

# Comparative Public Policy

Fall 2011

Course #50:790:318

Thursdays 6-8:40pm

Rutgers University-Camden

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Office: #302 at 401 Cooper Street

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:25pm-1:20pm, Thursdays 4pm-5:30pm, and by appointment

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## Overview:

In this course we will explore how public policy is made and implemented around the world. Questions we will discuss include: Who is involved in decision making? What institutions are involved in the policy making process? How are policies implemented? And, what are the differences in similarities in policy making and implementation in countries that vary by wealth, democratic institutions, and public opinion? We will first review general theories and political dynamics of policy making before turning to specific policy issue areas in industrialized and developing countries. Policy issue areas will include: immigration, spending, taxation, health care, social assistance, education and the environment. We will review the cases of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, the European Union, Brazil, India, and Mexico.

## Required Readings:

The following books are available for purchase at the University bookstore or through online booksellers:

Jessica R. Adolino and Charles H. Blake, *Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Industrialized Countries* (CQ Press: Washington, DC, 2010).

Santiago Levy, *Progress Against Poverty: Sustaining Mexico's Progres-Oportunidades Program* (Brookings Institution Press: Washington, DC, 2006)

Articles required for the course will also be posted online.

## Grading and Assignments:

Requirement	Due date	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation	On-going	20%
Midterm	October 20	25%
Policy Analysis Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper Proposal</li><li>• Presentation</li><li>• Final Paper</li></ul>	Due in class Nov. 10  Presentation date Dec. 1 or Dec. 8  Final Paper due Dec. 1	5%  5%  20%
Final Exam	Dec. 22	25%

### Participation

Your participation grade will be based on your daily involvement in class discussions. Please note that there is not a written attendance policy for this course. However, clearly you cannot participate in class if you are not present. Your participation grade depends on your preparation for the class and the quality of your contribution to discussions.

### Exams

There will be a midterm and final exam in this course with both short answer identifications and essay questions.

### Policy Analysis Paper

You are required to write a policy analysis paper (10-12 pages) on a policy issue and country of your choice. In the paper you will review the policy process through the 5 stages: agenda setting, policy formulation, decision making, implementation and evaluation. Further instructions will be handed out in class and posted online by the end of October.

You will be required to submit a proposal for your project on November 10. I will then comment on your proposals and suggest any modifications. A meeting with me at this time may be useful. The final paper will then be due on December 1. To provide your classmates with an overview of your project, you will make a brief presentation to the class on either Dec. 1 or Dec. 8. Dates for final presentations will be determined by early November.

## **Schedule:**

### **September 1 – Introduction to Comparative Public Policy**

Introduction and Chapter 1, Adolino and Blake

### **September 8 (No class)**

### **September 15 – Theories of Policy Making, Political and Economic Dynamics**

Chapters 2 and 3, Adolino and Blake

### **September 22 – The Policy-Making Context, Immigration**

Chapters 4 and 5, Adolino and Blake

### **September 29 – Immigration : The U.S. Immigration Policy Debate**

Tamar Jacoby, “Immigration Nation”

### **October 6 – Fiscal Policy**

Chapter 6, Adolino and Blake

### **October 13 – Taxation Policy**

Chapter 7, Adolino and Blake

### **October 20 – MIDTERM EXAM**

### **October 27 – Health Care**

Chapter 8, Adolino and Blake

In class: PBS Frontline “Sick Around the World”

### **November 3 – Social Policy**

Chapter 9, Adolino and Blake

### **November 10 – Social Policy and the role of evaluation**

Levy, *Progress Against Poverty*

### **November 17 - Education**

Chapter 10, Adolino and Blake

Geeta Gandhi Kingdon, “The Progress of School Education in India”

### **November 22 (Tuesday) – the Environment**

Chapter 11, Adolino and Blake

Barry Ames and Margaret Keck, “The Politics of Sustainable Development: Environmental Policy Making in Four Brazilian States”

### **December 1 – Policy Analysis Presentations, PAPER DUE**

**December 8 - Policy Analysis Presentations and Course Review**

**Final Exam - Thursday, Dec. 22**