

The National Policy Process Washington D.C.

**Mark O. Hatfield School of Government
Portland State University
Division of Public Administration**

**PA 539: National Policy Process
Dr. Craig W. Shinn 725-8220
shinnc@pdx.edu**

Reading Materials: Texts are not at the Bookstore. We suggest you check used bookstores or order online. Attached is a sheet that lists a number of online bookstores that have some or all of the following textbooks.

Birkland, Thomas. An Introduction to the Policy Process, 2nd Edition. 2005. M.E. Sharpe, NY.
Peters, Charles. How Washington Really Works. 1993. 4th edition. Perseus Books, NY.
Cohen, Richard E. Washington at Work: Back Rooms and Clean Air. 1995. 2nd edition.
Allyn & Bacon: Boston.

Handouts

Case Materials are/ will be available on line at the DC Seminar website:

www.eli.pdx.edu/natlpolicy/pa539.php

Recommended Texts: Wilson, James Q. Bureaucracy. 2000, repeat edition. Basic Books: NY.
Basic American government text book (Borrow or library)

As a seminar in Public administration, we will study the National Policy Process on site in Washington D.C. We will pay attention to the actors and the action of policy process and special attention to the institutionalization of that process. This includes attention to the "bureaucratization" of administrative components of that process. To maximize the benefit from the study trip and to gain graduate credit, you will need to read, reflect, and write. This work is divided into two parts: part due prior to leaving and part due following the trip. We recommend that you keep a reflective journal during the journey. See website for more details:
www.eli.pdx.edu/natlpolicy/pa539.php

Due on or before arrival in Washington D.C. -- several short essays (2-4 pages)

1. Summarize the special characteristics of "bureaucracy" that distinguish it from other types of organizations, reflect on why the characteristics arise and discuss the relationship of such characteristics to a "rule of law" approach to governance.
2. Consider the American Presidency and the Executive Branch in a short paper. Specifically,
 - Describe the several roles, constitutional or otherwise assigned, that a contemporary American President must undertake.
 - Describe the "bureaucracy" built around the President which has developed as a response to the President's need to control many agencies and some three million civil servants in the Executive Branch of government.

- Reflect on the distinctions between George Bush, the person, the presidency (White House), and the Executive Branch.
3. Based on one of the policy making models offered in class (the policy actors model offered by Ripley and Franklin, the distribution of interests model offered by Wilson, the window of opportunity model offered by Kingdon, or the stage type model) prepare a brief paper, perhaps as a memo to your agency head, that explains the kind of politics and political actors you would expect to be primarily involved in passage of a prohibitive regulatory policy like ESA or a distributive policy like dairy price supports or a policy which has become redistributive in nature like the Clean Air Act.
 4. Reflect on the bureaucratization of Congress in a short paper.
 - What are several bureaucracies that have been created to serve Congress?
 - What have these agencies evolved?
 - What other staff services are available to House and Senate members?
 - In what ways do these agencies complement executive agencies, compete with executive agencies or control executive agencies?
 5. Consider the role of Media, Interest Groups, Political Parties and Election Campaigning.
 - What is the role of Interest Groups in subgovernments?
 - When and under what policy circumstances might you expect intense encounters between Congressional committees and Agency staff?
 - Who makes up the Washington community? Are there differences between Congressional and Executive personnel?
 - What is the role of the media in the Washington community?

Paper due following the trip to Washington D.C. (10-12 pages, double spaced).

Choose one of the following topics or develop a topic with the instructor and write a reflective essay that integrates readings, your experience in Washington, D.C. and your reflection on the experience.

- "The system ain't broke, so let's don't fix it!" Indeed, Bureaucratic government is not bad, it often works well. In fact, many good people are hard at work and doing good.
- "If this is the way the country operates, then America and the world are in big trouble."
- Staff, some very junior and very young, run Washington, D.C. and that's a mixed blessing."
- "As the power of Bureaucrats and their organizations grow, the political power of the general citizenry declines."
- How will the upcoming election change the nature of the political process in Washington, D.C.? What changes in leadership are likely? What environmental and natural resource policies seem most (or least) likely to be the focus of the next Congress?
- Other topics by arrangement.

ONLINE OPTIONS FOR PURCHASING YOUR TEXTBOOKS

Portland State University Bookstore located at the corner of S.W. 5TH and Mill.

Amazon.Com <http://www.amazon.com>

Not always the best priced, but very quick if they have the books in stock.

Powell's Bookstore <http://www.powells.com/>

Can find inexpensive used books, but their stock is limited and fluctuates.

Barnes & Noble <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>

Surprisingly well stocked. Used books are available and they can ship within 24 hours.

Best Book Buys.Com <http://www.bestbookbuys.com/>

A great site. You can search for a textbook and the site will list multiple webstores where that book can be located, as well as the condition of the book (new/used) and price. A great way to comparison shop. This website proves that Amazon.com is not always the best priced store. However, watch out for shipping costs. If you find all four books for this course at Best Book Buys.Com, but must order each from a different webstore you might be paying more in shipping than if you were to order all four books from Amazon.com. Click "Hot Deals" in the top menu bar. Here you might find deals such as buy three books from a webstore and receive the fourth free, or spend over \$50 and get free shipping.

Borders Books <http://www.borders.com/>

Similar to Barnes & Noble except that Borders does not have used books.

PSU Library <http://library.pdx.edu/>

This website allows you to access PSU's library, as well as the catalogs of other regional and national libraries. If a book or publication is not available in the PSU library, you may be able to request it via interlibrary loan.