POL 853 – Public Administration

2011-2
Time: Wednesday 1:30-5:30
Location: HC Campus HCC2290

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Overview:

This course examines public administration through a public policy and governance lens; focusing on policy formulation and implementation and the instruments used by governments in carrying out these tasks. Essential components of modern governance, substantive and procedural policy instruments together comprise the toolbox from which governments must choose in attempting to resolve policy problems. The course begins with the establishment of a framework for analyzing governing instruments and examines their role in policy formulation and implementation before moving on to consider the merits, demerits and rationales for the use of different kinds of organization, regulatory, financial and information-based instruments. Throughout the course the need to carefully design policies in order to ensure effective implementation in public administration is stressed.

Required Texts:

Recommended Texts:

Grading:
1. Class Presentations (2) – 20%
2. Term Paper – 60%
3. Term Paper Presentation – 10%
4. Class Participation – 10%

Class Presentations:
At the beginning of term, each student will be assigned two weeks for which he/she will comment on the theoretical and methodological issues raised in that week’s topic through a review of selected readings from the week’s reading list. Missed assignments will receive a zero (0) grade. Students who are not presenting are expected to read the material covered in the overview readings and in that week’s presentations, and to comment upon and critique class presentations in order to contribute to the development of a common understanding of conceptual and methodological issues of interest to scholars engaged in research into public administration, policy implementation and policy design.

Paper Topics:
No later than mid-term (Week VII), each student will identify a general policy implementation instrument category and an example of a specific policy tool. The term paper will address the nature of the policy design considerations and processes surrounding the choice of this tool. This may take the form of either (a) the development of a general model of the use and selection of the chosen implementation instrument developed from a critical reading of existing conceptual works on the subject; (b) an empirical examination of an actual instance of its use in order to test an existing theory of instrument choice; or (c) both. Preliminary drafts of the term papers will be presented to class in Weeks XI-XIII. Papers are due one week after the last day of class. Late papers will lose 10% per day late.
Weekly Topics and Reading List

Week I – Introduction and Administration: Policy Implementation, Governance, Public Administration and Policy Design

Overview:


Background:


Additional Background Reading:

** Students who are unfamiliar with the following concepts should cover the associated readings listed below prior to the start of the second class.

a. Public Administration


b. Policy Implementation:


c. Governance:


Week II – Policy Design: Definitions and Concept

Overview:

Background:

Issues:

Week III - Policy Design Contexts: Globalization and Governance

Overview:

Background:

**Issues:**


**Week IV – Policy Design Contexts: Policy Formulation**

**Overview:**


**Background:**


**Issues:**


**Week V – Policy Design Contexts: Implementation Instruments**

**Overview:**


**Background:**


**Week VI – Policy Design Elements: Organizational Tools**

**Overview:**


**Background:**


**Issues:**


**Week VII - Policy Design Elements: Authoritative Tools**

**Overview:**


**Background:**


**Issues:**


*** PAPER TOPICS DUE ***

Week VIII– Policy Design Elements: Financial Tools

Overview:

Background:

Issues:
Bye, Torstein, and Annegrete Bruvoll. “Multiple instruments to change energy behaviour: The emperor’s new clothes?” Energy Efficiency 1, no. 4 (November 1, 2008): 373-386

Week IX – Policy Design Elements: Information Tools

Overview:

Background:
Janet A. Weiss and Mary Tschirhart, "Public Information Campaigns as Policy Instruments" in Journal of Policy Analysis and Management 13(1) 1994 pp. 82-119

Issues:


Week X – Patterns in Contemporary Policy Design

**Overview:**


**Background:**


**Issues:**


Week XI – Paper Presentations

Week XII – Paper Presentations

Week XIII – Paper Presentations

Week XIV *** PAPERS DUE ***