INTRODUCTION TO THE POLICY PROCESS
Professor Janet Gornick
FALL 2015 – ROOM 3308

PSC 73101 | 3 credits
SOC 85700 | 3 credits
Tuesdays, 4:15 – 6:15pm

_____

Faculty: Janet Gornick
                   Professor of Political Science and Sociology
                   The Graduate Center, CUNY

Office: Room #6203.07 (enter via the Center for Human Environments; take two lefts)

Phone: 212-817-1872

Email: jgornick@gc.cuny.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 6:30pm to 7:30pm, or by appointment.
                   Call or email with questions at any time.

_____

Course Description:

This course will provide an introduction to the policy-making process, with a focus on the United States.

The first section of the course will offer an overview of major theories, concepts, and models of public policy-making. The second section will focus on the impact of social movements on the policy process.

The third section of the course will address problem definition and agenda-setting, and will further situate policy-making in the political landscape. The final section of the course will assess the implementation process, with a focus on "street-level bureaucracy".

_____

Course Requirements:

The requirements include "reaction papers" corresponding to class readings; supervision of one class session, and two exams.

● 300-word "reaction paper", due before class each week (instructions to be distributed)	15% of grade
● attendance, class participation, and co-supervision of one class session (instructions to be distributed)	15% of grade
● mid-term exam (November 3, in class)	30% of grade
● final exam	40% of grade

_____

_____

Required Reading:

TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY INSTRUCTOR

For Classes #2 and #3, we will read selections from this book – to be distributed in pdf files, after the first class:

> Stella Z. Theodoulou and Matthew A. Cahn, Eds., 1994,
> Public Policy: The Essential Readings (1st Edition)

Although this volume is 20+ years old, and many of the essays are even older, it remains a classic collection.

TO BE PURCHASED (OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRED) BY STUDENTS

These <u>seven</u> books are required reading. I recommend that you buy all of them. You should be able to purchase the whole set, new, for about **$185** – or for *much less* if you buy used versions. These books have also been placed on reserve at the Mina Rees Library. Please get the years/editions specified below.

(1)   David S. Meyer, Valerie Jenness, and Helen Ingram, Eds., 2005,
         Routing the Opposition: Social Movements, Public Policy, and Democracy
         Paperback available from Amazon, $26.00

(2)   David A. Rochefort and Roger W. Cobb, Eds., 1994,
         The Politics of Problem Definition: Shaping the Policy Agenda
         Paperback available from Amazon, $14.95

(3)   Anne L. Schneider and Helen M. Ingram, Eds., 2005,
         Deserving and Entitled: Social Constructions and Public Policy
         Paperback available from Amazon, $30.95

(4)   John W. Kingdon, 2010,
         Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies *with an Epilogue on Health Care Reform* (Updated 2nd Edition)
         Paperback available from Amazon, $54.65

(5)   Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones, 2009,
         Agendas and Instability in American Politics (2nd Edition)
         Paperback available from Amazon, $20.90

(6)   Jeffrey L. Pressman and Aaron Wildavsky, 1984,
         Implementation: How Great Expectations in Washington Are Dashed in Oakland; Or, Why It's Amazing
         that Federal Programs Work at All, This Being a Saga of the Economic Development Administration as Told
         by Two Sympathetic Observers Who Seek to Build Morals on a Foundation of Ruined Hopes (3rd Edition,
         Expanded)
         Paperback available from Amazon, $21.35

(7)   Michael Lipsky, 2010,
         Street-Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Services (30th Anniversary Edition)
         Paperback available from Amazon, $18.03

_____

_____

WEEKLY READING – ALL REQUIRED.

The reading is to be completed prior to the class in which it will be discussed.

PART I – INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY

September 1   Class #1   Introduction and Overview – *no required reading*

September 8   Class #2   Stella Z. Theodoulou and Matthew A. Cahn, Eds., 1994,
                                      <u>Public Policy: The Essential Readings</u>
                                      The Nature of Public Policy: What is public policy, who makes it,
                                      and why study it?

	Reading 1	Stella Z. Theodoulou *The Contemporary Language of Public Policy: A Starting Point*
	Reading 2	Paul A. Sabatier (1991) *Political Science and Public Policy*
	Reading 3	Theodore J. Lowi (1964) *Distribution, Regulation, Redistribution: The Functions of Government*
	Reading 4	Murray Edelman (1964) *Symbols and Political Quiescence*
	Reading 5	Robert H. Salisbury (1968) *The Analysis of Public Policy: A Search for Theories and Roles*
	Reading 6	Robert A. Dahl (1967) *With the Consent of All*
	Reading 7	Hugh Heclo (1978) *Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment*
	Reading 8	Ralph Miliband (1969) *Imperfect Competition*
	Reading 9	David B. Truman (1971) *Group Politics and Representative Democracy*
	Reading 10	C. Wright Mills (1956) *The Power Elite*

