familiar with American federal government at the undergraduate level. We will review basic information regarding the American federal government at the beginning of the course. However, if you need additional resources on the American federal government, you are expected to review the “American Government Foundations” module on NYU Classes.

Assignments

Students are required to submit the [1] Op-ed, [2] Stakeholder Analysis, [3] Options Memorandum, [4] Client Presentation, [5] Strategy Memorandum, and [6] Press Release assignments.

The op-ed assignment consists of a writing sample for submission to an online or print publication. The memoranda and press release assignments consist of: (1) a writing sample for potential employment as a policy advisor to an elected official or interest group, and (2) a worksheet of two short answer questions regarding the application of relevant course readings to the content of the writing sample. The presentation assignment consists of a PowerPoint slide deck and presentation.

The “Course Schedule” section below includes every assignment’s prompt release date, rough draft(s) due date, peer review letters, and final draft due date. Each assignment, the prompt and/or worksheet, will be posted on the course website under the “Assignments (Prompts + Final Drafts)” tab at least two weeks in advance of its due date. Assignments will be graded and returned to students within one week of a student’s submission.

[1] Op-ed [15%]

Students are expected to submit an op-ed to advocate a position for or against any public policy topic. The student will submit (1) a rough draft of the op-ed, (2) peer review letters, and (3) a final draft of the op-ed. The assignment is introduced during recitation in Week 2, the first rough draft is due on Saturday of Week 2, the peer review letters are due on Tuesday of Week 3, and the final draft is due on Saturday of Week 3.

[2] Stakeholder Analysis [20%]

Students are expected to submit (1) a stakeholder analysis and (2) a one-page summary of the assigned client’s policy goals and the relevant stakeholders for an assigned public policy topic. In addition, students must complete (3) peer review letters and (4) a worksheet of two short answer questions regarding the application of relevant course readings to this assignment. The assignment is introduced during recitation in Week 4, the rough draft is due on Saturday of Week 4, the peer review letters are due on Tuesday of Week 5, and the final draft is due on Saturday of Week 5.

[3] Options Memorandum [20%]

Students are expected to submit (1) a two-page memorandum to present three original policy options and one policy recommendation (among the three options) for an assigned client that advance the client's policy goal related to an assigned public policy topic. In addition, students must complete (2) peer review letters and (3) a worksheet of two short answer questions regarding the application of relevant course readings to this assignment. The assignment is introduced during recitation in Week 6, the rough draft is due on Saturday of Week 7, the peer review letters are due on Tuesday of Week 8, and the final draft is due on Saturday of Week 8.

[4] Client Presentation [10%]

Students are expected to (1) attend a workshop on creating client presentations, (2) submit a Power Point slide deck regarding the student's final policy recommendation in their Options Memorandum and (3) present the slide deck in recitation. The workshop will occur outside of lecture and recitation during Week 7 or Week 8. The schedule for the workshop will be announced via email during Week 1. The assignment is provided during the workshop (which takes place during Week 7 or Week 8). The slide deck and presentations will be due in a recitation during Week 10 or Week 11.

[5] Strategy Memorandum [20%]

Students are expected to submit (1) a two-page memorandum to provide one policy recommendation for an assigned client that advance the client's policy goal related to an assigned public policy topic. In addition, students must complete (2) peer review letters and (3) a worksheet of two short answer questions regarding the application of relevant course readings to this assignment. The assignment is introduced during recitation in Week 9, the rough draft is due on Saturday of Week 11, the peer review letters are due on Tuesday of Week 12, and the final draft is due on Saturday of Week 12.

[6] Press Release [15%]

Students are expected to submit (1) a one-page press release to publicize an assigned client's pursuit of a policy recommendation related to an assigned public policy topic. In addition, students must complete (2) peer review letters and (3) a worksheet of two short answer questions regarding the application of relevant course readings to this assignment. The assignment is introduced during recitation in Week 14, the rough draft is due on Saturday of Week 14, the peer review letters are due on Tuesday of Week 15, and the final draft is due on Saturday of Week 15.

