V. American Public Policy
Prof. William Lowry

William Lowry is a Professor of Political Science at Washington University. He received his PhD in Political Science from Stanford University in 1988. He studies American politics, environmental policy, and natural resource issues. He is the author of five books as well as numerous articles.

Description
This course considers basic aspects of public policy, mostly but not entirely in the American context. We will discuss prominent theories of policymaking, major stages of the policy process, review some classic works, discuss recent contributions, and focus our substantive discussions on an ongoing research project largely of your choosing. The purpose of the class is to provide a broad overview of the American policy process and to facilitate empirical application of major theories.

Requirements
The class will be conducted as a seminar. We should all be able to learn from each other. As such, attendance and participation in discussion is essential. We will all have to keep up on the reading in order to contribute. Besides participation, your major requirement is the research project. Different parts of the paper will be turned in at various points during the semester with the final paper due 4/21. Grades will be based on participation and this research project.

Reading
Theories of the Policy Process 2nd ed. by Sabatier;
Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies by Kingdon
Implementation by Pressman and Wildavsky

- Introduction

- Overview of Policy Theory
Ingram, Schneider, and DeLeon. 2007. Chapter 4 in Sabatier.

Optional Reading
Elinor Ostrom 1990. Governing the Commons.
• **Agenda-Setting**  

**Optional Reading**  

• **Variance across Cases**  
Berry and Berry. 2007. Chapter 8 in Sabatier.  

**Optional Reading**  

• **Change over Time**  
True, Jones, and Baumgartner. 2007. Chapter 6 in Sabatier.  
Zahariadis, Chapter 3 in Sabatier.  
1st paper assignment due: Write a 1-2 page prospectus on your project. What policy (or policies) are you going to study? Why? How?  

**Optional Reading**  
and Political Persuasion” in AJPS.

• **Formulation: Interest groups**

**Optional Reading**

• **Formulation: Parties and Congress**

**Optional Reading**

V.O. Key. 1949. *Southern Politics*.


- **Formulation: Congress and the President**
  


**Optional Reading**


Hall and Dierdorf. 2006. “Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy” in *APSR*.


Ken Shepsle and Barry Weingast. 1994. “Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions.”


- **Implementation: Broad frameworks**


**Optional Reading**


Goggin et al. 1990. *Implementation Theory and Practice*.


Daniel Carpenter. 2002. “Groups, the Media, Agency Waiting Costs, and FDA Drug Approval” in *AJPS.*
John Scholz and Feng Heng Wei. 1986. “Regulatory Enforcement in a Federalist System.” *APSR.*

• **Implementation: Public agencies**
  Michael Lipsky. 1980. *Street Level Bureaucracy* (parts on e-res)

**Optional Reading**
Fritschler. 1996 (5th ed.). *Smoking and Politics.*
Steven Balla. 1998. “Administrative Procedures and Political Control of the Bureaucracy.” *APSR.*
Huber, Shipan, and Pfahler. 2001. “Legislatures and Statutory Control of Bureaucracy.” *AJPS.*
Huber and Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion?*
John Scholz and B. Dan Wood. 1998. “Controlling the IRS.” *AJPS.*

- **Evaluation: Judicial and Public Opinion**

**Optional Reading**

- **Evaluation: Academics**

**Optional Reading**