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**

Week 3 February 3
**Domestic and International Sources of Public Policy**

Week 4 February 10
**Policy Innovation**


Week 5 February 17

**Domestic Policy Networks**


Week 6 February 24

**Transnational Policy Networks and Epistemic Communities**


Week 7 March 3

**International Bureaucrats and Activists**


Week 8 March 10

**Market and State Institutions**


Week 9 March 24

**Market and State Institutions (II)**


Week 10 March 31

**Resource Curse**


Week 11 April 7

**State Expertise and Capacity**


Week 12 April 14

**State Regulation and Reform**


Week 13 April 21

Environmental Policy


Week 14 April 28

Course Wrap-up and Paper Discussion