Assignment Due Dates

Rough drafts due on a Saturday must be submitted by 11:55pm EST on its due date through the "Assignments (Rough Drafts + Peer Review)" tab on the NYU Classes class website.

Peer review letters due on a Tuesday must be submitted by 12pm EST on its due date through the “Assignments (Rough Drafts + Peer Review)” tab on the NYU Classes class website.

Final drafts due on a Saturday must be submitted by 11:55pm EST on its due date through the “Assignments (Prompts + Final Drafts)” tab on the NYU Classes class website.

Late Assignments

If an assignment is submitted five minutes after its deadline, the assignment will be considered one day late. Late assignments will be deducted five percent from the assignment grade per calendar day.

If a student would like to (1) resubmit an assignment before the due date, (2) resubmit an assignment after the due date with penalty (i.e., without a university-approved reason for late submission), or (3) submit a late assignment with penalty (i.e., without a university-approved reason for late submission), email your assigned teaching assistant.

If a student would like to (1) resubmit an assignment after the due date without penalty (i.e., with a university-approved reason for late submission) or (2) submit a late assignment without penalty (i.e., with a university-approved reason for late submission), email Professor Vakilifathi with the documentation to verify your absence. Do not notify or email the documentation before the submission of a late assignment. If Professor Vakilifathi approves your documentation, she will partially or completely waive the late penalty for the assignment.

Re-grading Assignments

If a student would like a re-grade of an assignment, the student must email Professor Vakilifathi a one-page (maximum) response stating their reasons for a re-grade within one week of receiving their grade. Professor Vakilifathi will re-grade the entire assignment, which may result in a lower or higher grade than the original grade within one week of receiving the student’s re-grade letter.

The student can appeal her or his course grade to Professor Vakilifathi only if there is a clerical error. All other student requests to appeal a course grade, for whatever reasons, will not be considered.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by [Wagner’s Academic Code](#). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](#). Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to Professor Vakilifathi. If you are unsure about what is expected of you and how to abide by the academic code, you should consult with Professor Vakilifathi.

Wagner Writing Center

Students are strongly encouraged to email your assigned workshop consultant, email your assigned teaching assistant, or meet with Professor Vakilifathi during office hours for additional feedback on their assignments throughout the semester. If you would like additional feedback or training on policy writing, please visit the [Wagner Writing Center](#) or the [NYU Writing Center](#).

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at NYU

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\) website](#) and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSD at (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Attendance

Attendance in lecture and recitation is mandatory. Although attendance is not a part of a student's final grade, Professor Vakilifathi may increase a student's final letter grade if (1) the student's final grade is less than one percentage point from the next letter grade percentage range, (2) the student has attended 13 of the 14 lectures, (3) the student has attended 6 of the 7 recitations, and (4) the student regularly participates in lecture and recitation activities and discussion.

Lecture Absence

If you are not able to attend lecture and your absence is not a university-approved absence (e.g. illness without a doctor's note, work), you are responsible for completing the assigned reading, reviewing the lecture slides, accessing the lectures notes on your own. If you have specific questions about lecture, you can sign up for office hours with Professor Vakilifathi. (See "Office Hours" section below.)

If you are not able to attend lecture and your absence is a university-approved absence (e.g., illness with a doctor's note, illness or death of a friend or family member, religious commitment), please email Professor Vakilifathi only the documentation to verify your absence and whether you would like to review the lecture materials in a 30-minute meeting (instead of a 15-minute meeting) during office hours.

Recitation Absence

If you are not able to attend recitation and your absence is not a university-approved absence (e.g. illness without a doctor's note, work), do not email Professor Vakilifathi or the teaching assistant. If you are absent during a peer review workshop, you will lose points in the corresponding assignment grade for peer review workshop attendance.

