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**

Paul Sabatier. 2007. *Theories of the Policy Process*. Chapter 1.

- **Overview of Policy Theory**

Garrett Hardin. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons" in *Science*
Elinor Ostrom. 2007. Chapter 2 in Sabatier.
Theodore J. Lowi. 1964. "American Business, Public Policy, Case Studies, and Political Theory" in *World Politics*.
Ingram, Schneider, and DeLeon. 2007. Chapter 4 in Sabatier.

Optional Reading

Daniel McCool. 1995. "The Theoretical Foundations of Policy Studies." In *Public Policy Theories, Models, and Concepts*.
Paul Pierson. 2000. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics" in *APSR*.
Paul Pierson. 2003. "When Effect Becomes Cause" in *World Politics*.
Elinor Ostrom 1990. *Governing the Commons*.
Burger, Ostrom, et al. 2001. *Protecting the Commons*.

- **Agenda-Setting**

Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz. 1962. “The Two Faces of Power” in *APSR*.
Charles Lindblom. 1959. "The Science of Muddling Through” in *Public Admin Review*.
Paul Schulman. 1975. Nonincremental Policy Making” in *APSR*.
John Kingdon. 1984. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*.

Optional Reading

Dempster and Wildavsky. 1979. "On Change.” *Political Studies*.
Jeffrey W. Legro. 2000. “The Transformation of Policy Ideas” in *AJPS*.
Robert C. Lieberman. 2002. “Ideas, Institutions, and Political Order: Explaining Political Change” in *APSR*.
Jonathan Bendor. 1995. “A Model of Muddling Through” in *APSR*.
Sarah Pralle. 2003. “Venue Shopping” in *Journal of Public Policy*.
Thomas Birkland.1997. *After Disaster*.
William Lowry. 2006. “Potential Focusing Projects and Policy Change” in *PSJ*.

- **Variance across Cases**

Berry and Berry. 2007. Chapter 8 in Sabatier.
Chris Mooney. 2001. “Modeling Regional Effects in State Policy Diffusion” in *PRQ*
Blomquist. 2007. Chapter 9 in Sabatier.
Erikson, Wright, and McIver. 1989. “Political Parties, Public Opinion, and State Policy in the American States” in *APSR*.

Optional Reading

David Cameron. 1978. “The Expansion of the Public Economy” in *APSR*.
Dawson and Robinson. 1963. “Inter-party Competition, Economic Variables, and Welfare Policies in the American States” in *JOP*.
Thomas Dye. 1966. *Politics, Economics, and the Public*.
Hibbs, Doug. 1977. “Political Parties and Macroeconomic Policy” in *APSR*.
Hofferbert. 1966. “The Relation between Public Policy and some Structural and Environmental Variables in the American States” in *APSR*.
Lowry, William R.1998. “Public Provision of Intergenerational Goods.” *AJPS.*
William Lowry. 2005. “Policy Reversal and Changing Politics” in *SPPQ*.
Edward R. Tufte. 1978. *Political Control of the Economy*.

- **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

Deborah Stone. 2002. *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making.*
Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics.*
Jones and Baumgartner. 2005. *The Politics of Attention.*
Michael D. Cobb and James H. Kuklinski. 1997. “Changing Minds: Political Arguments

and Political Persuasion" in *AJPS*.
Mertha and Lowry. 2006. "Unbuilt Dams: Seminal Events and Policy Change in China, Australia, and the U.S." in *Comparative Politics*.
William Lowry. 2003. *Dam Politics*.

- **Formulation: Interest groups**

E.E. Schattschneider. 1960. *The Semi-Sovereign People* (parts on e-reserve).
Theodore Lowi. 1979. *The End of Liberalism* (parts on e-reserve)
Mancur Olson. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Chapter II. (e-res)
Adam and Kriesi. 2007. Chapter 5 in Sabatier.
Sabatier and Weible. 2007. Chapter 7 in Sabatier.

Optional Reading
Cobb and Elder. 1983. *Participation in American Politics*.
Grant McConnell. 1966. *Private Power and American Democracy*.
Stigler. 1971. "The Theory of Economic Regulation." *Bell Journal of Economics*.
Austen-Smith and Wright. 1994. "Counteractive Lobbying." *AJPS*.
Steve Balla and Jack Wright. 2001. "Interest Groups, Advisory Committees." *AJPS*.
Baumgartner and Leech. 1996. "The Multiple Ambiguities of Couteractive Lobbying." *AJPS*.
Heinz, Laumann, Salisbury, and Nelson. 1990. "Inner Circles or Hollow Cores?" *JOP*.
Heinz, Laumann, Salisbury, and Nelson. 1993. *The Hollow Core*.
Hojnaki and Kimball. 1998. "Organized Interests." *APSR*.
Theodore Lowi. 1967. "The Public Philosophy: Interest-Group Liberalism." *APSR*.
Grant McConnell. 1966. *Private Power and American Democracy*.
Terry Moe. 1980. *The Organization of Interests*.
Robert Salisbury. 1990. "The Paradox of Interest Groups." In *Interests and Institutions*.
David B. Truman. 1951,1971. *The Governmental Process*.
Jack Walker. 1983. "The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America." *APSR*.
Virginia Gray and David Lowery. 1996. "A Niche Theory of Interest Representation" in *AJPS*.

