

**University of Alaska Anchorage  
College of Business and Public Policy  
Department of Public Administration**

**PADM 606 THE POLICYMAKING PROCESS**

Tuesdays LIB 201 5:30 - 8:15 p.m.  
FALL SEMESTER 2000

Instructor: Dr. G. Protasel

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides an overview of the public policymaking process and gives some helpful advice to public managers who often find themselves as unofficial participants in the policy arena. *Part One: The Policymaking Process* provides a framework for analyzing the policymaking process. Conventional government and politics involving voters, elected officials, bureaucrats, and interest groups is contrasted with the broader influences on policymaking found in the business community and economy. In *Part Two: Problems, Agendas, and Formulation*, the agenda setting process is studied. The way that public policy problems are identified by those inside and outside of government and how alternative public policies are formulated is the focus of attention. *Part Three: Government and the Economy*, focuses on American capitalism and the changing role of government. The conventional wisdom that all of our social and economic problems are due to too much government is challenged. In *Part Four: Deliberative Democracy*, the way active participant government can affect public policy is studied. The relationship of emerging participatory planning processes to democratic and political theory is also examined. In *Part Five: Nonprofits and Government*, the role of nonprofit organizations in influencing public policy is assessed. Government-nonprofit relations are studied in light of the trend to devolve governmental functions and cut government spending. Finally, in *Part Six, Public-Private Partnerships*, privatization as a means to reduce the size and cost of government is discussed. How competition in public services may reduce the size and cost of government and improve the delivery of services to the public is discussed.

**COURSE FORMAT AND GRADING:**

Classes will be conducted in a combined lecture/discussion format. At the beginning of each class session, the instructor will lecture on the topic related to the day's reading. This will be followed with a discussion of the lecture topics and the reading assignments. There will be six short essays (3-5 pages) required for this course. The essays will be presented and discussed in

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class. The date these essay assignments are due and their relative weights are listed below. Final course grades will be assigned on the basis of performance on the essays and class participation. More will be said about these assignments in class..

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Essay #1	Sept. 19	15%
Essay #2	Oct. 10	15%
Essay #3	Oct. 24	15%
Essay #4	Nov. 7	15%
Essay #5	Nov. 21	15%
Essay #6	Dec. 12	15%
Class Participation		10%

**TEXTBOOKS:**

Lindblom, Charles E. and Woodhouse, Edward J., The Policy-Making Process, (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, third edition, 1993)

Kingdon, John W. Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies, second edition (New York: Harper Collins, 1995)

Harry G. Shaffer, *American Capitalism and the Changing Role of Government*, (Westport CT: Praeger Publishers, 1999)

John Forester, *The Deliberative Practitioner: Encouraging Participatory Planning Processes* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1999)

Elizabeth T. Boris and C. Eugene Steuerle, *Nonprofits and Government: Collaboration and Conflict* (Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press, 1999)

E.S. Savas, *Privatization and Public-Private Partnerships* ( New York, NY: Chatham House Publishers, 2000)



### **PART THREE: GOVERNMENT & THE ECONOMY**

Week 8  
Oct. 17 Harry G. Shaffer, American Capitalism and the Changing Role of Government, Chapters 1-6

Week 9  
Oct. 24 Harry G. Shaffer, American Capitalism and the Changing Role of Government, Chapters 7-14

**Essay #3 Due**

### **PART FOUR: DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY**

Week 10  
Oct. 31 John Forester, The Deliberative Practitioner, Part I, Deliberative Practice Reconciles Pragmatism and Vision; Part II, Consensus Building and Mutual Recognition Create Deliberative Opportunities

Week 11  
Nov. 7 John Forester, The Deliberative Practitioner, Part III, Deliberative Practice Creates Public Value, Part IV Participatory Planning Can Transform Public Disputes  
**Essay #4 Due**

### **PART FIVE: NONPROFITS AND GOVERNMENT**

Week 12  
Nov. 14 Elizabeth T. Boris & C. Eugene Steuerle (eds.) Nonprofits & Government: Collaboration and Conflict, Section One: An Overview of the Nonprofit-Government Relationship; Section Two: The Flow of Money between Government and Nonprofits

Week 13  
Nov. 21 Elizabeth T. Boris & C. Eugene Steuerle (eds.) Nonprofits & Government: Collaboration and Conflict, Section Three: Nonprofits and the Development of Public Policy; Section Four: International Dimensions  
**Essay #5 Due**

### **PART SIX: PUBLIC - PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Week 14  
Nov. 28 E.S. Savas, Privatization and Public - Private Partnerships, Part One: The Background of Privatization; Part Two: The Theory of Privatization

Week 15  
Dec. 5 E.S. Savas, Privatization and Public - Private Partnerships, Part Three: The Practice of Privatization

Week 16  
Dec. 12 **Essay #6 Due**