If you are not able to attend recitation and your absence is a university-approved absence (e.g., illness with a doctor's note, illness or death of a friend or family member, religious commitment), please email Professor Vakilifathi only the documentation to verify your absence. If you are absent for a peer review workshop and Professor Vakilifathi has approved your documentation, you will not lose points in the corresponding assignment grade for peer review workshop attendance.

NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

[NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#) states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations.

As stated in the previous sections:

- If you are not able to attend lecture, please email Professor Vakilifathi only the documentation to verify your absence and whether you would like to review the lecture materials in a 30-minute meeting (instead of a 15-minute meeting) during office hours.
- If a student would like to (1) resubmit an assignment after the due date without penalty or (2) submit a late assignment without penalty, email Professor Vakilifathi with the documentation to verify your absence. Do not notify or email the documentation before the submission of a late assignment. If Professor Vakilifathi approves your documentation, she will completely waive the late penalty for the assignment.

Cell Phone Use

Cell phone use is prohibited during lecture and recitation because it not only distracts you during class but it disrupts other students (especially during group activities.) If you need to make a phone call or send a text message during lecture or recitation, please leave the classroom and return after you completed your call or text. If you need to make multiple phone calls or text messages during lecture or recitation, please pack up your belongings, leave the classroom, and return to the classroom the following week. If you repeatedly use your phone during lecture or recitation throughout the semester, Professor Vakilifathi and NYU Wagner Student Services will schedule a meeting with you to discuss your personal circumstances.

General vs. Individual Student Questions

It is very common for students to email the workshop consultants, teaching assistants, and Professor Vakilifathi the same questions about the course. In order for the workshop consultants, teaching assistants, and Professor Vakilifathi to maximize time spent on individual questions and minimize time spent on repeating general questions, please post general questions regarding the course lecture, recitation, and assignments on the discussion board under the “Discussion Board” tab on the NYU Classes class website.

For individual questions about the course lectures, university-approved absences, or university-approved late assignments, please email Professor Vakilifathi. Again, do not email Professor Vakilifathi regarding attendance or late assignments unless your absence is a university-approved absence.

For individual questions about the assignment prompt or peer review letters, please email your assigned workshop consultant. If the workshop consultant does not provide a sufficient response, email your assigned teaching assistant and Cc the workshop consultant. If the teaching assistant does not provide a sufficient response, sign up for office hours with Professor Vakilifathi.

For individual questions about the course recitation or assignment grades, please email your assigned teaching assistant. If the teaching assistant does not provide a sufficient response, sign up for office hours with Professor Vakilifathi.

The workshop consultants, teaching assistants, and Professor Vakilifathi are not responsible for brainstorming, editing, or writing your assignments. For brainstorming suggestions and editing, please email your assigned workshop consultant. If the workshop consultant does not provide a sufficient response, contact the NYU Wagner Writing Center to schedule an appointment.

The workshop consultants, teaching assistants, and Professor Vakilifathi will respond to emails within twenty-four hours after an email is received, excluding weekends.

If a student does not follow these email guidelines (i.e., emailing the workshop consultants, teaching assistants, and Professor Vakilifathi about general questions, unexcused absences, etc.) two or more times throughout the class, Professor Vakilifathi reserves the right to reduce the student’s final letter grade by one letter grade category (e.g., A- to B+).

Office Hours

NYU Wagner faculty provide one or two hours for office hours per week. Professor Vakilifathi provides two hours for office hours per week. You can attend office hours to ask specific, individual questions about the course (after emailing your assigned workshop consultant and/or teaching assistant) or career planning in public policy. You can sign up for a 15-minute meeting during office hours through the “Office Hours Sign-Up” tab on the NYU Classes class website.

In order to be fair and consistent with students, Professor Vaklifathi will only meet with students outside of office hours with a NYU class conflict. If you have a class conflict, please email Professor Vaklifathi only your NYU class schedule during Week 3 and email Professor Vaklifathi to schedule individual appointments when necessary during the semester.

