

POLS 6318
Spring Semester 2009
Email: ialcaniz@mail.uh.edu

Professor Isabella Alcañiz
Tuesdays 1:00-4:00PM @ 392 PGH
Office Hours: TH. 2-4 PM @ 436 PGH

Science, Environment and Energy Policy Seminar

A distinctive feature of most science, environmental and energy policies is the demanding level of technical expertise and knowledge required for their adoption and implementation. This seminar will analyze how political actors, who rarely have policy-specific expertise, make policy decisions in knowledge-intensive areas. In exploring this problem, students will learn how politicians delegate authority to state bureaucracies which have the knowledge and skills to *assist* decision-makers. Bureaucrats, however, are empowered by their policy-relevant knowledge and often strive for autonomy, not just from societal pressures but from politicians as well.

Drawing from the Comparative, IR, and Public Policy literature, we will explore the role of bureaucratic expertise, autonomy and capacity in the adoption and implementation of science, environmental and energy policies. The seminar will analyze bureaucrats and technocrats at their best (and worst), including the organization of modern and not so modern bureaucracies in the third world; the developmental states of Latin America; transnational advocacy networks of scientists and environmentalists; state regulation, de-regulation and re-regulation (!) of energy regimes; and the emergence of the modern US bureaucracy during the Progressive era. While focusing on bureaucratic politics, we will also analyze other institutions and informal networks through which political and expert actors negotiate policy outcomes in knowledge-intensive areas.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Always attend class and be prepared to discuss ALL the material assigned for the week.
- 2) Write a short (4-5 pages long) theoretically critical paper on two or more of the assigned readings. Give a 15 minute presentation at the beginning of class of your critical **argument**. Make your paper available (via email) to the instructor and all your classmates by Monday 10PM. The number of short papers/presentations during the semester will be determined the first week of class.
- 3) Write a 2-3 page-long reaction paper to your classmate's critical paper and present it in 5 minutes (immediately after the 15' presentation). Your paper and presentation need to be critical as well. You must engage your classmate's argument. You will give the instructor a copy of your reaction paper in class. The number of reaction papers/presentations during the semester will be determined the first week of class.
- 4) All students NOT presenting papers (requirements 2 and 3) must submit to the instructor by Monday 10PM (via email) a list of 5 (five) CRITICAL questions based on the readings, which will serve to trigger discussion in class.
- 5) Either write a final paper or take a final exam (practice comprehensive exam).

Course Evaluation is based on the following:

30% of final grade, short papers and presentations

30% of final grade, attendance and class participation throughout the semester

40% of final grade, final paper or “comps” type final exam

Attendance Notice:

All students are expected to attend class each and every time we meet. Only a highly contagious or severely grave disease is a valid excuse to miss class. As a significant percentage of your final grade depends on class participation, and you can only contribute to class discussion if you are present, it follows you cannot afford to be absent.

Learning Outcomes:

This seminar is designed to help socialize graduate students into the discipline and create a foundation for future professional success.

Week 1 January 20

Introduction

We will go over the syllabus and general expectations for the semester.

Week 2 January 27

The (Classic) Bureaucrat

Max Weber. 1958. “Bureaucracy” in From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology. Gerth and Mills Reader. Oxford University Press (196-244).

Altfeld, Michael F. and Gary J. Miller. 1984. “Sources of Bureaucratic Influence: Expertise and Agenda Control.” Journal of Conflict Resolution 28 (4): 701-730.

Sikkink, Katheryn. 1991. Ideas and Institutions: Developmentalism in Brazil and Argentina. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (Chapters 1, 2, and 5).

Week 3 February 3

Domestic and International Sources of Public Policy

Kingdon, John W. 1997. Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policy. 2nd Edition (Longman Classic Edition, paperback). Pearson Publishers.

Holzinger, Katharina, Christoph Knill, and Thomas Sommerer. 2008. “Environmental Policy Convergence: The Impact of International Harmonization, Transnational Communication, and Regulatory Competition.” International Organization 62 (4): 553-587.

Week 4 February 10

Policy Innovation

Carpenter, Daniel. 2001. The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Reputations, Networks, and Policy Innovation in Executive Agencies, 1862-1928. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Desveaux, James A., Evert A. Lindquist, and Glen Toner. 1994. "Organizing for Policy Innovation in Public Bureaucracy: AIDS, Energy and Environmental Policy in Canada." Canadian Journal of Political Science 27 (3): 493-528.

Week 5 February 17

Domestic Policy Networks

Heclo, Hugh. 1987. "Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment." New Political System (Ed. A. King) DC- American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.

Sabatier, Paul A. and Hank C. Jenkins-Smith. 1999. (Ed. Paul A. Sabatier) "The Advocacy Coalition Framework: An Assessment." Theories of Policy Process Boulder: Westview Press.

Schneider, Mark, John Scholz, Mark Lubell, Denisa Mindruta, and Matthew Edwardson. 2003. "Building Consensual Institutions: Networks and the National Estuary Program" American Journal of Political Science 47 (1): 143-158.

