

PLSC506: State & Urban Policy Analysis Syllabus

General Course Information:

Thursday, 6-8:30 pm
Damen Hall 966

Instructor Information:

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Course Description

This is a course on public policy analysis that focuses on state and city governments. The course explores current perspectives and techniques in the analysis of state and urban policies. It also examines concepts and methods in policy analysis as a general field of inquiry. An emphasis is placed on current scholarship as published in the major journals of political science.

Course Objectives

1. To comprehend the key approaches to state and urban policy analysis.
2. To be capable of describing the key features of state and urban governments and policy-making.
3. To be able to explain the significance of political behavior, processes, and government structure to the determination of policy in cities and states.
4. To design and conduct research and conduct analysis of state and urban policy.

Method of Instruction

Seminar discussions and student presentations.

Method of Evaluation

1. **Article Abstracts/Oral Reports** **25 percent**

[See PROJECTS]

Students will write several abstracts of journal articles or book chapters and lead class discussion on these. Abstracts should be limited to a one-page, single-spaced summary of key information from each article. An abstract is not an outline of the article, covering every major section and finding. Rather, an abstract should highlight important information (see attached samples), including the following key items:

- (1) Thesis (or author's purpose)
- (2) Literature (prior research/theory)
- (3) Design (hypothesis, methods)
- (4) Findings (results)
- (5) Conclusion (implications)

Oral report: Bring sufficient copies of your written abstract for each member of the seminar. All students will be assigned to read your article. For this reason your oral report must be brief--about 10 minutes per article--and focused. Use the oral report to highlight essential material from the article that students should understand, to highlight key findings, and to stimulate discussion on the implications of the research. (A failing grade = 0 will be assigned for failure to show up on the night that you are scheduled to review an article.)

2. Policy Analysis Research Paper 50 percent

[See PROJECTS]

Students will prepare a research paper on a topic in state or urban policy. This is expected to be an empirical analysis of the topic in which the student will design and execute a research project. The research paper should be 15-20 pages of text, plus notes, references, and tables & figures. Important dates:

Feb. 28: Proposal due

May 2: Paper due

3. Class Participation 25 percent

This is an important component of any graduate seminar. Students should be prepared to discuss assigned materials and respond to questions. Obviously, you cannot participate if you do not attend.

A Note on Academic Honesty: See the department policy on this. Consult your university catalog or contact the instructor if you have any questions about the policy.

4. Books:

Virginia Gray, Russell L. Hanson, and Herbert Jacob, eds., *Politics in the American States*, 7th ed., CQ Press, 1999.

David R. Morgan and Robert E. England, *Managing Urban America*, 5th ed., Chatham House Publishers, 1999.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: January 17, 2001

The Environment of State and Urban Policy-making

Required Readings:

- Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 1, 3, 4 -
 - Morgan and England, Introduction and Chap. 1 -
- Presentation: [State and Urban Policy Model](#)

Week 2:- January 24, 2002

Urban Institutions and Policy-making

Required Readings:

- Morgan and England, Chap. 2, 3

Presentation: [Urban Government Form](#)

Week 3:- January 31, 2002

Techniques of Urban Policy Analysis

Required Readings:

- Morgan and England, Chap. 4, 5 -
- Presentation: [Policy Models and Analysis](#)

Week 4: February 7, 2002

Urban Fiscal Policies

Required Readings:

- Morgan and England, Chap. 10. -
- Presentation: [City Finances graphs](#)
- [Sharp, Elaine \(1986\) "The Politics and Economics of the New City Debt," American Political Science Review 80: 1271-1288.](#) -
- [Schneider, Mark \(1987\) "Local Budgets and the Maximization of Local Property Wealth in the System of Suburban Government," Journal of Politics 49:1104-1116.](#) -
- Woodlief, Anthony (1998) "The Path-Dependent City." Urban Affairs Review 33 (January): 405-437. -

Recommended Readings:

- Morgan, David R. and John P. Pelissero (1980) "Urban Policy: Does Political Structure Matter?" American Political Science Review 74: 999-1006. -

Week 5: February 14, 2002

Urban Economic Development Policies

Required Readings:

- Morgan and England, Chap. 11. -
- [Schneider, Mark \(1992\) "Undermining the Growth Machine: The Missing Link between Local Economic Development and Fiscal Payoffs," Journal of Politics 54: 214-230.](#) -
- Fleischmann, Arnold et al. (1992) "What's a City To Do? Explaining Differences in Local Economic Policies," Western Political Quarterly 45: 677-700. -

- Reese, Laura (1998) "Sharing the Benefits of Economic Development: What Cities Use Type II Policies?" *Urban Affairs Review* 33 (May): 686-711. -
- Burbank, Matthew J., Charles Heying and Greg Andravoich (2000) "Antigrowth Politics or Piecemeal Resistance? Citizen Opposition to Olympic-Related Economic Growth," *Urban Affairs Review* 35 (January): 334-357. -
- Martin, Isaac (2001) "Dawn of the Living Wage: The Diffusion of a Redistributive Municipal Policy," *Urban Affairs Review* 36 (March): 470-96. -

Week 6: February 21, 2002

Urban Service Policies

Required Readings:

- Morgan and England, Chap. 6, 7 -
- Miranda, Rowan and Ittipone Tunyavong (1994) "Patterned Inequality? Reexamining the Role of Distributive Politics in Urban Service Delivery." *Urban Affairs Quarterly* 29 (June): 509-34. -
- Gianakis, Gerasimos A. and G. John Davis III (1998) "Reinventing or Repackaging Public Services? The Case of Community-Oriented Policing," *Public Administration Review* 58 (November): 485-98. -
- Schumaker, Paul and Marisa Kelly (1999) "Affirmative Action Principles of Justice, and the Evolution of Urban Theory," *Urban Affairs Review* 34 (May): 619-40. -
- Boschken, Herman L. (2000) "Urban Spatial Form and Policy Outcomes in Public Agencies," *Urban Affairs Review* 36 (September): 61-83. -
- Rich, Michael J., Micheal W. Giles, and Emily Stern (2001) "Collaborating to Reduce Poverty: Views from City Halls and Community-Based Organizations," *Urban Affairs Review* 37 (November): 184-204. -

Week 7: February 28, 2002

Intergovernmental Policies

Required Readings:

- Hanson, Russell, "Intergovernmental Relations," In Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 2. -
- Pelissero, John P. and David R. Morgan (1992) "Targeting Intergovernmental Aid to Local Schools: An Analysis of Federal and State Efforts." *Western Political Quarterly* 45: 985-999. -
- Stein, Robert M. and Keith E. Hamm (1994) "Explaining State Aid Allocations: Targeting Within Universalism." *Social Science Quarterly* 75 (September): 524-40. -
- Park, Keeok (1997) "Friends and Competitors: Policy Interactions between Local Governments in Metropolitan Areas." *Political Research Quarterly* 50 (December): 723-750. -
- Johnston, Jocelyn M. and William Duncombe (1998) "Balancing Conflicting Policy Objectives: The Case of School Finance Reform." *Public Administration Review* 58 (March-April): 145-59. -

Week 8: March 14, 2002

State Legislatures and Policy-making

Required Readings:

- Hamm, Keith and Gary Moncrief in Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 5 -
- Bowling, Cynthia and Margaret Ferguson (2001) "Divided Government, Interest Representation, and Policy Differences: Competing Explanations of Gridlock in the Fifty States," *Journal of Politics* 63 (February): 182-206. -
- Alt, James E. and Robert C. Lowry (2000) "Dynamic Model of State Budget Outcomes Under Divided Partisan Government," *Journal of Politics* 62 (November): 1035-69. -
- Preuhs, Robert R. (2001) "State Felon Disenfranchisement Policy," *Social Science Quarterly* 82 (December): 733-48. -
- Huber, John D. , Charles R. Shipan, and Madelaine Pfahler (2001) "Legislatures and Statutory Control of Bureaucracy," *American Journal of Political Science* 45 (April): 330-45. -

Week 9: March 21, 2002

Governors and Bureaucracy in Policy-making

Required Readings:

- Beyle, Thad in Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 6 -
- Elling, Richard in Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 8 -
- Durning, Dan (1995) "Governors and Administrative Reform in the 1990s." *State and Local Government Review* 27 (Winter): 36-54. -
- [Meier, Kenneth J., J.L. Polinard, and Robert Wrinkle \(2000\) "Bureaucracy and Organizational Performance: Causality Arguments About Public Schools," *American Journal of Political Science* 44 \(July\): 590-602.](#) -
- Mooney, Christopher Z. (2001) "Modeling Regional Effects on State Policy Diffusion." *Political Research Quarterly* 54 (March): 103-24. -
- Riccucci, Norma M. and Judith R. Saidel (2001) "The Demographics of Gubernatorial Appointees: Toward an Explanation of Variation." *Policy Studies Journal* 29 (Spring): 11- -

Week 10: April 4, 2002

State Fiscal Policies

Required Readings:

- Winters, Richard F., "The Politics Of Taxing And Spending," In Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 9. -
- [Alt, James E. and Robert C. Lowry \(1994\) "Divided Government, Fiscal Institutions, and Budget Deficits: Evidence From the States." *American Political Science Review* 88 \(December\): 811-828.](#) -
- [Clingermayer, James C. and B. Dan Wood \(1995\) "Disentangling Patterns of State Debt Financing." *American Political Science Review* 89 \(March\): 108-120.](#) -
- [Camobreco, John F. \(1998\) "Preferences, Fiscal Policies, and the Initiative Process." *Journal of Politics* 60 \(August\): 819-829.](#) -
- Jacoby, William G. and Sandra K. Schneider (2001) "Variability in State Policy Priorities: An Empirical Analysis." *Journal of Politics* 63 (May): 544-68. -

Week 11: April 11, 2002

State Welfare Policies

Required Readings:

- Rom, Mark "Transforming State Health And Welfare Programs," In Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 10 -
- [Tweedie, Jack \(1994\) "Resources Rather Than Needs: A State-Centered Model of Welfare Policymaking." *American Journal of Political Science* 38 \(August\): 651-72.](#) -
- [Brown, Robert D. \(1995\) "Party Cleavages and Welfare Effort in the American States." *American Political Science Review* 89 \(March\): 23-33.](#) -
- [Radcliff, Benjamin and Martin Saiz \(1998\) "Labor Organization and Public Policy in the American States." *Journal of Politics* 60 \(February\): 113-125.](#) -
- Soss, Joe et al. (2001) "Setting the Terms of Relief: Explaining State Policy Choices in the Devolution Revolution," *American Journal of Political Science* 45 (April): 378-95. -

Week 12: April 18, 2002

State Education Policies

Required Readings:

- Lewis, Dan A. and Shadd Maruna, "The Politics Of Education," In Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 11. -
- Weiher, Gregory R. (1988) "Why Redistribution Doesn't Work: State Educational Reform Policy and Governmental Decentralization in Texas." *American Politics Quarterly* 16: 193-210. -

- Hwang, Sung-Don and Virginia Gray (1991) "External Limits and Internal Determinants of State Public Policy." *Western Political Quarterly* 44: 277-298. -
- Lowry, Robert C. (2001) "Governmental Structure, Trustee Selection, and Public University Prices and Spending: Multiple Means to Similar Ends," *American Journal of Political Science* 45 (October): 845-61. -

Week 13: April 25, 2002

State Economic and Regulatory Policies

Required Readings:

- Williams, Bruce A., "Economic Regulation and Environmental Protection," in Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 12. -
- Saiz, Martin R. and Susan E. Clarke, "Economic Development and Infrastructure Policy," in Gray, Hanson, and Jacob, Chap. 13. -
- [Teske, Paul \(1991\) "Interests and Institutions in State Regulation." *American Journal of Political Science* 35: 139-154.](#) -
- [Mooney, Christopher Z. and Mei-Hsien Lee \(1995\) "Legislating Morality in the American States: The Case of Pre-Roe Abortion Regulation Reform." *American Journal of Political Science* 39 \(August\): 599-627.](#) -
- [Haider-Markel, Donald P. and Kenneth J. Meier \(1996\) "The Politics of Gay and Lesbian Rights: Expanding the Scope of the Conflict." *Journal of Politics* 58 \(May\): 332-49.](#) -

Week 14: May 2, 2002

Final Wrap-up

Class Plan: Dinner

Assignments Due: Research Paper

Revised: 2/1/2002