- **Formulation: Parties and Congress**

Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Chapter 8. (e-res)
David Mayhew. 1974. *Congress*. (parts on e-res)
Carmines and Stimson. 1986. "On the Structure and Sequence of Issue Evolution" in *APSR*.
Shipan and Lowry. 2002. "Environmental Policy and Party Divergence" in *PRQ*.

Optional Reading
John Aldrich. 1995. *Why Parties*.
Ed Carmines and Jim Stimson. 1989. *Issue Evolution*.
Alan I. Abramowitz. 1994. "Issue Evolution Reconsidered." *AJPS*.
Gary Cox and Matt McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan*.
Erikson, MacKuen, and Stimson. 1998. "What Moves Macropartisanship?" *APSR*.
Green, Palmquist, and Schickler. 1998. "Macropartisanship". *APSR*.
Marc Hetherington. 2001. "Resurgent Mass Partisanship." *APSR*.

Robert Huckfeldt and John Sprague. 1992. "Political Parties and Electoral Mobilization." *APSR*.
V.O. Key. 1949. *Southern Politics*.
Keith Krehbiel. 1993. "Where's the Party?" in *British Journal of Political Science*.
Keith Krehbiel. 2000. "Party Discipline and Measures of Partisanship" in *AJPS*.
Steve Smith. 2000. "Positive Theories of Congressional Parties." *LSQ*.

- **Formulation: Congress and the President**

Richard Neustadt. 1980. *Presidential Power* (parts on e-reserve).
Terry Moe. 1985. "Control and Feedback in Economic Regulation: The Case of the NLRB" in *APSR*.
Sarah Binder. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock" in *APSR*.
Edwards and Wood. 1999. "Who Influences Whom?" in *APSR*.

Optional Reading
David Epstein and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1999. *Delegating Powers*.
Ripley and Franklin. 1976. *Congress, the Bureaucracy, and Public Policy*.
William Lowry and Charles Shipan. 2002. "Party Differentiation in Congress" in *LSQ*.
David E. Lewis. 2008. *Politicizing Administration: Policy and Patronage in Presidential Appointments*.
John Coleman. 1999. "Unified Government, Divided Government, Party Responsiveness." *APSR*.
Gary Cox and Matt McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan*.
Groseclose, Levitt, and Snyder. 1999. "Comparing Interest Group Scores." *APSR*.
Huber, Shipan, Pfahler. 2001. "Legislatures and Statutory Control of Bureaucracy." *AJPS*.
Hall and Dierdorf. 2006. "Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy" in *APSR*.
Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 1991. "Patterns of Congressional Voting." *AJPS*.
William Riker. 1980. "Implications from the Disequilibrium of Majority Rule." *APSR*.
Norman Schofield. 1978. "Instability of Simple Dynamic Games." *Review of Economic Studies*.
Ken Shepsle. 1979. "Institutional Arrangements and Equilibrium." *AJPS*.
Ken Shepsle and Barry Weingast. 1994. "Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions."
George Edwards and B. Dan Wood. 1999. "Who Influences Whom?" *APSR*.
Edward Tufte. 1978. *Political Control of the Economy*.
Aaron Wildavsky. 1966. "The Two Presidencies."

- **Implementation: Broad frameworks**

Sabatier and Mazmanian. 1980. "A Conceptual Framework of Implementation." (e-res)
Pressman and Wildavksy. 1984. *Implementation*.
Charles Tiebout. 1956. "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures." *Journal of Political Economy* (e-res)

Optional Reading
Eugene Bardach. 1977. *The Implementation Game*.
Goggin et al. 1990. *Implementation Theory and Practice*.
William R. Lowry. 1992. *The Dimensions of Federalism*.
Paul Peterson. 1981. *City Limits*.

Rom, Peterson, and Scheve. 1998. "Interstate Competition and Welfare Policy." *Publius*.
Peter J. May. 1992. "Policy Learning and Failure" in *Journal of Public Policy*.
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*.
Carl Van Horn. 1994. *The State of the States*.
Craig Volden. 2002. "The Politics of Competitive Federalism." *AJPS*.
Dewitt John. 1994. *Civic Environmentalism*.