Scholz, John T., Ramiro Berardo, and Brad Kile. 2008. "Do Networks Solve Collective Action Problems? Credibility, Search, and Collaboration." Journal of Politics 70 (2): 393-406.

Week 6 February 24

Transnational Policy Networks and Epistemic Communities

Rohrschneider, Robert and Russell J. Dalton. 2002. "A Global Network? Transnational Cooperation among Environmental Groups." Journal of Politics 64 (2): 510-533.

Haas, Peter M.. 1992. "Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination" International Organization 46 (1): 1-35.

Peterson, M. J. 1992 "Whalers, Cetologists, Environmentalists, and the International Management of Whaling" International Organization 46 (1): 147-186.

Haas, Peter M. 1992. "Banning Chlorofluorocarbons: Epistemic Community Efforts to Protect Stratospheric Ozone" International Organization 46 (1): 187-224.

Gough, Clair and Simon Shackley. 2002. "The Respectable Politics of Climate Change: The Epistemic Communities and NGOs." International Affairs 77 (2): 329-346.

Week 7 March 3

International Bureaucrats and Activists

Johns, Leslie. 2007. "A Servant of Two Masters: Communication and the Selection of International Bureaucrats" International Organization 61 (2): 245-275.

Finnemore, Martha. 1993. "International Organizations as Teachers of Norms: the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and Scientific Policy." International Organization 47 (4): 565-597.

Sikkink, Kathryn and Margaret Keck. 1998. Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (Chapters 1, 4 and 6).

Week 8 March 10

Market and State Institutions

Solingen, Etel. 1996. Industrial Policy, Technology and International Bargaining: Designing Nuclear Industries in Argentina and Brazil. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Murillo, Maria Victoria and Carmen Le Foulon. 2006. "Crisis and Policymaking in Latin America: The Case of Chile's 1998-1999 Electricity Crisis." World Development 20 (10).

Week 9 March 24

Market and State Institutions (II)

Karl, Terry Lynn. 1997. The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Morrison, Kevin M. 2009. "Oil, Non-Tax Revenue, and the Redistributive Foundations of Regime Stability." International Organization 63 (1): 107-138.

Week 10 March 31

Resource Curse

Jones-Luong, Pauline and Erica Weinthal. 2001. "Prelude to the Resource Curse: Explaining Oil and Gas Development Strategies in the Soviet Successor States and Beyond" Comparative Politics Studies 34 (4): 367-393.

Wantchekon, Leonard and Nathan Jensen. 2004. "Resource Wealth and Political Regimes in Africa" Comparative Politics Studies 37(7): 816-841.

Smith, Benjamin. 2004. "Oil Wealth and Regime Survival in the Developing World, 1960-1999." American Journal of Political Science 48 (2): 232-246.

Chaudry, Kiren Aziz. 1989. "The Price of Wealth: Business and State in Labor Remittance and Oil Economies." International Organization 43 (1): 101-145.

Week 11 April 7

State Expertise and Capacity

Solingen, Etel (Editor). 1994. Scientists and the State: Domestic Structures and the International Context. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press (Chapters 1 and 7).

Bandorff, Thomas F. 2005. "Path Dependence and Value-Driven Issues: the Comparative Politics of Stem Cell Research." World Politics 57(2): 200-230.

Teodoro, Manuel P. 2009. "Bureaucratic Job Mobility and the Diffusion of Innovations." American Political Science Journal 53 (1): 175-189.

Week 12 April 14

State Regulation and Reform

Eising, Rainer. 2002. "Policy Learning in Embedded Negotiations: Explaining EU Electricity Liberalization." International Organization 56 (1): 85-120.

Murillo, Maria Victoria and Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo. 2007. "Political Competition and Policy Adoption: Market Reforms in Latin American Public Utilities." American Journal of Political Science 51 (1): 120-139.

Snyder, Richard. 1999. "After Neoliberalism: The Politics of Reregulation in Mexico." World Politics 51 (2): 173-204.

Cashore, Benjamin and Michael Howlett. 2007. "Punctuating Which Equilibrium? Understanding Thermostatic Policy Dynamics in Pacific Northwest Forestry." American Journal of Political Science 51 (3): 532-551.

Week 13 April 21

Environmental Policy

Lubell, Mark. 2007. "Familiarity Breeds Trust: Collective Action in a Policy Domain." The Journal of Politics 69 (1): 237-250.

Wood, B. Dan and Vedlitz, Arnold. 2007. "Issue Definition, Information Processing, and the Politics of Global Warming." American Journal of Political Science 51 (3): 552-556.

Dingwerth, Klaus. 2008. "Private Transnational Governance and the Developing World: A Comparative Perspective." International Studies Quarterly 52 (3): 607-634.

Nel, Philip and Marjolein Righarts. 2008. "Natural Disasters and the Risk of Violent Civil Conflict." International Studies Quarterly 52 (1): 159-189.

Week 14 April 28

Course Wrap-up and Paper Discussion