

Spring 2009
M, W, F 12:00-12:50pm

PA 460 – Administration & Public Policy
Dr. Robert Stock, Instructor
Office: PSFA 170
Phone: 619-594-4068 CALL DO NOT EMAIL
Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri. 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Objectives of Course

The goal of this course is to introduce the undergraduate public administration student to the study of the public policy process. Most public administration students are well acquainted with the internal workings of public organizations. However, they often lose sight of the fact that these organizations have broader societal purposes and goals. Each public organization has at least one principal goal, but it is the rare public organization that seeks to solve a societal problem by itself. Public organizations are constantly forming alliances and competitive relationships with other public and private organizations in order to develop and implement public policy. This process is a complex one that requires the development of special skills and frameworks. Students will study various theories of how public policy is made in the United States. They will also study various institutions in some depth. In addition, they will examine various case studies. Special emphasis will be placed on the issues facing the nation and the Clinton Administration. By the end of this course students should have a much more sophisticated understanding of the public policy process.

Format

Class time will be divided into the following activities:

1. Lecture/discussions by the instructor and the class. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. They are expected to have read and thought about the weekly assignments in the basic texts. Participation in class discussions are expected and will be rewarded at grading time. Good questions about the assigned texts will be rewarded and appreciated as much as good answers. Since participation is expected, attendance is required.
2. Discussions about current policy issues. Students are expected to read at least one good newspaper a day. Students who bring good policy issues to the attention of the class will be rewarded at grading time.
3. Films about the policy process. Students are expected to critically view all films. There will be class discussions before and after each film.

Course Assignments

There will be two exams for this course. The exams will be based on the assigned readings and the lectures. Class attendance is essential if one wants to do well on the exams. Students can assist in the preparation of these exams if they wish to.

Additional details on the preparation of the exams will be discussed in class. Each of the exams will be worth 40% of the student's grade.

Class participation will count for 20%. You must actively participate in class on a regular basis to do well in this category.

In addition to the objective exams each student with research and write a one page policy analysis for the new President. This assignment will be based on a student's reading of the "New York Times". Copies of the daily "times" will be made at a sharply discounted rate.

Texts

The three required texts are all available in the Aztec Bookstore.

They are:

1. Anderson, James, *Public Policy Making, 5th edition.*
2. Dye, Thomas *Who's Running America, 7th edition*
3. Mann, James, *The Rise of the Vulcans.*

Topics and Reading Assignments by Week

Week 1	Introduction to Course	Anderson, Chapter 1
Week 2	The Environment of Public Policy	Anderson, Chapter 2
Week 3	Policy Problems and Agendas	Anderson, Chapter 3
Week 4	Elitism	Dye, Chapters, 1-3
Week 5	The Governing Circles	Dye, Chapters, 4-6
Week 6	How Elites Move Policy	Dye, Chapters, 7-9
Week 7	MID TERM EXAM	
A Case Study of Bureaucratic Policy Making		
Week 8		Woodward, pp. 3-99
Week 9		Woodward, pp. 100-208
Week 10		Woodward, pp. 209-302
Week 11		

**ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL CLASS SESSIONS
TARDINESS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE**