



NYU

**ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

PADM-GP.2411

Policy Formation and Policy Analysis

Spring 2023

Instructor Information

- Domingo Morel
- Email: domingo.morel@nyu.edu
- Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3pm [online via “Zoom” tab in class webpage]
- Lecture: Wednesday 4:55 PM - 6:35 PM [194 Mercer, Room 204]

Course Description and Goals

Goal 1

The first goal is to provide students an overview of the political actors and institutions involved in the U.S. policymaking process at the national, state, and local levels. Relying broadly, but not limited to, political science research, we will examine the pivotal actors in the lawmaking process, the actors’ means to achieve individual and collective goals, and how institutions shape and constrain policymaking at the national, state, and local level.

Goal 2

A second goal of the course is to sharpen students’ ability to think and write like professional policy analysts. Students will be asked to apply both policy analysis framework and political perspective to the issues under discussion.

Learning Assessment Table

Corresponding Course Learning Objective	Corresponding Assignment Title
#1	Response Paper #1
#2	Policy Analysis Assignment
#3	Response Paper #2
#4	Policy Paper

Course Website

The course website is available on NYU Brightspace under the “Policy Formation Spring 2023” webpage. The readings that are not part of the required books for the course are available on the course website. The lecture slides will be uploaded after each lecture.

Required Readings

There are 4 required books for this course. All of the other materials are posted on the course website under the “Resources” tab and the “Readings” folder on the Brightspace page.

Bardach, Eugene and Eric M. Patashnik. 2020. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*, 6th Edition. Sage Publications.

Birkland, Thomas. 2015. *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policymaking*, 4th Edition. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, Inc.

Samuels, Robert and Toluse Olorunnipa. 2022. *His Name Is George Floyd: One Man’s Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice*. Penguin Random House.

Weible, Christopher and Paul Sabatier. 2018. *Theories of the Policy Process*, 4th Edition. Boulder Colorado: Westview Press.

Assessment Assignments and Evaluation

STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- Attendance/Discussion/Participation: 20%
- Response Papers (2): 30%
- Policy Analysis Assignment: 20%
- Policy Paper: 30%

Attendance/Discussion/Participation

Our class will benefit greatly from active participation from all class members. The unique analysis and personal experiences that each of you contributes to the discussions will help educate the rest of us. Class participation consists of the following components: (1) attending class; (2) Be prepared by doing the required readings (3) engaging regularly in class discussions.

Response Papers

Students are expected to submit 2 response papers throughout the semester. The papers will provide a summary and analysis of the week’s reading assignments. Students will choose which weeks to submit the assignments. Each paper should be 3 pages in length and should include

the following: major argument(s); major findings; analysis and critique of the readings; and two questions generated by the readings. Papers are due via Brightspace by 7pm on the Tuesday of that week.

Policy Analysis Assignment

3-4 pages (Due week of March 8)

Pick a policy that has been enacted at the national, state, or local level (e.g. Congress, president, governor, state legislature, mayor, city council, school board, public library board, etc.).

- Describe the policy and the problem it proposes to address.
- Which government body enacted the policy?
- What interest groups were involved in pushing for or against the policy?
- Can you identify groups that may be affected by this policy but were not involved in the policymaking process?
- Can you identify actors that may have been influential in the policy process but whose involvement may not have been visible to the public?
- What are some potential unintended consequences of the policy?
- Are there potential, but not explicitly stated, intentions of the policy?
- If you were to design a policy to address the same stated problem, are there alternative approaches you would employ? Describe your alternative approach.

Policy Paper

Paper topic, guidelines, and submission instructions will be discussed in class and posted on the course website.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by [Wagner's Academic Code](#). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](#). Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to me. If any student in this class is unsure about what is expected of you and how to abide by the academic code, you should consult with me.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Student Accessibility

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\) website](#) and click the "Get Started" button. You can also call or email CSD (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

[NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#) states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. You must notify me in advance of religious holidays or observances that might coincide with exams, assignments, or class times to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives. Students may also contact religiousaccommodations@nyu.edu for assistance.

