

***POLS 670
Fall 2007***

Public Policy

Time: Wednesday 9:30 am - noon

Location: CBA C103

Instructor:

James H. Spencer,

Associate Professor

Departments of Urban & Regional Planning,

Political Science

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

jhs@hawaii.edu

(808) 956-8835

Office: Globalization Research Center, 1859 East West Road, TP1, Suite 115

Office Hours: Tuesday 9 - noon or by appointment.

Course Description

Regulation of society, allocation of resources, and public choices are central questions in the context of rapidly changing societies, especially in the context of globalization, technological change and decentralization. This class will provide a broad overview of public policy in a market economy, covering the theoretical foundations of state, private sector, and civil society roles in social organization, distinctions between secular and non-secular trends as well as the role of political expediency. In the broad context of urbanization and market reform the class covers the importance of accountability, process, and financial mechanisms in the development of effective public policy. It uses the cases of urban poverty in the United States, as well as market reform in developing countries to examine the relationship between policy theory and practice.

Preparation

This class is designed for graduate students with an interest in political and economic analysis and institutions. It is geared, in particular, towards development policy in poor countries, regions and cities. However, the general principles of public policy formation and assessment can be applied to numerous sectors. Previous experience with economic or policy analysis is helpful but not essential.

Course Structure and Requirements

The course will meet once per week, and attendance is required for each session. The first hour of each class will consist of a joint presentation by two students of the reading material that includes 1) overview of the main points and concepts relevant to public policy; 2) a critique of the readings; and 3) 2-3 questions for discussion. A midterm paper will focus on the theoretical foundations, rationales and institutions affecting public policy. There will also be a final paper due during the final week of classes that uses the principles and case studies covered in the class to critically assess and evaluate a public policy of the student's choice. The last four weeks of the class will be students' presentations and in-depth discussions of their policy analyses.

Grading Breakdown

Midterm Paper	20%
Final Term Paper	35%
Class presentation of material	15%
Presentation sessions (own presentation and attendance)	10%
In-Class Participation	10%
Attendance	10%

Readings

As with any class, doing the readings prior to our meetings is essential. Without this shared base of understanding we will not be able to have a useful discussion, and I will not be able to identify where there is the most confusion. Assignments should be read PRIOR to the class for which they are listed. The readings will be available on the WebCT class website the week prior to the class for which they are due. If you need to have them prior to the week before discussion, please let me know, and we may be able to make arrangements.

Class Schedule

Week 1: August 22

Introduction to the Course

Assigned readings:

None.

Week 2: August 29

What is Public Policy? Utopia, Social Engineering, Muddling Through

Assigned readings:

Fishman, Robert. 1977. "Urban Utopias: Ebenezer Howard and Le Corbusier," in *Urban Utopias in the 20th Century: Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Courbusier*. New York: Basic Books.

Lindblom, Charles E. 1959. "The Science of Muddling Through," in *Public Administration Review* 19.

Latham, Michael E. 2006. "Redirecting the Revolution? The USA and the Failure of Nation-Building in South Vietnam," *Third World Quarterly* 27(1): 27-41.

Hunter, Ernest. 2006. "Social Engineers and Bystanders: the Limits of 'Responsibility' in Indigenous Affairs," *Australasian Psychiatry* 14(1): 24-32.

Navarro, Vicente. 2003. "Policy without Politics: the Limits of Social Engineering," *American Journal of Public Health* 93(1): 64-66.

Week 3: September 5

Reading Institutional Signals: Government, Private Sector, Civil Society

Assigned readings:

Albert Hirschmann, *Exit, Voice and Loyalty*: Ch. 1-3, 7.

Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*: Ch. 2, 5, 6, 11

Davidoff, Paul. 1965. "Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning." In the *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, Vol. 31(4).

Week 4: September 12 (Jim out of town)

Who Makes Public Policy? Competing State Bodies

Assigned readings:

Jargowsky, Paul. 1997. Metropolitan Restructuring and Urban Policy. In *Stanford Law and Policy Review* 8 (2): 47-60.

Dreier, Peter, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom. *Place Matters: Metropolitics for the 21st Century*: Ch. 4.

Laquian, A.A. 2005. "Metropolitan Governance Reform in Asia," *Public Administration and Development* 25(4): 307-315.

Friedmann, John. 2005. *China's Urban Transition* (chapters 5, 6: pp. 77-116)

Smyth, Russell and Zhai Qingguo. 2003. "Economic Restructuring in China's Large and Medium-sized State-owned Enterprises: evidence from Liaoning," *Journal of Contemporary China* 12(34): 173-205.

Week 5: September 19

Accountability, Trust and Credibility

Assigned readings:

Sohail, M., S. Cavill, A.P. Cotton. 2005. "Sustainable Operation and Maintenance of Urban Infrastructure: myth or reality?" *Journal of Urban Planning and Development* 131(1): 39-49.

Van Ryzin, Gregg G., Douglas Muzzio, Stephen Immerwahr. 2004. "Explaining the Race Gap in Satisfaction with Urban Services," *Urban Affairs Review* 39(5): 613-632.

Cavill, S. and M. Sohail. 2004. "Strengthening Accountability for Urban Services," *Environment and Urbanization* 16(1): 155-170.

Van Ryzin, G.G. 2004. "Expectations, Performance, and Citizen Satisfaction with Urban Services," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 23(3): 433-448.

Soss, Joe. 1999. "Lessons of Welfare: Policy Design, Political Learning, and Political Action." In *American Political Science Review*, volume 93(2).

Week 6: September 26

Process and Participation

Assigned readings:

Putnam, R.D. (1995). Bowling alone: America's declining social capital. *Journal of Democracy*, 6(1), 65-78.

