IV. The Policymaking Process
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This is a graduate seminar on the policymaking process. The policymaking process is considered
in a very broad context – from evolution of an idea, to enactment of legislation, to program
implementation and evaluation. The emphasis is on the national level but there will also be
considerable discussion of policymaking in a federalist environment. Thus the states will not be
neglected and when we get to the policy section of the course, the national-state-local linkages
will become very important. One of the required papers for the course will be an analysis of the
current Wisconsin state budget – as it is being debated in the legislature.

Courses can be categorized as “tools” courses, where the objectives are primarily skills, or as
“knowledge” courses, where the objective is to impart knowledge and understand of a subject
area. This course falls mostly in the latter category. The course also serves as a “gateway” course
in that it serves as a brief introduction to a number of areas in which there are advanced courses
(e.g. policy evaluation, policy analysis, and specialized policy courses).

The objectives of the course are: (1) to understand decision and policymaking theories; (2) to
insure that students know and understand the institutional and political organization of the
policymaking process at the national level, and the subsequent interactions at the state and local
levels; (3) to describe and analyze the stages in that process; 4) to introduce students to critical
tools including policy analysis and evaluation; and (5) to exemplify these theories and processes
through a set of currently debated policy case studies. To these ends the course is presented in
three sections: (1) basics institutional foundations; (2) how policies are made, from agenda
setting to policy evaluation; and (3) analysis of timely, on-the agenda policy examples.

We will also be emphasizing writing skills exemplified by two different types of papers. The first
will be a “team-memorandum” of approximately 8 pages on balancing the next Wisconsin
budget. The second will be an individual term paper of the student’s choosing or on a topic from
a distributed list. This paper will be presented in two-parts, the first half subjected to editing and
writing analysis.

The style of the course will be a combination of "seminar lectures" and discussion. It is expected
that the readings be done in advance of the class to facilitate careful analysis of concepts and
individual readings. Since the readings are not perfectly distributed between sections, I strongly
suggest that you look ahead and judiciously use your time.

Course Requirements

1. An approximately 8-page team-based policy memo. Three person teams will be selected
by random draw on the first class day. A description of the problem will also be handed
out that day and posted on the class website.
2. A term paper of approximately 15 pages. This paper may be written in response to a set of paper topics that will be distributed in class or, with permission of the teaching assistant, a paper topic of the student’s choosing. The paper will be handed in two parts. The first part, approximately the first half, will be due on week eight. It will be edited for writing issues and returned to the student. The edited portion will not be graded. The final paper will be due on the last day of class.

3. A “check-out,” take home final examination. Students will have two-hours to complete the exam on a computer using course materials. Procedures for the final exam will be distributed later in the course.

4. Final grades will be determined according to the following weights:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Memo</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Course Outline and Readings


I. Foundations: The What, the Where, and the Who of Policymaking

Week 1: Introduction to Public Policymaking
   Stella Z. Theodoulou and Chris Kofinis, *The Art of the Game*, Chapter 1

Week 2: The What and Where of Policymaking
   Stella Z. Theodoulou and Chris Kofinis, *The Art of the Game*, Chapters 2 and 3

Weeks 3 & 4: The Who (Institutions)
   Stella Z. Theodoulou and Chris Kofinis, *The Art of the Game*, Chapter 4

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ARE ALL A BIT OUTDATED AND CAN BE CHANGED:


II. How Policy Is Made

Week 5: Decision and Policy Theories


Week 6: Problem Identification and Agenda Setting
Stella Z. Theodoulou and Chris Kofinis, *The Art of the Game*, Chapters 6 and 7


Week 7: Policy Design, Analysis, and Adoption
Stella Z. Theodoulou and Chris Kofinis, *The Art of the Game*, Chapters 8 and 9


Week 8: Policy Implementation and Evaluation. Policy Memo Due.
Stella Z. Theodoulou and Chris Kofinis, *The Art of the Game*, Chapters 10 and 11

III. Policy Examples

Weeks 9 & 10: Immigration Policy
Dowell Mayers, *Immigrants and Boomers*, chapters 1, 3, and 12.

Ben Marquez and John Witte, “Immigration Reform: Is the Best Strategy an Incremental or Comprehensive Approach?”

First half of the term paper due
**Weeks 11 & 12: Education Policy. First part of the term paper due on week 11.**


Summary of No Child Left Behind pending legislation.

**Weeks 13 & 14: Fiscal Policy and Deficits. Term paper due on week 14.**