September 25   Class #3   Stella Z. Theodoulou and Matthew A. Cahn, Eds., 1994,
Friday!   <u>Public Policy: The Essential Readings</u>
                                      The Policy Game: Rules, strategy, culture, resources

	Reading 37	Matthew A. Cahn *Playing the Policy Game*

PART II – SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND PUBLIC POLICY

September 29 Class #4 David S. Meyer, Valerie Jenness, and Helen Ingram, Eds., 2005,
<u>Routing the Opposition: Social Movements, Public Policy, and Democracy</u>

PART III – PROBLEM DEFINITION, AGENDA-SETTING, AND THE POLITICS OF POLICY MAKING

October 6   Class #5   David A. Rochefort and Roger W. Cobb, Eds., 1994,
                            The Politics of Problem Definition: Shaping the Policy Agenda

	Chapter 1	David A. Rochefort and Roger W. Cobb *Problem Definition: An Emerging Perspective*

Chapter 1   David A. Rochefort and Roger W. Cobb
             Problem Definition: An Emerging Perspective

Chapter 2   John Portz
             Plant Closings, Community Definitions, & the Local Response

Chapter 4   Ellen Frankel Paul
             Sexual Harassment: A Defining Moment and Its Repercussions

Chapter 5   Elaine B. Sharp
             Paradoxes of National Anti-Drug Policymaking

Chapter 6   Gary Mucciaroni
             *Problem Definition and Special Interest Politics in Tax Policy
             and Agriculture*

Chapter 8   David A. Rochefort and Roger W. Cobb
             Instrumental vs Expressive Definitions of AIDS Policymaking

Chapter 9   Christopher J. Bosso
             The Contextual Bases of Problem Definition

October 13   Class #6   Anne L. Schneider and Helen M. Ingram, Eds., 2005,
                            Deserving and Entitled: Social Constructions and Public Policy

Introduction   Helen M. Ingram and Anne L. Schneider
                Public Policy and the Social Construction of Deservedness

Chapter 1   Laura S. Jensen
             Constructing and Entitling America's Original Veterans

Chapter 2   Kay Schriner
             *Constructing the Democratic Citizen: Idiocy and Insanity in
             American Suffrage Law*

Chapter 3   Stephanie J. DiAlto
             *From "Problem Minority" to "Model Minority": The Changing
             Social Status of Japanese Americans*

Chapter 4   Mara S. Sidney
             *Contested Images of Race and Place: The Politics of Housing
             Discrimination*

Chapter 5   Lina Newton
             *"It Is Not a Question of Being Anti-Immigration": Categories
             of Deservedness in Immigration*

October 20	Class #7	Anne L. Schneider and Helen M. Ingram, Eds., 2005 – continued, <u>Deserving and Entitled: Social Constructions and Public Policy</u>

	Chapter 6	Nancy Jurik and Julie Cowgill *The Construction of Client Identities in a Post-Welfare Social Service Program: The Double Bind of Microenterprise Development*
	Chapter 7	Michelle Camou *Deservedness in Poor Neighborhoods: A Morality Struggle*
	Chapter 8	Sean Nicholson-Crotty and Kenneth J. Meier *From Perception to Public Policy: Translating Social Constructions into Policy Design*
	Chapter 9	Dionne Bensonsmith *Jezebels, Matriarchs, and Welfare Queens: The Moynihan Report of 1965 and the Social Construction of African-American Women in Welfare Policy*
	Chapter 10	Sanford F. Schram *Putting a Black Face on Welfare: The Good and the Bad*
	Chapter 11	Joe Soss *Making Clients and Citizens: Welfare Policy as a Source of Status, Belief, and Action*

October 27	Class #8	ONE CLASS CANCELLED – PROFESSOR OUT OF THE COUNTRY! (Note – bonus time for mid-term studying).
November 3	Class #9	**IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM**
November 10	Class #10	John W. Kingdon, 2010, <u>Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies</u> *with an Epilogue on Health Care Reform* Chapters 1-10, Epilogue
November 17	Class #11	Frank R. Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones, 2009, <u>Agendas and Instability in American Politics</u> Selected chapters (to be determined)

PART IV – IMPLEMENTATION AND STREET-LEVEL BUREAUCRACY

November 24	Class #12	Jeffrey L. Pressman and Aaron Wildavsky, 1984, <u>Implementation: How Great Expectations in Washington Are Dashed …</u> Chapters 1-11
December 1	Class #13	Michael Lipsky, 2010, <u>Street-Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Services</u> Chapters 1-14
December 8	Class #14	Wrap Up

_____