Dowla, Asif. (2006). "In credit we trust: Building social capital by Grameen Bank in Bangladesh," *The Journal of Socio-Economics* 35, (1), 102-122.

Carpenter, Jeffrey P. Amrita G. Daniere, and Lois M. Takahashi. [Cooperation, trust, and social capital in Southeast Asian urban slums.](#) *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 55(4), p533-551.

Post, J. and D. Inkoona. 2004. "Social Capital, Local Networks and Community Action: experiences with service upgrading in Kumasi, Ghana," *International Development Planning Review* 26(3): 325-350.

Beall, Jo, Owen Crankshaw, and Susan Parnell. 2000. "Victims, Villains, and Fixers: the urban environment and Johannesburg's poor," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 26(4): 833-855.

Week 7: October 3

Paying for Public Policy: Finance and Cost-recovery

Assigned readings:

Mehta, D. and P. Pathak. 1998. "Financing of Urban Services in India: a case for appropriate pricing and cost recovery," *Habitat International* 22(4): 487-502.

Rondinelli, D.A. 1990. "Financing the Decentralization of Urban Services in Developing Countries: administrative requirements for fiscal improvements," *Studies in Comparative International Development* 25(2): 43-59.

Spencer, James H. 2007. "Innovative Systems to Create Peri-Urban Infrastructure: Assessment of a Local Partnership to Provide Water to the Poor in Vietnam," in *International Development Planning Review* 29(1).

Week 8: October 10

Alternative Policy Targets: People vs. Place Poverty

Assigned Readings:

Spencer, James H. 2004. "People, Places and Policy: A Politically-Relevant Framework for Labor Market Efforts to Reduce Concentrated Poverty and Joblessness," in *Policy Studies Journal* 32(4): 545-68.

Jencks, Christopher. 1991. "Is the American Underclass Growing?" In *The Urban Underclass*. Edited by Christopher Jencks and Paul E. Peterson. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution Press.

Taylor, Brian D., and Paul M. Ong. (1995). "Spatial Mismatch or Automobile Mismatch? An Examination of Race, Residence, and Commuting in US Metropolitan Areas." *Urban Studies* 32, pp. 1453-1473.

Week 9: October 17

Policy Impact and Evaluation

Assigned readings:

Spencer, James H. and Paul Ong. 2004. "An Analysis of the Los Angeles Revitalization Zone: Are Place-Based Investment Strategies Effective Under Moderate Economic Conditions?" in *Economic Development Quarterly* 18(4): 368-83.

Quinn, Lois M. and John Pawasarat. (2001). "Tracking the Progress of Welfare Reform Quickly: A Model for Measuring Neighborhood Health and Change." Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, October.

Spencer, James H. 2007. "Neighborhood Economic Development Effects of the Earned Income Tax Credit in Los Angeles: Poor places and policies for the working poor." *Urban Affairs Review* 42(6): 851-73.

O'Connor, Alice: *Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy and the Poor in Twentieth Century U.S. History*: Selections.

Week 10: October 24

Crisis, Cycle and Politics

Assigned readings:

Johnson, J.H., Jr., Farrell, W.C. Jr., & Oliver, M.L. (1993). Seeds of the Los Angeles rebellion of 1992. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 17 115-119.

Spencer, James H. 2004. "Los Angeles Since 1992: How Did the Economic Base of Riot-torn Neighborhoods Fare After the Unrest?" *Race, Gender and Class* 11(1): 94-115.

Pastor, Manuel jr. 1995. "Economic Inequality, Latino Poverty, and the Civil Unrest in Los Angeles." *Economic Development Quarterly* Vol.9(3): 238-258

Ong, Paul, James H. Spencer, Michela Zonta, Todd Nelson, Douglas Miller, and Julia Heintz-Mackoff. 2003. "The Economic Cycle and Los Angeles Neighborhoods: 1987-2001." Report to the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation. Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, UCLA. Available at <http://repositories.cdlib.org/lewis/cspp/04>.

***** Midterm Paper Due *****

Week 11: October 31

Privatization: Theories for Public Financing

Assigned readings:

Boisvert, Michel and Lahouari Senouci. 2000. "Marginal Privatisation and Infrastructural Deficiencies: Anas and Lee revisited," *Urban Studies* 37(7): 1131-1144.

Armijo, Leslie Elliot and Faucher, Philippe: "We Have A Consensus': Explaining Political Support for Market Reforms in Latin America," *Latin American Politics & Society* 44(2), p1-40.

Lee, S.J. 1994. "Policy Type, Bureaucracy, and Urban Policies: integrating models of urban service distribution," *Policy Studies Journal* 22(1).

Week 12: November 7

Assessing Experiences of Privatization

Assigned readings:

Budds, Jessica and Gordon McGranahan (2003). "Are the debates on water privatization missing the point? Experiences from Africa, Asia and Latin America", *Environment and Urbanization* Vol 15, No 2, IIED, London, pages 87-114, October.

Bakker, Karen: "Archipelagos and networks: urbanization and water privatization in the South," *Geographical Journal* 169(4), p328-342.

Pirez, P. 1998. "The Management of Urban Services in the City of Buenos Aires," *Environment and Urbanization* 10(2): 209-222.

Werna, E. 1998. "Urban Management, the Provision of Public Service and Intra-Urban Differentials in Nairobi," *Habitat International* 22(1): 15-26.

Week 13: November 14

Student presentations and discussion on individual topics

Week 14: November 21

Student presentations and discussion on individual topics

Week 15: November 28

Student presentations and discussion on individual topics

Week 16: December 5

Student presentations and discussion on individual topics

*****Final Term Paper Due*****