- **Implementation: Public agencies**

Matt McCubbins and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms" in *AJPS*.
McCubbins, Noll, and Weingast. 1987. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization.*
Charles Shipan. 2004. "Regulatory Regimes, Agency Actions, and the Conditional Nature of Congressional Influence" in *APSR*.
Michael Lipsky. 1980. *Street Level Bureaucracy* (parts on e-res)

Optional Reading

James Q. Wilson. 1989. *Bureaucracy.*
Clarke and McCool. 1996. *Staking out the Terrain.*
Fritschler. 1996 (5th ed.). *Smoking and Politics*.
Herbert Kaufman. 1960. *The Forest Ranger*.
Landy, Roberts, Thomas. 1994. *The Environmental Protection Agency*.
Steven Balla. 1998. "Administrative Procedures and Political Control of the Bureaucracy." *APSR*.
Calvert, McCubbins,Weingast. 1989. "Theory of Political Control over Agency Discretion." *AJPS*.
David Epstein and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1999. *Delegating Powers*.
Huber, Shipan, and Pfahler. 2001. "Legislatures and Statutory Control of Bureaucracy." *AJPS.*
Huber and Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion?*
Herbert Kaufman. 1960. *The Forest Ranger*.
William Lowry. 1994. *The Capacity for Wonder*.
Rod Kiewiet and Matt McCubbins. 1991. *The Logic of Delegation.*
Barry Weingast and Mark Moran. 1983. "Bureaucratic Discretion or Congressional Control?" in *The Journal of Political Economy*.
Gary Miller. 1992. *Managerial Dilemmas*.
Terry Moe. 1987. "An Assessment of the Positive Theory of Congressional Dominance." *LSQ*.
John Scholz and B. Dan Wood. 1998. "Controlling the IRS." *AJPS.*
Stephen Skowronek. 1982. *Building a New American State*.
Barry Weingast and Mark Moran. 1982. "The Myth of the Runaway Bureaucracy." *Regulation*.
B. Dan Wood and Rick Waterman. 1991. "The Dynamics of Political Control of the Bureaucracy" in *APSR*.

Wood and Waterman. 1994. *Bureaucratic Dynamics*.
William T. Gormley, Jr. 1986. "Regulatory Issue Networks in a Federal System" in *Polity*.
Baumgartner and Jones. 1991. "Agenda Dynamics and Policy Subsystems" in *JOP*.
George A. Krause. 1999. *A Two-Way Street*.
John Brehm and Scott Gates. 1997. *Working, Shirking, and Sabotage*.

- **Evaluation: Judicial and Public Opinion**

Rosenberg. 1991. *The Hollow Hope*: pp.1-70 (eres)
Stimson, Mackuen, and Erikson. 1989. "Dynamic Representation" in *APSR*.

Optional Reading
Robert Durr. 1993. "What Moves Policy Sentiment?" in *APSR*.
Robert A. Katzmann. 1988. *Judges and Legislators*.
Forrest Maltzman and Paul Wahlbeck. 1996. "Strategic Policy Considerations." *APSR*.
Andrew Martin. 2001. "Strategic Decision Making and the Separation of Powers." *APSR*.
Jonathan Harr. 1995. *A Civil Action*.
Lettie McSpadden. 1995. "The Courts and Environmental Policy" in Lester (Env Politics).
Brady Baybeck and William Lowry. 2000. "Federalism Outcomes and Ideological Preferences" in *Publius*.
David Nachmias. 1980. *The Practice of Policy Evaluation.*
Jim Stimson. 1991. *Public Opinion in America.*
John Hibbing and Elizabeth Theiss-Morse. 2001. "Process Preferences" in *APSR*.
Valerie Hoekstra. 2000. "The Supreme Court and Local Public Opinion" in *APSR*.
Campbell, Converse, Miller, and Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*
Philip Converse. 1962. "Information Flow." *Public Opinion Quarterly*.
Anthony Downs.1972."Up and Down with Ecology." *The Public Interest*.
Anthony Downs. 1972. "Up and Down with Ecology – The Issue Attention Cycle" in *Public Interest*.
R. Shep Melnick. 1983. *Regulation and the Courts*.

- **Evaluation: Academics**

Schlager. 2007. Chapter 10 in Sabatier.
Sabatier. 2007. Chapter 11 in Sabatier.

Optional Reading
Kim Quaile Hill. 1997. "In Search of Policy Theory" in *Policy Currents*.
Paul A. Sabatier. 1997. "The Need for Better Theories Status and Development of Policy Theory: A Reply to Hill." In *Policy Currents*.