Teaching assistants are expected to lead recitation, manage the discussion board on NYU Classes, and grade assignments. As a result, the teaching assistants provide office hours by appointment to discuss specific, individual questions about the assignment prompt and final grade that cannot be addressed via email. In order to request an appointment, email your teaching assistant your specific question(s). The teaching assistant will provide you an answer to your question via email or will initiate an in-person appointment. If the teaching assistant provides you an answer to your question via email and you would like more detail or feedback, you may request an in-person appointment with the teaching assistant. The teaching assistant will schedule an appointment with one week of the request or suggest you to sign up for office hours with Professor Vaklifathi.

Course Schedule

Please complete all assigned readings (unless otherwise specified) **before** the assigned lecture.

Week 1: Course Overview [9/3/2019]

- **Readings** (i.e., readings to complete before Lecture 1):
 - **How to Read an Academic Article:** “Policy Entrepreneurs and the Diffusion of Innovation” – Mintrom (1997)
 - **Overview of Lecture Case Study:** Combat and Collaboration in Seattle’s Historic Minimum Wage Debate
- **Recitation** (i.e., activity in recitation in Lecture 1): None
- **Assignment Due this Saturday** (i.e., assignment due this Saturday at 11:55pm EST): American Government Foundations module “Knowledge Check”
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday)** (i.e., assignment due next Tuesday at 12pm EST): Op-ed (prompt; online quiz)

Week 2: American Government Foundations [9/10/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - “American Government Foundations” module
 - Review topic(s) based on “Knowledge Check” results
 - After reviewing topics, complete the “Post-Module Exam”
- **Recitation:** Op-ed (prompt overview)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Op-ed (rough draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Op-ed (peer review letters)

Week 3: Stakeholder Analysis [9/17/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Interest Group Collective Action [Theory]:** “A Theory of Groups and Organizations” from The Logic of Collective Action - Olson (1965)
 - **Advocacy Coalition Framework [Theory]:** “An Advocacy Coalition Framework of Policy Change and the Role of Policy-Oriented Learning Therein” - Sabatier (1988)
 - **How to Write a Stakeholder Analysis:** “Stakeholder Analysis” from Managing Policy Reform: Concepts and Tools for Decision-Makers in Developing and Transitioning Countries - Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2001)
 - **Case Study:** Combat and Collaboration in Seattle’s Historic Minimum Wage Debate
- **Recitation:** Op-ed (peer review)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Op-ed (final draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Stakeholder analysis (prompt)

Week 4: Lawmaking (Institutions + Actors) [9/24/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Overview of Lawmaking Process:**
 - “Congress” from the American Government Foundations module [Optional]
 - “Introduction to the Legislative Process in the U.S. Congress” – Congressional Research Service (2017)
 - **How Legislators Engage in Lawmaking Process:** “The Keys to Majority-Party Effectiveness in Congress” from Legislative Effectiveness in the United States Congress: The Lawmakers – Volden and Wiseman (2014) [Assigned students]
 - **How the President Engages in Lawmaking Process:** “The President’s Playbook: White House Strategies for Lobbying Congress” – Beckmann (2008) [Assigned students]
 - **How Interest Groups Engage in Lawmaking Process:** “Policy Entrepreneurs and the Diffusion of Innovation” – Mintrom (1997) [Review Week 1 summary]

- **Recitation:** Op-ed (return grades + feedback); Stakeholder analysis (prompt overview)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Stakeholder analysis (rough draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Stakeholder analysis (peer review letters)

Week 5: Lawmaking (Case Study) [10/1/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Background on Enactment of Affordable Care Act through Lawmaking Process:**
 - “Obama’s Deal” – Frontline (2010)
 - “Making Nonincremental Policy Change through Hyperunorthodox Procedures: Healthcare Reform in 2009-2010” from *Unorthodox Lawmaking: New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress* (5th edition) – Sinclair (2017)
 - **Case Study:** Health Care Reform: 2009-2010
- **Recitation:** Stakeholder analysis (peer review)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Stakeholder analysis (final draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Options memorandum (prompt)

