

Fall 2017  
**PADM 577: The Practice of Policy Development**  
CRN 60024  
Tuesday 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm  
Dane Smith 327

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### **Course Description**

Public policy ordinarily refers to federal, state, and local governmental programs. As a field, public policy is concerned with examining the causes and consequences of governmental decisions. It focuses on the intellectual activities of understanding how government works and what difference it makes. Public policy is a multidisciplinary field, involving the traditional social sciences disciplines (e.g. economics, law, political science, sociology) and the more applied fields (e.g. education, public administration, public health, social work). All are understood as offering valuable work to decision-makers and the larger community. Despite definitional and disciplinary differences, there is an agreement that the goal of the field is to understand and improve public policies through the application of rigorous analysis. Public policy analysis requires utilization of analytical methods, understanding of the politics of the given policy, and background knowledge of the complexities of the policy area.

The objectives of this course are:

1. to increase students' knowledge of the public policy-making process;
2. to introduce students to the questions and controversies surrounding policy arenas;
3. to relate substantive policy issues to conceptual approaches in public administration and other social sciences disciplines;
4. to focus on issues pertaining to contemporary issues; and
5. to analyze public problems and policy alternatives/study a policy problem and design policy innovations and proposals/develop policy research skills
6. to evaluate methods and tools of policy analysis/develop critical thinking skills

### **Readings**

1. Paul A Sabatier, *Theories of the Policy Process*
2. Kevin B. Smith and Christopher W. Larimer, *The Public Policy Theory Primer*

3. There are many articles, pertaining to case studies, which will be circulated to the class
4. Regularly read a newspaper and follow issues about public policy that appear in the daily press (e.g. *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Albuquerque Journal*, etc.).

### **Some Websites**

[www.ipsonet.org/](http://www.ipsonet.org/)  
[www.publicagenda.org](http://www.publicagenda.org)  
[www.csg.org](http://www.csg.org)  
[www.policyagendas.org](http://www.policyagendas.org)  
[www.rff.org](http://www.rff.org)

### **Course Evaluation**

- **Papers/Written Communications (40 Points):** One final paper, about 15 typewritten pages. Pick an issue area that you are interested in and do the research on it. You are expected to draft legislation on your issue and present that legislation to the class. Find out (1) the history of the issue; (2) the current legislation on the issue; (3) the current debates surrounding the issue; (4) effects of your legislation on existing legislation; (5) justification of your legislation in the light of the current debate. Your paper should contain clearly stated points and should be well documented. Anticipate the opposition and genuinely try to take their interests into account. This paper should be of sufficient merit to present to a Policy Client such as a City Council, a State Legislative Interim Study Committee, the staff of a U.S. Congressional Office, or the Board of Directors of a policy advocacy organization. ***Due December 5***
- **Abstract/Summary (10 Points):** Select your policy problem and communicate relevant issues in a persuasive oral argument to the class. Submit one page abstract. ***Due September 26***
- **Mid-Term Report (10 Points):** State and define the policy problem, describe scope of paper, summarize literature review, identify information and data resources. Present to the class. Submit 3 page report. ***Due October 17***
- All three papers should be typed, double-spaced, spell checked, proof read, and stapled together. They must be turned on the day they are due.
- **Presentation of Papers/Oral Communications (20 Points)** Students must make a presentation before submitting their final papers.
- **Class Participation (20 Points):** Basic attendance, class discussion, completion of assigned readings before class, etc. You should share at least one newspaper item in each class for the discussion. If unexpected circumstances prevent you attending the class on a given day, let me know ahead of time. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate.
- Grades will be determined according to the following scale:  
A+ = 97 to 100   A = 93 to 96   A- = 92 to 88  
B+ = 87 to 84   B = 83 to 80   B- = 79 to 76