NYU's Wellness Exchange

[NYU's Wellness Exchange](#) has extensive student health and mental health resources. A private hotline (212-443-9999) is available 24/7 that connects students with a professional who can help them address day-to-day challenges as well as other health-related concerns.

Wagner Writing Center

For students interested in receiving additional feedback and support for their writing assignments, please visit the [Wagner Writing Center](#) or the [NYU Writing Center](#).

Course Schedule

Date	Topic and Readings
January 25	Course Introduction
February 1	Introducing the Policy Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Robert E. Goodin, Michael Moran and Martin Rein. 2009. "Overview of Public Policy: The Public and Its Policies." Robert E. Goodin (ed). <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Science</i>. New York: Oxford University Press. (Brightspace)▪ <i>Policy Process</i>, Chapters 1, 2 and 3
February 8	Theories of Public Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Theories of the Policy Process</i>, Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 7
February 15	Science and Policy Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Policy Process</i>, Chapters 7 and 8▪ Corey, Mary. "Lying with Numbers." Review of Khalil Gibran Muhammad's <i>The Condemnation of Blackness</i>. LA Review of Books, January 29, 2021. https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/lying-with-numbers/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coyle, Diane. "The Tensions between Explainable AI and Good Public Policy" The Brookings Institution, September 15, 2020. https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/the-tensions-between-explainable-ai-and-good-public-policy/ ▪ Piven, Frances Fox. 2004. "The Politics of Policy Science." In I. Shapiro, R.M. Smith, and T.E. Masoud, eds. <i>Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics</i>. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Pp.83-105. (Brightspace)
February 22	National Institutions and Actors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arnold, Douglas. 1990. <i>The Logic of Congressional Action</i>. Yale University Press, Chapters 1 and 4. (Brightspace) ▪ Moe, Terry M., and William G. Howell. 1999. "Unilateral Action and Presidential Power: A Theory." <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> 29(4): 850–73. (Brightspace) ▪ "Judges as Policymakers," in Hume, Robert. 2018. <i>Judicial Behavior and Policymaking: An Introduction</i>, Chapter 1. Lanham : Rowman & Littlefield. (Brightspace)
March 1	State Institutions and Actors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jackman, Molly. 2014. "Parties, Median Legislators, and Agenda Setting: How Legislative Institutions Matter." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 76: 259-72. ▪ Barrilleaux, Charles and Michael Berkman. 2003. "Do Governors Matter? Budgeting Rules and the Politics of State Policy Making," <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 56: 409-17. ▪ Biondi, Martha. 2007. "Robert Moses, Race, and the Limits of an Activist State." In <i>Robert Moses and the Modern City: The Transformation of New York</i>, edited by Hilary Ballon and Kenneth T. Jackson, 116–21. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. (Brightspace) ▪ Strict Scrutiny Podcast. "Please Pay Attention to State Courts and Constitutions," September 12, 2022. https://crooked.com/podcast/please-pay-attention-to-state-courts-and-constitutions/
March 8	Local/Urban Institutions and Actors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dahl, Robert. 1961. <i>Who Governs?</i> Chapter 1- "The Nature of the Problem." (Brightspace) ▪ Molotch, Harvey. 1976, "The City as a Growth Machine: Toward a Political Economy of Place," <i>The American Journal of Sociology</i>, Vol. 82, No. 2, pp. 309-332. (Brightspace) ▪ Stone, Clarence. 1989, <i>Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta 1946-1988</i>, University of Kansas Press, Chapter 1. (Brightspace)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This American Life Podcast, 84: "Harold," Nov 21, 1997. http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/84/harold
March 15	Spring Break
March 22	Bureaucracy and Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michener, Jamila and Mallory SoRelle. 2022. "Politics, Power, and Precarity: How Tenant Organizations Transform Local Political Life." <i>Interest Groups & Advocacy</i>, 11, 209–236. (Brightspace) ▪ Olson, Mancur. "The Logic of Collective Action." In <i>The Enduring Debate: Classic and Contemporary Readings in American Politics</i>. W. W. Norton & Company, 2014, pp. 452–461. (Brightspace) ▪ Smith, Steven Rathgeb. 2012. "Street-Level Bureaucracy and Public Policy." <i>Sage Handbook of Public Administration</i>, eds. Guy Peters and Jon Pierre. London: Sage Publications Ltd. (431-447). (Brightspace) ▪ Weir, Margaret. 2006. "When Does Politics Create Policy? The Organizational Politics of Change." In I. Shapiro, S. Skowronek, and D. Galvin, eds. <i>Rethinking Political Institutions: The Art of the State</i>. New York: New York University Press. pp.171-86. (Brightspace)
March 29	Federalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grumbach, Jacob M. 2018. "From Backwaters to Major Policymakers: Policy Polarization in the States, 1970-2014." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i>, 16(2): 416-43. (Brightspace) ▪ Hertel-Fernandez, Alex and Theda Skocpol. "How the Right Trounced Liberals in the States." <i>Democracy Journal</i>. Winter 2015. ▪ http://democracyjournal.org/magazine/39/how-the-right-trounced-liberals-in-the-states/ ▪ Miller, Lisa L. 2007. "The Representational Biases of Federalism: Scope and Bias in the Political Process, Revisited." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 5(2): 305-321. (Brightspace) ▪ Morel, Domingo. 2021. "As Georgia's new law shows, when Black people gain local power, states strip that power away." <i>Washington Post</i>. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/04/01/georgias-new-law-shows-when-black-people-gain-local-power-states-strip-that-power-away/
April 5	No CLASS – Professor will be attending a conference
April 12	Power