Week 6: Options Memorandum [10/8/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Path Dependence [Theory]:** “Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics” – Pierson (2000)
 - **How to Write a Policy Memorandum:** “Generating and Organizing Your Argument” and “The Decision Memo” from *The CQ Press Writing Guide for Public Policy* – Pennock (2018)
 - **How to Evaluate a Policy Recommendation:** “Assessing Policy Alternatives” from *Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives* (6th edition) – Kraft and Furlong (2018)
 - **Case Study:** Combat and Collaboration in Seattle’s Historic Minimum Wage Debate

- **Recitation:** Stakeholder analysis (return grades + feedback); Options memorandum (prompt overview)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** None
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** None

Week 7: No Class [10/15/2019]

- **Readings:** None
- **Recitation:** None
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Options memorandum (rough draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Options memorandum (peer review letters); Client presentation (prompt)

Week 8: Rulemaking (Institutions + Actors) [10/22/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Overview of Rulemaking Process:**
 - “The Presidency” and “The Federal Bureaucracy” from the American Government Foundations module [Optional]
 - “The Federal Rulemaking Process: An Overview” – Congressional Research Service (2013)
 - “A Brief Overview of Rulemaking and Judicial Review” – Congressional Research Service (2017)
 - **How Legislators Engage in Rulemaking Process:** “Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control” – McCubbins et al. (1987) [Assigned students]
 - **How the President Engages in Rulemaking Process:** “Presidentially Directed Policy Change: The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as Partisan or Moderator?” – Haeder and Yackee (forthcoming) [Assigned students]
 - **How Interest Groups Engage in Rulemaking Process:** “Sweet-Talking the Fourth Branch: The Influence of Interest Group Comments on Federal Agency Rulemaking” – Yackee (2006) [Assigned students]

- **Recitation:** Options memorandum (peer review)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Options memorandum (final draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Strategy memorandum (prompt); Client presentation (prompt)

Week 9: Rulemaking (Case Study) [10/29/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Simulation of Rulemaking Process:** Negotiated Rulemaking Exercise: Woodstove New Source Performance Standard (+ assigned role memorandum)
 - **Case Study on Political Influence on/in Executive Agency Rulemaking:**
 - “War on the EPA” – Frontline (2017)
 - “Obama’s Mighty EPA Falls Into Pruitt’s Hands” – Restuccia and Guillen (2016)
 - “What It’s Like Inside the Trump Administration’s Regulatory Rollback at the EPA” – Buford (2017)
 - “EPA Year in Review: 2017-2018” – Environmental Protection Agency (2018)
 - “With a Shrinking EPA, Trump Delivers on His Promise to Cut Government” – Dennis et al. (2018)
 - “The Myth of Scott Pruitt’s EPA Rollback” – Grunwald (2018)
- **Recitation:** Options memorandum (return grades + feedback); Strategy memorandum (prompt overview)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** None
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Client presentation (due next week in recitation)

Week 10: Strategy Memorandum [11/5/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Multiple Streams Framework [Theory]:** “How Does an Idea’s Time Come?” and “The Policy Window, and Joining the Streams” from *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* (2nd edition) – Kingdon (2002)

- **Problem stream:** “Problems” from Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies (2nd edition) – Kingdon (2002)
- **Policy stream:** “The Policy Primeval Soup” from Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies (2nd edition) – Kingdon (2002)
- **Politics stream:** “The Political Stream” from Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies (2nd edition) – Kingdon (2002)
- **Punctuated Equilibrium [Theory]:** “Punctuated Equilibria in Politics” and “Policy Images and Institutional Venues” from Agendas and Instability in American Politics (2nd edition) – Baumgartner and Jones (2009)
- **Case Study:** Combat and Collaboration in Seattle’s Historic Minimum Wage Debate
- **Recitation:** Client presentation (attend pre-scheduled recitation in Week 10 or Week 11)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** None
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Client presentation (due next week in recitation)