## Course Policies

- Student-teacher relationships are built on trust. Students must trust that teachers have made responsible decisions in designing the course they teach. Similarly, teachers must trust that the works, which students turn in, are theirs. Acts, which violate this trust, undermine the basic foundation of education. It is acceptable to discuss the work with other students in the class. It is also acceptable to receive a limited amount of help from another student in the class. But, the work you turn in should be your own.
- As a graduate student, you are expected to take considerable responsibility for the direction and quality of your own learning. You are expected to complete assignments on time, to speak up in class when you have questions and ideas, to contribute to a spirit of cooperative learning, and to demonstrate significant investment in your work. You should not miss classes, arrive late, or come unprepared for the class.
- Use gender-free language in your papers and class discussion. Unbiased language is as much a matter of accuracy as it is of fairness.
- Students who are under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) should contact me privately so I can make special arrangements to meet course requirements. The Accessibility Services (277-3506) at the UNM is dedicated to accommodate students with special needs.
- Please turn off cell phones when you enter the class.

## Course Outline

**Week 1, August 22:** Overview, Introduction, Syllabus.

**Week 2, August 29:** What is Public Policy? Who makes it? Why study it?

**Readings:** (i) Smith & Larimer, "Public Policy as a Concept and a Field (or Fields) of Study" (ii) Sabatier, "The Need for Better Theories" (iii) Sabatier, "Fostering the Development of Policy Theory"

**Week 3, September 5:** The Policy-Making

**Readings:** (i) Smith & Larimer, "Who Makes Decisions? How Do They Make Decisions? Actors and Institutions" (ii) Smith & Larimer, "Where Does Policy Come From? The Policy Process" (iii) Theodoulou, "How Public Policy Is Made"  
The Policy Analysis

**Week 4, September 12:** **Readings:** (i) Smith & Larimer, "What Should We Do? The Field of Policy Analysis" (ii) Berry & Berry, "Innovation and Diffusion Models in Policy Research" (iii) Blomquist "The Policy Process and Large-N Comparative Studies" (iv) Schlager, Cobb & Elder, "Issues and Agendas" (v) Kingdon, "Agenda Setting"

**Week 5, September 19:** Rational Choices, Institutional Constraints

**Readings:** (i) Smith & Larimer, "Does Politics Cause Policy? Does Policy Cause Politics?" (ii) Ostrom, "Institutional Rational Choice" (iii) Zahariadis, "The Multiple Streams Framework" (iv) Ingram, Schneider & deLeon, "Social Construction and Policy Design" (v) Lindblom, "The Science of Muddling Through"

**Abstract Due**

**Week 6, September 26:** Economic & non-Economic Theories

**Readings:** (i) Smith & Larimer, "Whose Values? Policy Design" (ii) Adam & Kriesi, "The Network Approach" (iii) True, Jones & Baumgartner, "Punctuated-Equilibrium Theory" (iii) Sabatier & Weible, "The Advocacy Coalition Framework"

**Week 7, October 3: Implementation & Evaluation**

**Readings:** (i) Smith & Larimer, "How Does It Work? Policy Implementation" (ii) Smith & Larimer, "Governance and Managing Implementation" (iii) Smith & Larimer "What Have We Done? Impact Analysis and Program Evaluation" (iv) Smith & Larimer, "New Directions in Policy Research" (v) Smith & Larimer, "Do the Policy Sciences Exist?" (vi) Schlager, "A Comparison of Frameworks, Theories and Models of Policy Processes"

**Week 8, October 10: *Fall Break***

**Week 9, October 17:** Policy Development Case Study: Foreign Policy

**Week 10, October 24:** Policy Development Case Study: Education Policy

**Week 11, October 31:** Policy Development Case Study: Immigration Policy

**Week 12, November 7:** Policy Development Case Study: Environment Policy

**Week 13, November 14:** Policy Development Case Study: Health Policy

**Week 14, November 21: Thanksgiving**

**Week 15, November 28:** Policy Development Case Study: Food Policy

**Week 16, December 5:**

***Final Papers due electronically (pdf) to instructor as the Final Exam***