

## **4. Introduction to Public Policy**

### **Prof. Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson**

*Marjorie Sarbaugh-Thompson is a Professor of Political Science at Wayne State University. Her primary research and teaching interests revolve around policy making and change in public sector organizations. As the principal investigator of the term limits research project in Michigan, Dr. Sarbaugh-Thompson has worked with four other WSU colleagues for ten years to produce a comprehensive study of change in Michigan's legislature. Initial findings have been published in a book entitled, *The Political and Institutional Effects of Term Limits*.*

#### **Course Overview**

This course introduces students to several models and general theories about public policy making as well as sampling from specific policy areas, such as immigration policy, tax policy, environmental policy and health policy among others. The course will focus predominantly on U.S. policy making, but will incorporate information about policy making in five other industrialized countries. This comparative focus helps to distinguish the impact that different institutional and cultural traditions have on public policy making. Additionally, it helps to identify common problems faced by industrialized democracies and the various different ways that they address these problems. Students will discover also that U.S. national, state and local policy making differ and that these various levels of government policy making in the U.S. are similar to policy making by some other national governments. Students will write one major paper that will describe a particular policy that the student believes needs to be formulated and implemented in the U.S. There are two tests—a mid-term and a final exam.

#### **Text Books**

Wilson, Carter A. (2006). *Public Policy: Continuity and Change*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Adolino, Jessica R. & Charles H. Blake, (2001). *Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Six Industrialized Countries*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

#### **Grading:**

Attendance/Participation	10%
Policy paper Parts 1-5	3% each (15% total)
Policy paper Parts 6 - 8 & revisions of parts 1-5	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

#### **Schedule of Readings and Assignments:**

- Introduction – Please go to this web site and take the little test to explore your political ideology. It will help us with one of the models of public policy that we'll cover on Thurs. Bring your results with you on Thurs., I will collect them, but don't put your name on it. I don't want to know your individual "score," but

we will produce a class profile. <http://www.politicalcompass.org/>

- The Meaning of Public Policy – Chapter 1 p. 9-29 in the Carter Wilson text
- Policy Theory – Chapter 2 p. 30-50 in Wilson
- The Policy Process – Chapter 1 in Adolino & Blake and Theories of Policy Making – Chapter 2 in Adolino & Blake
- Policy History – Chapter 3 in Wilson
- Political & Economic Dynamics in Industrialized Countries – Chapter 3 in Adolino & Blake
- National Institutions of Policy Making - Chapter 4 p. 77-99 in Wilson
- The Policy Making Context – Ch. 4 in Adolino & Blake

### **Redistributive Policies**

1. Social Welfare Policy Chapter 5 p. 101-126 in Wilson
2. Social Policy Chapter 9 Adolino & Blake
3. Health Care Policy Chapter 6 p. 128-150 in Wilson
4. Health Care Policy Chapter 8 Adolino & Blake
5. Civil Rights Policy Chapter 7 p. 152-174 in Wilson
6. Immigration Policy Chapter 5 Adolino & Blake
7. Mid-term Exam

### **Regulatory Policy**

1. Environmental Protection Policy Chapter 8 Wilson
2. Environmental Chapter 11 Adolino & Blake
3. Labor Policy Chapter 9 Wilson
4. Competitive Regulatory Policy Chapter 10 Wilson

### **Morality Policy (Is this a subcategory of Regulatory Policy?)**

1. Fertility Control Policy Chapter 11 Wilson
2. Criminal Justice Policy Chapter 12 Wilson

### **Distributive Policy**

1. Education Policy Chapter 13 Wilson
2. Education Policy Chapter 10 Adolino & Blake
3. Economic Policy Chapter 14 Wilson
4. Fiscal Policy Chapter 6 Adolino & Blake
5. Tax Policy Chapter 7 Adolino & Blake
6. Continuity & Change in Public Policy Chapter 15 Wilson and Conclusions Chapter 12 Adolino & Blake