Week 11: Implementation (Institutions + Actors) [11/12/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - “The Federal Bureaucracy” and “American Federalism” from the American Government Foundations module [Optional]
 - **How Bureaucrats (Political Appointees) Engage in Implementation Process:** “Secretaries of Pork? A New Theory of Distributive Public Policy” – Bertelli and Grose (2009) [Assigned students]
 - **How Legislators Engage in Implementation Process:** “Regulatory Regimes, Agency Actions, and the Conditional Nature of Congressional Influence” – Shipan (2004) [Assigned students]
 - **How the President Engages in Implementation Process:** “Agencies by Presidential Design” – Howell and Lewis (2002) [Assigned students]
 - **How Interest Groups Engage in Implementation Process:** “Groups, the Media, Agency Waiting Costs, and FDA Drug Approval” – Carpenter (2002) [Assigned students]
- **Recitation:** Client presentation (attend pre-scheduled recitation in Week 10 or Week 11)

- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Strategy memorandum (rough draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Strategy memorandum (peer review letters)

Week 12: Implementation (Case Study) [11/19/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Background on Federal, State, and Local Government Implementation of Hurricane Katrina Preparation and Disaster Assistance:**
 - “The Storm” – Frontline (2005)
 - **Case Study:**
 - Hurricane Katrina: Preparing for “The Big One” in New Orleans (A)
 - Hurricane Katrina: Responding to an “Ultra-Catastrophe” in New Orleans (B)
- **Recitation:** Strategy memorandum (peer review)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Strategy memorandum (final draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** None

Week 13: Press Release [11/26/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Social Construction Framework [Theory]:**
 - “Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas” – Stone (1989)
 - “Social Construction of Target Populations: Implications for Politics and Policy” – Schneider and Ingram (1993)
 - **Framing:** “Framing and Deliberation” – Druckman and Nelson (2003)
 - **Application of Framing in Policymaking Process:** “The Ten Rules of Effective Language” and “Political Case Studies” from Words That Work: It’s Not What You Say, It’s What People Hear – Luntz (2007)
 - **Case Study:** Combat and Collaboration in Seattle’s Historic Minimum Wage Debate

- **Recitation:** None
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** None
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Press release (prompt)

Week 14: Litigation (Institutions + Actors) [12/3/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Background on Litigation and Public Policy:**
 - “The Judiciary” from the American Government Foundations module [Optional]
 - “The Political Construction of Adversarial Legalism” from Adversarial Legalism: The American Way of Law – Kagan (2001)
 - “Law is Different: The Power of Precedent” from Law’s Allure: How Law Shapes, Constrains, Saves, and Kills Politics – Silverstein (2009)
 - **How the President and Legislators Engage in Litigation Process:** “The Power to Appoint: Presidential Nominations and Change on the Supreme Court” – Cottrell et al. (2019) [Assigned students]
 - **How Interest Groups Engage in Litigation Process:** “Quality Over Quantity: Amici Influence and Judicial Decision Making” Box-Steffensmeier et al. (2013) [Assigned students]
- **Recitation:** Strategy memorandum (return grades + feedback); Press release (prompt overview)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Press release (rough draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** Press release (peer review letters)

Week 15: Litigation (Case Study) [12/10/2019]

- **Readings:**
 - **Background on Legalization of Gay Marriage through Litigation Process:**
 - “The Freedom to Marry” [available via YouTube] or “The Case Against 8” [available via NYU Libraries or YouTube]
 - “The Improbable Victory of Marriage Equality” - Kowal (2015)

- “Obergefell v. Hodges: Same-Sex Marriage Legalized” - Congressional Research Service (2015)
- **Case Study:** Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) Opinion of the Court [Pages 1-33 of PDF]
- **Recitation:** Press release (peer review)
- **Assignment Due this Saturday:** Press release (final draft)
- **Assignment Due Next Recitation (Tuesday):** None