

Governance and Policy Processes
PUBP 502
Spring 2007, All Sections

James D. Riggle, Ph.D.
School of Public Policy
George Mason University

Telephone: 703-993-4626
E-mail: jriggle@gmu.edu
Office: 100B Finley Building

Office hours: The hour before class, after class, by appointment in Fairfax.

Purpose of this course

The purpose of this course is to take a broad view of governance in a U.S., comparative, and international context. First, democratic governance in the U.S. is examined and compared with other democracies. Second, focusing on the U.S. as a case study, important changes in the execution of public policy are examined as increasing portions of public policy in democratic, market-based nations are carried out by private sector and non-profit organizations. Third, the course will analyze the comparative development of the modern democratic nation state, the emergence of the European Union, and the politics of interest group influence on international organizations. Students will learn about the governance and permeability of various international organizations and the interaction between non-governmental organizations.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify and assess the impact of a variety of governmental structures, be familiar with contemporary issues of governance, understand the varieties and implications of inter-sector cooperation, be aware of the changing dynamics of national and sub-national governance, and be conversant with the international dimensions of governance. The analytic techniques that students will be able to use include, case study analysis, non-technical cost-benefit analysis, and nominal group technique.

Required texts

John Kingdon, *America the Unusual* (NY: St. Martins Press, 1999).

Elliott D. Sclar, *You Don't Always Get What you Pay For: The Economics of Privatization* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2000).

Francis Fukuyama, *State Building: Governance and World Order in the 21st Century*, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2004).

Alberto Alesina and Edward Glaeser, *Fighting Poverty in the US and Europe: A World of Difference*, (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2004).

In addition, a number of articles and chapters will be assigned, as specified below or announced in class.

The Constitution of the United States of America
Charles Lindblom, "The Science of Muddling Through," (PAR, 1959).
James Madison, *Federalist No. 10*
James Madison, *Federalist No. 51*
John P. Roche, "The Founding Fathers: A Reform Caucus in Action" (APSR 1961)
Martin Diamond, "Democracy and *The Federalist*: A Reconsideration of the Framers' Intent" (APSR 1959)

Copies of the *Constitution* and the Federalist papers can be found easily on Google. The Lindblom, Roche and Diamond articles are available on the JSTOR database on GMU's Library website.

Students will also be responsible for a brief case study in non-technical cost-benefit analysis prepared for this class by the instructor.

Class Format

The course will be conducted primarily as a seminar rather than in a lecture format, although the first few weeks may be more lecture-oriented. Thus each week's assignment must be read before class discussions each week. Active participation in class discussions is mandatory. Professionals in public policy must be able to speak effectively in small groups and to make presentations of their work. The only way to learn these skills is to practice, so students are expected to contribute to discussions and may be required to present summaries of course readings and their own writing. It is expected that students will keep up with policy developments in matters relating to this course.

Course Evaluation

Short paper	5%
Midterm exam	15%
Written proposal for final paper	15%
Final exam	20%
Class Participation	20%
Final Paper: Comparative Policy Analysis	25%

NB: I am seriously considering reallocating points from the exams to two short in-class quizzes.

Grading Policy

There are important elements of judgment included in your final grade for the course. I insist on being able to reward excellence. This means that only a few students will receive the highest possible grade. Others in the class will, by definition, receive a lower grade (not necessarily low, just lower). Students should understand that the program of study at SPP is highly competitive, and the caliber of students has been rising consistently over the last several years. You are, to an increasing extent, competing with

each other, in addition to requirements that you demonstrate a graduate-level understanding of class materials.

Written Assignments

Your written assignments must be submitted in hard copy, but an electronic copy must be submitted in addition so that it can be checked through the School's data base service of published and non-published term papers.

Do not put your papers in a special cover; merely staple them in the upper left corner. All papers must be double-spaced and in 12-point font on standard 8.5 x 11 inch paper.

Plagiarism: All work must be your own. Inappropriate use of the work of others without attribution is plagiarism. Whenever you use someone else's ideas, cite the source. If you use someone else's words, put them in quotation marks and cite the source. George Mason's Honor Code provides that **plagiarism is punishable by expulsion** from the University. All papers must be available in digital format so that they can be checked against databases of published and other material available on the web. The School of Public Policy's plagiarism policy is appended to the end of this syllabus.

Outline of the Course

Part I. Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations of Contemporary Governance

1. Introduction to the Course and Overview of the Semester
2. The United States Constitutional Structure, Separation of Powers, Federalism

Assignment:

The Constitution of the United States of America

James Madison, *Federalist No. 10*

James Madison, *Federalist No. 51*

John P. Roche, "The Founding Fathers: A Reform Caucus in Action" (APSR 1961)

Martin Diamond, "Democracy and *The Federalist*: A Reconsideration of the Framers' Intent" (APSR 1959)

John Kingdon, *America the Unusual*, Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1-22.

3. 4. American Exceptionalism

Assignment:

John Kingdon, *America the Unusual*, Chapters 3-5, pp. 23-101.

Part II. Rationality, Bureaucracy, and Effects of Technology

5. The Traditional Governance Model in the United States

Assignment:

6. The Transformation to the New Public Management

Assignment:

James Pfiffner, "Traditional Public Administration versus The New Public Management: Accountability versus Efficiency." Available online.

6. Governing Markets: neo-classical economics and the market model

Assignment:

Elliott D. Sclar, *You Don't Always Get What you Pay For: The Economics of Privatization*, Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-93.

7. Markets and Government: state and local cases and federalism issues

A non-technical form of cost-benefit analysis will be included here.

Assignment:

Elliott D. Sclar, *You Don't Always Get What you Pay For*, Ch. 5-7, pp. 94-168.

8. Regional governance in the National Capital Area: Guest seminar with George Cook.

Part III. Globalization, Institutions, Comparative Political Analysis

9. [Models of democracy, emergence of sovereignty, the nation state, globalism.]

10. Democracy, Markets, and Globalization

11. The case of the European Union:

Assignment: Dinan paper available online.

12. Problems with Globalization

Assignment:

13. The Efficacy of individual and group action

SPP Policy on Plagiarism

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the

School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. (<http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html>)