PLSC 435  
Public Policy  
Spring 2016  
Andrews University  
History/Political Science Department

Instructor: Marcella Myers  
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Office Hours:  
and by appointment

Course Description:

An introduction to the theories and methods used by comparativists to study public policies. Topics include policy variations and similarities in education, health, social security, economics, taxation and environmental policy. Examines the interaction between policy development and institutions and various theoretical models of policy making.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to introduce students with the current state of research in the field of comparative public policy, to help them understand existing theories regarding policymaking and research methods employed by scholars. Students will be able to critique existing work and gain understanding of policymaking processes in various policy arenas and countries.

Required Texts:


Course Requirements and Grading:

This course follows a seminar format. Students are expected to attend all class sessions prepared to discuss the assigned readings for that week.

Special needs or students with disabilities should contact me as soon as possible to provide appropriate accommodations. If you are experiencing difficulties with the class please see me during office hours, make an appointment with me, or visit the Student Success Center in Nethery Hall rm. 204.

Assignments:

Term Papers: Students will be required to write a term paper for this class. The paper must be 15 – 20 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font, including the bibliography; it is required that you used Chicago notes and bibliography citation style. Please refer to the Turabian writing manual, the writing center or myself if you have any questions regarding this citation style. Your paper should provide comparative analysis of a public policy in two advanced industrialized countries.

Presentation: Each student will prepare a 10 minute presentation of their research paper. Presentations will take place during the class periods at the end of the semester.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is an important part of every academic institution and student learning. Plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the policy of Andrews University. It is your responsibility to be familiar with University policy. The University’s Code of Academic Integrity may be found at http://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html.

Grading:

Your grade will be based on your presentation, term paper, and two exams.

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Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:
Reading Assignments are subject to change with prior notice at the discretion of the instructor.

January 4:
Adolino & Blake: *An Introduction to Comparative Public Policy*

January 6  Policy Process &Theories of the Policy Making:
Adolino & Blake: *The Policy Process*
   *Theories of Policy Making*
Heidenheimer et al.: *The Politics of Social Choice*
Moodle:
   - Scharpf *Policy Research in the Face of Complexity*
   - Mabbett and Bolderson *Theories and Methods in Comparative Social Policy*

**Paper topic due**

January 11 – 13  Emergence and Crises of the Welfare State:
Adolino & Blake: *Political and Economics of Industrialized Countries*
Heidenhimer et al.: *Policy Contrasts in the Welfare State*
Bardach: *The Eightfold Path* pp. 1 - 46
Moodle: Esping-Andersen Chapters 1 - 3
   - Pierson 1996 *The new politics of the welfare state*
   - Clayton & Pontusson *Welfare State Retrenchment Revisited*
   - Obinger & Wagschal *Families of Nations and Public Policy*
   - Finer *Trends and Developments in Welfare States*

January 20:
Bardach: *Eightfold Path* pp. 46 - 72
Moodle:
   - Iversen *A Brief Analytical History of Modern Welfare Production Regimes*
   - Pierson *The New Politics of the Welfare State* Chapter 6
   - Myles and Quadagno *Political Theories of the Welfare State*
   - Hicks and Swank *Politics, Institutions, and Welfare Spending in Industrialized Democracies*
   - Korpi and Palme *New Politics and Class Politics in the Context of Austerity and Globalization*
   - Kittel and Obinger *Political Parties, Institutions, and the Dynamics of Social Expenditure in times of Austerity*

**Bibliography due**

January 25 – 27  Policy making context:
Adolino & Blake: *The Policy making Context*
Gilens: *The American Welfare State*
   *The Politics of the American Welfare State*
Bardach: *Eightfold Path* pp. 83 - 98
Moodle: Iversen and Soskice *An Asset Theory of Social Policy Preferences*
   - Iversen *Credible Commitment, Political Institutions, and Social Protection*
February 1 – 3 Economic Policy:
Adolino & Blake: Fiscal Policy
  Taxation Policy
Heidenheimer et al.: Economic Policy
  Taxation Policy
Bardach: Eightfold Path pp. 98 – 111
Moodle: Iversen and Stephens Partisan Politics, the Welfare State, and Three Worlds of Human Formation
  Coleman Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital
  Jurajda and Terrell Regional Unemployment and Human Capital in Transition Economies