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morel, Domingo and Sally A. Nuamah. 2020. "Who Governs? How Shifts in Political Power Shape Perceptions of Local Government Services." <i>Urban Affairs Review</i>, 56(5): 1503-1528. (Brightspace) Schneider, Anne and Helen Ingram. 1993. "Social Construction of Target Populations: Implications for Politics and Policy." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 87: 334-47. (Brightspace) Soffen, Kim. "How Racial Gerrymandering Deprives Black People of Political Power." <i>Washington Post</i>, 6/9/19. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/06/09/how-a-widespread-practice-to-politically-empower-african-americans-might-actually-harm-them/ Nice White Parents Podcast. Episode 1, "The Book of Statuses," July 30, 2020. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/1-the-book-of-statuses/id1524080195?i=1000486589125
April 19	<p>Protests and Uprisings and Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enos, Ryan, Aaron Kaufman, and Melissa Sands. 2019. "Can Violent Protest Change Local Policy Support? Evidence from the Aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles Riot." <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 113(4): 1012-1028. (Brightspace) Morel, Domingo. Chapter 1, "Rebellion and College for All: Community-Centered Affirmative Action and the Role of Violent Protest in Policy Formation and Policy Maintenance," in <i>Developing Scholars: Race, Politics and the Pursuit of Higher Education</i> (forthcoming). (Brightspace) Wasow, Omar. 2020. "Agenda Seeding: How 1960s Black Protests Moved Elites, Public Opinion and Voting." <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 114 (3): 638-659. (Brightspace) Woodly, Deva. 2021. "Introduction: The Democratic Necessity of Social Movements," in <i>Reckoning: Black Lives Matter and the Democratic Necessity of Social Movements</i>. Oxford University Press. (Brightspace)
April 26	<p>Race and Inequality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samuels, Robert and Toluse Olorunnipa. 2022. <i>His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice</i>. Penguin Random House.
May 3	<p>Designing Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eugene Bardach and Eric Patashnik. 2015. Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving, Part I (pages 1-96).