February 8 – 10 Environmental Policy
Adolino & Blake: Environmental Policy
Heidenheimer et al.: Environmental Policy
Bardach: Eightfold Path pp. 123 - 139
Moodle: Fodha and Seegmuller A note on Environmental Policy and Public Debt Stabilization
  Lubell and Vedlitz Collective Action, Environmental Activism, and Air Quality Policy
  Helm and Sprinz Measuring the Effectiveness of International Environmental Regimes
  Sprinz and Faahoranta The Interest-based explanation of International Environmental Policy
  Konisky Regulatory Competition and Environmental Enforcement
  Redo et al. Impacts of internal and external policies on land change in Uruguay, 2001-2009

February 17 Immigration:
Adolino & Blake: Immigration Policy
Bardach: Eightfold Path pp. 113 - 123
Moodle: Roberts and Bolderson Inside Out
  Hero and Preuhs Immigration and the Evolving American Welfare State
  Hall et al. The Geography of Immigrant Skills
  Joppke Beyond national models: Civic integration policies for immigrants in Western Europe
  Brader et al. What triggers public opposition to immigration

Paper outline due

February 22 – 24 Housing Policy:
Heidenheimer et al.: Housing Policy
Moodle:
  Peter Kemp Income-related Assistance with Housing Costs: a cross-national comparison
  Kemeny Comparative Housing and Welfare: theorizing the relationship
  Boelhouwer, van der Heijden, and van de Ven Management of Social Rented Housing in Western Europe
  Balchin Introduction to Private Rental Housing
Balchin *Introduction to Social Rental Housing*
Doling *Comparative Housing Policy*
Joseph and Chaskin *Living in mixed income development*

**February 29 & March 2 : Mid-term Exam**

**March 7 – 9 Social Policy:**
Adolino & Blake: *Social Policy*
Gilens: *Individualism, Self-interest, and Opposition to Welfare*
   *Racial Attitudes, the Undeserving Poor, and Opposition to Welfare*
Moodle: Ditch *Full Circle*
   Iversen *Explaining Individual Social Policy Preferences*
   Kenworthy *Do social welfare policies reduce poverty*
   Castles and Obinger *Social expenditure and the politics of redistribution*
   Whelan and Maitre *Welfare regime and social class variation in poverty and economic vulnerability in Europe*
   Iversen and Soskice *An asset theory of social policy preferences*

**March 21 – 23 Health Care Policy:**
Adolino & Blake: *Healthcare Policy*
Heidenheimer et al.: *Health Policy*
Gilens: *Assessing Alternative Explanations*
   Freeman *Institutions, States, and Cultures: Health Policy and Politics in Europe*
   Bjorkman *Who Governs the Health Care Sector?*
   Hacker *Dismantling the Health Care State*
   Newman and Kuhlmann *Consumers enter the political stage? The modernization of health care in Britain and Germany*

**March 28 – 30 Education Policy:**
Adolino & Blake: *Education Policy*
Heidenheimer et al.: *Education Policy*
Gilens: *The News Media and the Racialization of Poverty*
Moodle: Almendinger et al. *Education and the Welfare State*
   Gesthuizen et al. *Education and Dimensions of Social Capital*
   Henry et al. *The OECD, Globalization and Education Policy*
   Busemeyer *Determinants of public education spending in 21 OECD democracies 1980 - 2001*
   Busemeyer *Inequality and the political economy of education*

**Paper Draft Due**

**April 4 – 6 Income Maintenance:**
Heidenheimer et al.: *Income Maintenance Policy*
April 11 – 13:
Gilens: Beyond the Attitude Survey
   *Racial Stereotypes and Public Responses to Poverty*

*Paper Presentations*

April 18– 20 Globalization Welfare state future:

*Paper Presentations*

*Paper Due*

Final Exam: April 27 1:30 p.m.